

September 08, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the September 08, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:30pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Locke, and Ms. Riffle present. Also present was Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the September 08, 2025 meeting was Mayor Abdella and Councilperson Mr. Seebaugh.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. 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 August 25, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of August 25, 2025 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

In the absence of Mayor Abdella, Council President Mr. Martin presented her report to council. It is as follows:

Communications:

- This week the SSD and the Street Foreman looked at a used van to replace the one at the senior center. It is having extreme mechanical issues. The one we looked at was 10K. No decision was made, I would like Mr. Locke to look at both vehicles and make a recommendation.
- This week the Planning and Zoning Board met with our Code Officer to discuss permits and how to proceed with people that are not getting permits and building outside of City Code.
- We met with the engineering firm this week to scope out storm water evaluation project. Once we have the scope I will share it with council.
- Mr. President I would request an executive session to discuss real estate transactions.
- Operational Issues -

o Ambulance 491 had the transmission go out.

· Vehicles on Order

o Rescue Truck to replace the Heavy rescue has made it to McConnelsville. They are doing the final equipment and vinyl installation. We should have the truck in a couple weeks.

o Snow plow - It has arrived and will be able to be reviewed after the meeting.

Projects

· Water Tank - under construction

· SCADA – All documents are signed – next preconstruction meeting

· Park Plan - Grant for lighting and walking path to be submitted soon. This will need assigned to the finance and parks to discuss. As the grant being applied for requires a 50% match.

· WWTP – Planning and Design -- Spoke with Heidi from RCAP to determine the debt service we need annually for the construction. The assumptions are 10 million. 30 years, plus interest. Payment will be 527,000 annually

· Well Field Generator - We received 50K towards this project, it will be an additional 50K to complete. This will show up on a supplemental this year or on next year's budget depending on scheduling.

· Source Water Signage – in process

Legislation

· Match for Park grant for Phase 1

Grants

Applied

· Transportation grant – Submission on September 8 for planning and design of streets and sidewalks around the Stone road – Campus Drive- Maple street area.

· ODNR Department of Forestry – Historical tree preservation

Awarded

· Traffic Impact Study for Area around MMH – Farson – Braun - Clement

· 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.

- o Working with vendor for generator.

Ms. Riffle asked how old 491 ambulance was? Mrs. Dennis stated that it was a 1991 model.

The safety-service director stated that he spoke to Chris Barringer and the snow plow has not arrived.

Council President Mr. Martin introduced Brian Rhodes as our new Safety-Service Director. Mr. Martin welcomed Mr. Rhodes

Safety-Service Director Brian Rhodes gave some background information about himself. He was formerly with the Sherriff's Department for a little under 25 years. He worked for the State for BCI, (Bureau of Criminal Investigations) and prior to that he taught school in McConnelsville and Stockport. I do not have a formal report but will be prepared for the next one.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan – Thank you Mr. President and Council,
The RITA Non-Filer deadline was August 25, 2025. I was advised to contact our RITA representative mid-September for a report of those who did not comply to the letter. When received, the mayor will have those who did not comply summoned to Mayor's court.

During staff Thursday, September 4, 2025 it was brought to our attention that ambulance 491's transmission went out. The quote given to Mayor Abdella was \$10,000.00. We will need to add this to our year end supplemental appropriations.

The Mayor and I reviewed the cities policy manual. They have been updated and a new Fixed Asset policy is included. This will need assigned to the Finance committee to review the policies. We also have a Cybersecurity policy that will need added as soon as we have it completed. Per the Auditor of State of Ohio, a Cybersecurity policy will be required/mandated to be in place by January 1, 2026.

We will begin working on the 2026 Budget next week.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report. Mr. Webster stated that he has information regarding the real estate transactions to be discussed in the executive session that was requested for tonight.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to committee: Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee was assigned fixed asset policy and Ms. Riffle, Rules Committee was assigned Codified Ordinance updates.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for September 22, 2025 at 6:00pm for the purpose of reviewing the fixed asset policy.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that the EMS Board did meet this evening and I will have a formal report at the next council meeting. Don't let the \$10,000 number scare you. That is the full bill for all the maintenance on the truck. This is not the amount that it will cost the city for the transmission. There will be an updated total.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to excuse Mr. Seebaugh from this evening's meeting as he is out of town. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis also requested that the auto policy for the police department can be removed from her committee assignment as it has been acted upon.

President of Council Mr. Martin announced to council that everything that has been assigned to your committee must be taken care of before the last meeting of council in December 2025. If you feel that you are unable to get the assignments taken care of please let me know so I can either have them reassigned or removed from your committee.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer stated that he had talked to the mayor about EMS ambulance 491. It has some age on it and it needs more than a transmission. The estimate was a lot of little things that needed done along with the transmission. We are also looking for a new bus for the Senior Center. It needs replaced. We are looking at one that will cost around \$10,000. It is not a new one, however it will have a chair lift on it. We will be starting the storm water project on Braun Road soon. The piping and other stuff has made it in. The shelter at Civitan Park has been removed to allow for the new handicap playground.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that on September 2nd we had a meeting to discuss water bills, rates and definitions. Those present were the mayor, safety service director, auditor, utility coordinator, law director and myself. From that meeting I would like to request a Utilities Committee meeting before the next council meeting on September 22nd, 2025. I would like to have the meeting at 5:15pm to discuss water and sewer rates ordinances and proposed improvements including definitions and clarifying the rates and the increases. This should answer some of the questions that people have been having. As a point of clarification, Ms. Riffle addressed committee meeting times.

Mr. Ambrozy also stated that he attended a monthly **EDG** Status Report meeting on September 4th, 2025 with Jeff Carr. From that meeting there is an expensive expenditure coming up next year. This is the sewer line coming from Orion down to Belpre. The sewer line goes under Route 7. The Sewer line is in bad shape and we would like to put in a new pipe and re-route it so it doesn't go under Route 7. We would route it to the Clement area. This is on the Capital Plan for a million and a half dollars. Just wanted to give everyone a heads up but most likely it is coming next year.

I was asked to give an update on a grant in the mayor's report for planning and design for the areas around the schools. The school area is a Federal Aid Route and we would like to get this Planning and Engineering Grant to look at the streets around the school, do we need to widen the streets, do we need to add sidewalks or lighting such as Maple Street, Stone Road and Campus Drive area? That is what this grant will do. We are planning on applying for this grant.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence however Mrs. Campbell did remind everyone of the Cross-Country Meet on Saturday at 10:00am. There are at least 400 participants.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development announced that her committee meeting was cancelled this evening due to a Central Committee meeting that some of council had to attend. Mrs. Campbell rescheduled her committee meeting for September 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm for the purpose of discussing ocean containers and structures for demolition.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: none

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:54pm for the purpose of discussing real estate transactions. Council President announced that once we return from executive session there will be no further action except for adjourning. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

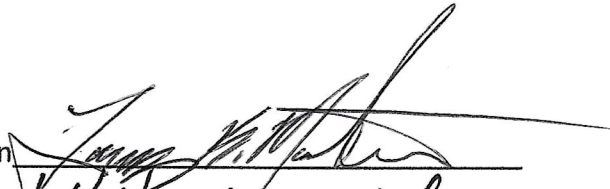
Council President invited the safety-service director to the meeting along with the city auditor.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:14pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn from the regular council meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Belpre City Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

