

June 23, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the June 23, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:31 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh. Also present was Mayor Abdella, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. City Auditor Mrs. Nolan gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Mr. Martin asked all present if you have cellphones or any electronic devices to please turn them off or to vibrate so it won't interfere with the recording.

If you plan to address council this evening, please rise, come to the podium, state your name clearly so the clerk can get your information, and address council.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the June 9, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2025 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Abdella presented her report to council. It is as follows:

Communications:

Good evening, this past two weeks have been very busy with lots of exciting opportunities happening around town.

- On the 9th our team met with WWW to discuss the Federal Aid routes and how they are determined and what is best for the City of Belpre.
- June 11-12, I had the pleasure of attending the OML Mayors Conference. This was a very good conference and there was lots of information shared.
- On June 16, 2025 American Structure Point was here to present the Comprehensive Park Plan. We had a nice crowd and good discussions. Next, we need to complete phases and funding.
- On June 17 was the Southeastern Solid Waste District Meeting.
- June 18, 2025 was the annual meeting for RITA in Columbus. We also toured the Worthington Industrial Park.

- We will be starting to work on the non-filer list for 23 and 24.
- On June 19 we had the pre-construction meeting for the Water main project. This project will kick off very soon. The company is ordering materials.
- On Friday the 20th was the opening of the Multi-Cultural Festival. They had a wonderful turnout for the festival.
- The backflow project implementation is going very well. Angie has been working very hard with the vendors and property owners. We will be on schedule for every year to move forward.
- We are working on the MXU's and hope to have these complete by the end of the summer. However, we are going to be short on the number needed so we will be ordering them soon. This will not be an additional financial need as I will be moving money around as not to spend new funds.
- Today we received 45K from the County 911 revenue for the calls that are coming to our 911 center. These funds are for 911 services.
- Today Michael Spade from EDG came to Belpre to assist with the Capital plan to help update it based on the water/sewer needs.
 - With that being said we have determined the need to add some budget line items to that so we can begin tracking expenses associated with each lift or booster station. Our goal is to start seeing assets with significant repair cost.
 - We will also be asking council to create a fund for the WWTP similar to the tower and line fund that way we can start moving funds to be ready for the debt services on the WWTP since we started capturing revenue.
- Mr. President at the end of this meeting I would like to request an executive session to discuss real estate.

Mayor Abdella asked that the golf cart legislation be reviewed to allow golf carts to come up Lee Street to go to CVS and then cross Washington Blvd. in order to go to Kroger's.

Projects

SCADA – Bid opening pushed back until July 3, 2025

Digester Clean out in process

Trash Contract – Will be executed upon SSD return

Park Plan – Presentation to city

Upcoming Events

- Homecoming July 31 – August 2, 2025

Grants Awarded

- Housing Technical Assistance Grant – Waiting on grant Document
- EPA Drinking Water Grant – Filed: Generator and Signage for area of well field. We were awarded the generator and source water protection funding. Meeting with electrician.
 - Working with vendor for generator.
 - Source Water Signage

Ms. Riffle asked Mayor Abdella when they will start paving Lee Street. Mayor Abdella stated that they will begin July 1st, 2025

Listen to tape regarding \$85,000 for housing.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby was absent. The Mayor and the Safety-Service Director's Report was combined.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan – Thank you Mr. President and Council, upon completion of the 2024 Audit, Julian & Grube provided recommendations for updating our Assets to agree with their records. We had 173 items convert from the old system that are under our Fixed assets policy threshold of \$1,000. These were removed as of Friday, June 20. I will continue working on our Asset clean-up per their recommendation.

Mayor Susan and I attended the annual RITA meeting, Wednesday, June 18 in New Albany. We were provided a tour of New Albany 's inner city as well as the production plants, one being Amazon. We were told the Intel plant should be completed in 2030. It was an interesting tour and will bring growth to Ohio.

Fund 2250 Mayors Court Computerization was in the negative (1,935.58) due to a May 19 software licensing renewal with Smart Safety. On our 2025 Budget, we budgeted a \$5,000 TRANSFER from General Fund to Mayor's Court Computerization (page 8 on the BUDGET Revenue report). Mayor Susan and I discussed applying the budgeted transfer to take the fund out of the negative. Upon receiving email approval, June 17 from Finance director, Dave Ferguson, the transfer was made which brought the fund to a positive \$3,064.42. At this time, we need a "voice" vote to approve the transfer that was previously budgeted.

The May 2025 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll Journal, and Receipts ledger were emailed to Council Friday, June 20, 2025.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Reports for May 2025 were emailed to Council, Friday, June 20, 2025. The Bill Adjustment report will need Councils approval.

Ms. Riffle made a motion for a voice vote to approve the \$5,000 TRANSFER from General Fund to Mayor's Court Computerization Fund. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the May Bill Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady announced that council should have received a copy of the May 2025 Treasurer's Report. Copies have been placed in the back of the room. Mrs. Cassady stated that the Treasurer's Report needed approved by council. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the May 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to Planning and Zoning/Mrs. Campbell chairperson used ocean containers that are being used as storage buildings on residential property.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit committee meeting for July 14, 2025 at 6:30pm for the purpose of reviewing the budget.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that he attended the Water Main pre-construction meeting on June 18, 2025.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee had no report. Mr. Ambrozy announced that he represented the City of Belpre on June 12th, 2025 at the ribbon cutting of Cawley Hospice Center.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that he had attended the Multi-Cultural Festival on Saturday evening at Civitan Park to listen to the Mojo Flow Band. Adults and children were dancing and enjoying the music. He stated that there were good comments about how they loved the layout of the park. The park was in great shape. They even followed the rules of the petting zoo. It was a great turnout and Mr. Seebaugh stated that he is in hopes that they will come back.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development had no report. Mrs. Campbell stated that she would be doing research on ocean containers on residential properties and calling a committee meeting once her research was complete.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee stated that she had attended the Multi-Cultural Festival and was really amazed with the Bonzi trees. She stated that she talked with Commissioner Couch and he commented that the City of Parkersburg may not get them back. He was very respectful. Ms. Riffle also announced that there was a huge Pine Tree come down between Mary and Ann Street in the alley due to the heavy winds we had this past week. Ms. Riffle called a committee meeting for July 1st, 2025 at 6pm for the purpose of discussing the Moratorium.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution 32, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNTS OF PUBLIC FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DEPOSIT DURING THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS FOR DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC DEPOSITORY**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution 33, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

New Business:

Ms. Riffle brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 121.01(A)**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Webster stated that the Belpre Community Foundation has a fund for the pool. They would like to change the name to a Fund for Civitan Park so that folks that would like to donate could donate to a specific fund within the park whether it be the pool, baseball fields, etc. The Belpre Community Foundation would like to have a voice vote from council. Mr. Seebaugh made a motion for a voice vote to change the fund for the pool to a General Civitan Park Urban Fund. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. The mayor stated that with this change it will allow citizens to make donations to the Belpre Community Foundation toward different upgrades to things within the park whether it be the pool, the ball fields, etc.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked if there will be any more meetings about the Park Plan Project. I thought it was for the pool and not just the splash pad. Mayor Abdella stated at this

time there are no more meetings planned. Mrs. Locke asked if this was a 2-year plan, a 5-year plan? According to the mayor right now it will be in phases as to how we can get it funded because the city doesn't have the money for the total cost of the project. Now that we had the Park Plan meeting the city can move on to see how we can apply for grants for updating. Mrs. Locke stated that there is no option between the pool and a splash pad? Mayor Abdella stated that there is an option, it is just the funding of it. The first thing we are working on is with SOPEC working on the grant for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources that comes due in November that will help expand the walking trail which will allow connectivity and allow lighting for safety. It is more of transportation and safety grant. The playground that the Community Development Foundation along with the Hatti Fund that the city has been working towards. Hopefully by September the all-inclusive playground will be installed. It has been presented to us as an ala carte funding. If they want to add the pool back in, the funding of the pool is a big piece of it. Mrs. Locke stated that she would like to see another meeting on it with the pool versus the splash pad because it is more a community wide thing. She asked for another meeting so citizens could share their input. It seems like there was a lot of people that were disappointed because of no pool. Mayor Abdella stated that it will cost over 1,000,000 dollars to renovate that pool. At this time, we would only have 50 days for it to be open. There are things to be considered. There is a lot of opportunities.

Mr. Seebaugh stated that as we go through phases, I will be calling a Park and Recreation Committee meetings to discuss the phases. Mayor Abdella stated that we are just getting started and how we can reach out for funding for the benefit of our parks.

Joyce Jones 205 Maple Street addressed council regarding whether or not the Community Development Foundation already has money in that fund. She asked if so, how much? She was informed around \$5,000 dollars. Larry and I walked in the homecoming parade and handed out envelopes for donations.

William Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue stated that he had the opportunity of attending the meeting on the park. I was wondering if council will have to pass a piece of legislation that they officially adopted so they can get funding on that. Mayor Abdella stated that it is her understanding that in order to apply for the ODNR grant I can apply if there is no match involved. Mayor Abdella stated that if there is a match required then council will have to be involved as council will have to budget it. On Phase 1, the projection is \$930,000 (Travis Willaims). He discussed Phase 1 regarding lighting and transportation and is this the cost to the city? According to the mayor that is why it is being done as an ala cart to take care of the shelter which our guys will be taking care of. The foundation will be taking care of the playground; the walk way probably will have to be added in to get the walk across there. Depending on what we can do ourselves will depend on how much we can get the cost down.

How much do think it will cost to demo the park shelter and put another one back in? Mayor Abdella stated that she didn't have that information. Chris is trying to figure that out now. We have 48 poles around the park for lighting and the cost is \$2,000 per pole totally \$96,000. The SOPEC grant is for 48 poles. We have looked about LED light around the pond. We have looked about the parking facing the river. If we try to make that parking safer, we would have to hire an engineer firm to come in and drive the piling to extend the parking. Mr. Cassady asked what the projected cost of the handicap playground was? Mayor Abdella stated that it has been supported and ordered and the cost was \$568,000.

Mr. Locke stated that the reason why my wife addressed the pool is because we have received a lot of feedback. I do have a question for the law director, "Is the money donated tax deductible? According to the law director if you make a donation to the Community Development Foundation 501C3 it is a standard tax deduction. The money will go through the foundation. Mr. Locke feels that we need to look for a grant writer. I know it is expensive but in the long run it will pay off. The mayor works her tail off.

Mrs. Cassady asked if the poles in the park belong to the Electric Company? Mayor Abdella stated that we got a grant for the poles, AEP put them in and maintains them. Every time one breaks it cost the city \$2,000 to replace. We our looking for ways to buy new poles that we can take control of them and AEP will supply the electric. The new lights the city will own.

Ms. Riffle stated that now with plans in place and a number beside it, it will help us when applying for grants. The more people we have out there looking for the grants the more it will help us.

Mayor Abdella stated that this Park Plan was actually funded by the Community Development Foundation and the Port Authority in order to see where the city wants to go.

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that a lot of these opportunities join together working with other communities

Mr. Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue stated that there are 48 existing light poles. Mayor Abdella stated that what Erin is projecting is doubling it to 96 poles to allow taking lighting further into the park.

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked if there will be lighting at the boat ramp? Mayor Abdella stated yes. What we are working on is the walking path to connect the boat ramp through the park to the soccer field.

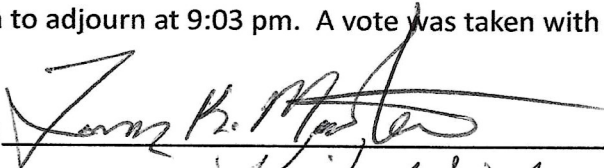
Mr. Ferguson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:28pm for the purpose of discussing real estate. Mayor Abdella asked that the City Auditor be present if she was available. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session and return to regular session at 9:02pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

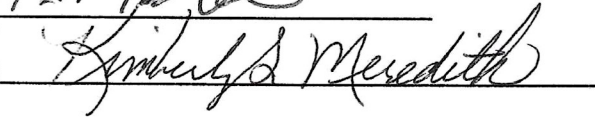
Adjourn:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin

Handwritten signature of Jerry B. Martin in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

Handwritten signature of Kimberly S. Meredith in black ink, written over a horizontal line.