

August 11, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the August 11, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also present was Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief Stump 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 July 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 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:

- Congratulations to the Belpre Homecoming Committee and all the Volunteers. What a wonderful event for the community!
- We have had a couple of complaints about properties within the city limits that are actually township issues. These concerns are being routed to the trustees. They do prefer that neighbors file a nuisance complaint at their meetings. Their next meeting will be held on the 8th at 6pm.
- Spotted Lantern fly was identified and submitted to DNR. This is an invasive species and they cause wounds to trees killing them.
- Belpre in collaboration with WWW will receive a grant up to \$75,000 to perform the traffic and pedestrian study for the area of Farson Street. This will include the intersections of 618 and Rt. 7.

Projects

- SCADA – Documents are being sent to the EPA so that we can complete and begin this important project. We are waiting on the final report from the EPA.
- Park Plan – working on Phase one funding. Ms. Abdella stated that there is a match required. I have forwarded sample legislation to the law director. She suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee call a meeting to discuss.
- WWTP – Planning and Design
- Well Field Generator
- Source Water Signage.

Legislation

- Match for Park grant for Phase 1.

Grants Awarded

- Housing Technical Assistance Grant – Finalized – Scope of work pending
- EPA Drinking Water Grant – Filed: Generator and Signage for area of well field. We were awarded the generator and source water protection funding.
 - Working with vendor for generator.
 - Source Water Signage

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby reported the new updates within the city:

Homecoming was a success and went without any major incidents.

The city will be preparing for DEMO of shelter 2 at Civitan Park after August 24th. The concrete will be removed, and the site will be a work zone. This is for upcoming preparation of the all-inclusive playground that will begin construction by mid-September. The schedule for prior use of shelter 2 has already been addressed and we ask the citizens to be aware of the DEMO and work zone at the park during this time.

My last official day of working for the city will be August 29th. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunities during my tenure here for the past 19+ years and wish nothing but the best for the City of Belpre. My family and I are forever grateful and will always remember the times while being here.

The city has had conversations with potential candidates for the SSD and Code positions. Hopefully those roles will be filled very soon.

Council President told Mr. Kirby that we appreciate your services.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan – Thank you Mr. President and Council, the past two weeks have been busy assisting RITA Non-Filers with questions and directions.

The Mayor and I continue to work on policies for Assets, Disaster Business Continuity plan, and social media archiving.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin talked to Mrs. Campbell prior to this evening's regarding the box containers. Mr. Martin assigned to Mrs. Campbell committee the question of condemning structures within the city. We have quite a few structures within the city that needs fixing or torn down. I have asked her to take a look at the legislation.

Council President Mr. Martin also reminded council that your official year ends on December 31, 2025. All committee assignments must be acted upon or removed prior to December 31, 2025 as they can't be carried over to a new term on council. I would like you to look at your assignments and if it is something you think you can get through, please do so, otherwise please let me know.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for August 25, 2025 at 7:15pm for the purpose of discussing the police department auto policy.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer stated that we are trying to get in contact with the company who stripes our streets. I want everyone to know that Lee Street will be striped. We are also waiting on the company to fix the traffic light on Maple Street and Washington Blvd.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that the Belpre Homecoming Festival was outstanding this year. The committee did a heck of a job this year. Mr. Seebaugh also announced that he has the schedules for the high school and junior high local sports. If you would like a copy I would be glad to share with you. Please come out and support the local kids.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development reported that she has been in contact with James Caldwell regarding the ocean containers. Once she has more information, she will be calling a committee meeting to discuss.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee reported that she is calling a Rules Committee meeting for August 18th at 6pm for the purpose of discussing the moratorium. I would like to invite the police chief, folks of Angels Harbor, Council and all interested citizens to be present for the discussion. Also, I would like to remind everyone that school begins on Wednesday so please be aware of the children and the school bus zones. I would also like to wish my father a Happy 88th Birthday tomorrow. I'm very grateful to have him around for another year.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Ms. Riffle brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT ADDICTION FACILITIES, INCLUDING SOBER LIVING HOMES AND RECOVERY HOMES, WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle moved this be **Ordinance #27, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1149.01 © LOT, YARD AND HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR “C” AND “M” DISTRICTS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell moved this be **Ordinance #28, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the third reading **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING, THE PUBLIC DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #35, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street addressed council regarding the bases that they have put at the Clement Avenue Crossing. Are they looking to place arms and crossings? Mr. Kirby stated that yes that is what they are trying to do. Mrs. Locke stated that the railroad is cleaning up around Pioneer Casting. This sure will help with a clearer vision of upcoming trains.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street stated that there are no engine break signs at the four-lane and Main Street. I would ask that since we already have Ordinance 339.12 in place that we have signs installed. She stated that they never moved forward.

I would also like to know how long the trash contract is for. Mrs. Wynecott was informed the contract is for 5 years.

Mrs. Wynecott asked if the water rate increase is due to the rates being too low. Mayor Abdella stated that we are trying to get funding. I have been in contact with EPA for the Rockland Lift Station and was informed that our rates are still too low. Mayor Abdella stated that we had raised them substantially and there is another increase coming in October. I told them that this community could not handle another change going from \$11.65 for most people that use minimum to \$54. Mayor Abdella said they understood. She stated that they do understand but they don't understand. Water and Sewer would be \$54 dollars each. This would go against the base rate as well.

President of Council asked Mrs. Wynecott about brake sign signage. When you're coming into Belpre we need a sign. Mr. Martin stated that there use to be a sign there. Mrs. Wynecott stated that there use to be one when you came off the toll bridge. Mr. Kirby to check on the signs.

Mr. Seebaugh stated that he lives on Warren Avenue and he knows exactly what Mrs. Wynecott is talking about.

Mrs. Wynecott stated that if there is a sign there maybe it needs to be made bigger.

Mr. Locke stated that when they redid the 4-lane the signs disappeared. This has been several years ago.

Mr. Martin also addressed the sign at the end of the bridge. Mayor Abdella stated that it has been down for about 8 months now, is it back up? She was informed it is not. Mr. Martin asked if you can turn right on red there. He was informed that you can't turn right on red. He wanted to know why the sign isn't there. According to the law director ODOT took it down because it is not a right turn.

Mr. Seebaugh stated that we are doing the same thing that Facebook is doing and that is going back and forth about whether or not you can turn right on red there.

Mr. Locke stated that he would like to thank Mr. Kirby for his service to the City of Belpre both in is role in the police department and as Safety-Service Director.

Ms. Riffle asked the auditor what the status was on the Capital Resources. According to Mrs. Nolan I have it finished. I asked the mayor to take a look at it and she said we have a few things to discuss however we haven't had the discussion at this time. Mayor Abdella asked Mrs. Nolan to put it on the list for discussion.

Ms. Riffle addressed the railroad track on Mary Street. She stated that it was growing up near the tracks and if the railroad is cleaning up, they should come and clean that area. Ms. Riffle also addressed the speed bumps on Mary Street. I thought we weren't allowed to have speed bumps on city streets. Mrs. Locke stated that the buses don't use that crossing.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he had the speed bumps put in when he was Safety-Service Director prior to 2016. The reason they were put in was because there were individuals ramping over the track and we were trying to prevent them from hitting a child.

Mrs. Cassady thanked whoever was responsible for painting the cross walks for the children as they start school this Wednesday.

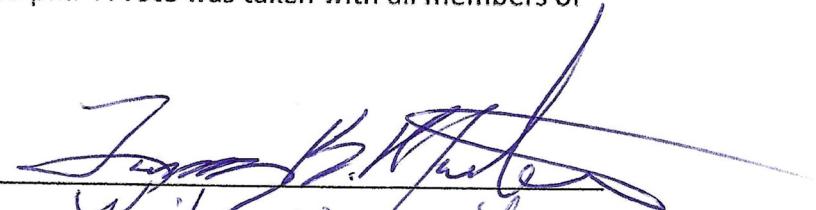
Mrs. Cassady also thanked Mr. Kirby for his services as policeman and SSD and for all his hard work.

Mrs. Cassady stated that the homecoming committee did a wonderful job and she saw that they are asking for volunteers to help with the committee.

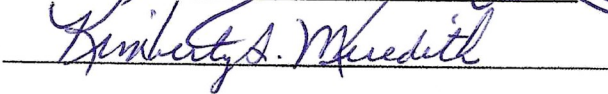
Adjourn:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Belpre City Council Larry Martin

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry B. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kimberly A. Meredith", written over a horizontal line.