

February 09, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the February 09, 2026, Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:30pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mr. Cassady, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh. Also, present was Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes, City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Nolan 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 January 12, 2026 meeting minutes.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of January 12, 2026 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the January 26, 2026 cancelation notice. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the January 26, 2026 cancelation notice as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Abdella presented her report of February 09, 2026 before council. It is as follows:

Good evening: It's been a very busy time for the city. Mayor Abdella asked Chief Stump to come forward as he had an announcement. Chief Stump announced that the police department is fully staffed for the first time for as long as he could remember. We hired Jared from the Marietta police department. He brings with him 10 years of experience. He went through the academy with Sgt. Campbell and Patrolman Whittengan. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. We are very fortunate to have him. He will be a great asset to the City of Belpre.

Mayor Abdella swore in Patrolman J D Richards as Patrolman for the City of Belpre. Chief Stump stated that we are fortunate that we have such a great community to work in. We are really building an environment that people are wanting to come to. We are a team.

Mayor Abdella recognized County Commissioner Greg Nohe. Mr. Nohe congratulated Patrolman Richards. He said that he had hired Jared to the Marietta Police Department and that he would be a great asset to the City of Belpre.

Mayor Abdella reported that we are finalizing the 2026 budget and completing infrastructure upgrades. What this means is we are looking at completing a water model for the city that will look at where needs are when trying to add volume and supply to our water system. We will also be working on the evaluation of the Rockland Lift Station as well as those along State Route 7 so that we can begin the planning of replacing the Rt. 7 water and sewer line from Orion to Clement. This line replacement must be replaced within 5 years. This evaluation will satisfy our first reporting obligation.

This past week we had our first America 250 planning meeting. We had 15 people come out from a variety of organizations that will help us with a variety of exciting activities to celebrate the founding of our great nation. We will have a calendar of events in the near future. Just remember we are the second city in the Northwest Territory and our Farmers Castle Museum is on the state of Ohio America 250 Underground Railroad trail. There will be a lot to do in preparing for this celebration in red, white and blue.

Mr. President I would like to request a brief executive session to discuss property lease.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes reported on the Safety-Service updates:

- 2026 Code Enforcement Actions : 13 codes actions/7 permits.
- All documentation has been submitted to Rob Beglin at USI about the well field lightning strike. Once USI gets all the paperwork in line, the city will recoup some of the funds used to complete the repairs after the damage was done last spring. Moving forward, each of the wells are now covered and will remain on the schedules in the future. After discussion with Jeff Carr at EDG, it was determined to cover each of the five wells for \$300,000.00.
- There were no major incidents as a result of the snowstorm which affected our region the week of January 25th. However, there were two minor incidents. The F-450 was backed into a guy/wire which caused damage to the salt spinner. Streets Supervisor Chris Barringer advised it is operational, but not working 100% correctly. He will be obtaining a quote and get it repaired. A resident's vehicle on Middle Street sustained a dented front quarter panel from a large chunk of ice thrown from a snow plow. The resident provided two quotes today with \$1,200.00 as the lowest amount.
- Chris Barringer has two of the newer street department employees scheduled to attend snow plow training in Athens on February 19th. This training was organized by PEP.

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- Mayor Abdella and I were advised last week there were a few minor leaks in the roof at Station #1. Quotes will be obtained later this week. Also, the roof began leaking again at the city building. Four companies have provided quotes for the city building.
Gribble: Shingles \$48,000/EPDM: \$37,500/ Stucco: \$3,500 Total: \$89,000.
Rain stoppers: Shingles: \$42, 473.88/EPDM \$29,164.37 Total: \$71, 638.25
DCA Roofing: Shingles \$54,800/EPDM: \$29,900 Total: \$84,700.
ACR1 Roofing: Shingles \$72,677 (lifetime) \$68, 452 (30 years) \$65, 934 (25 years)/
EPDM: \$33,601(20 years)/\$27,634 (20 years)/\$19,507(15years) Total: \$106,278 to \$85,441 dependent upon combinations.
- The city's salt supply is being monitored closely by Chris Barringer. He has two orders that are currently pending and has been in contact with the supplier several times.
- Stonegate Construction has not been able to continue with the water line projects due to the inclement weather. They are shooting to get back after it, next Monday.

Ms. Riffle asked about the supply of salt received this year. According to Mr. Rhodes we only received ½ of the order.

Safety-Service Director Brian Rhodes also reported on the Decommissioned Salt Trucks. That report is as follows:

The City of Belpre Currently owns two International (Model 430) salt trucks. They have been out of service for roughly two years according to Chris Barringer. After discussing in depth with Chris, I have determined it is time to remove both vehicles from our fleet as well as the insurance. Chris advised neither vehicle will run. One of them has a blown turbo. Both of them had major electrical issues when they were last used. Additionally, the snow plows that are attached to the vehicles are at the end of life as well. Chris stated both have been welded on numerous times and were on the salt trucks utilized prior to the Internationals. Both of the plows are from the late 80s/early 90s. I am respectfully requesting permission to scrap the trucks and plows at a local scrap yard.

Information for the trucks:

2003 International (Model 430) VIN: 1HTMMAAM13H558249 Purchased 5/23/02.

2006 Internation (Model 430) VIN: 1HTMMAAM86H337154 Purchased: 1/23/06.

Mrs. Dennis made a voice vote motion to scrap the two salt trucks from our fleet. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell Thank you Mr. President and Council:

- Last month we worked on finalizing payroll and revenue

- Added and updated line items to the 2026 Budget
- Attending a RITA web meeting and receiving 3 credit hours under CPE (cont. education certification)
- Submitted reimbursement for our grant money for the Ohio Source Water Protection signage.
- Will submit for the generator once it is up and running since it needs to be inspected by the EPA before reimbursing.
- Met with Mr. Livingood to make sure we had not missed anything for 2025 and what is to come in 2026 (all have been sent that is needed for 2025)
- 30 days in and still learning and enjoying the process.

The December 2025 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts reports were emailed to Council Thursday, January 22, 2026.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Report for December 2025 were emailed to Council Thursday, January 22, 2026. The Bill Adjustment report will need Councils approval please.

Also resent Feb 5th, 2026, as a reminder.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Bill Adjustment Report for December 2025 as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report. Mr. Webster stated that we would need a motion for an executive session before the close of the meeting for the purpose of discussing a pending or imminent court action as well as confidential information of an applicant for economic development assistance. We will need a motion when we get ready to go into session.

City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan reported that council has before them tonight the December 2025 Treasurer's Report as well as the 2025 Year to Date Treasurers Report that needs council approval. Copies have been made and are in the back for the citizens to review as well as council received them by email.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the December 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the December 2025 Year to Date Treasurers Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to the Finance/Audit committee **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE BELPRE**

SENIOR CENTER; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE TO CONTRACT WITH WASHINGTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO SUPPLY TECHNICAL STORM WATER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.

President of Council Mr. Martin recognized our street crew for the heck of a job that they do clearing our city streets.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:00pm for the purpose of discussing the first 11 pages of the 2026 budget. Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit committee meeting for February 16th and February 23rd, 2026 at 6:00pm to further discuss the budget.

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

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer announced that since January 1st, we have used 200 tons of salt. We have 145 hours of overtime plus regular day shifts. We worked on keeping the roads open and have 3 plow trucks running and fixing issues that arise. We did receive 100 tons of salt from ODOT and have salt that has been on order but do not know when we will get it due to shortage and can't get cinders due to the shortage. I have been taking extra steps to make sure we are taking care of the places that need it most to keep the City of Belpre safe.

Mr. Locke thanked Chris and his crew for replacing lights on the Belpre bridge. You don't realize how many times my wife called Charleston about the lights being out and they totally ignored her.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that on January 14th, 2026 he attended the updated Water Main pipe replacement project.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Cassady Planning and Zoning/Economic Development reported that on January 28th he attended the Southeastern Port Authority along with Mr. Webster. I learned some things there. There is another meeting slated for the end of February that I'm going to try to attend. He stated that the mayor sent the latest Planning and Zoning Report for Housing and Infrastructure that was very good.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report. Ms. Riffle asked that the Sober Living Moratorium be added back to her committee assignment. President of Council Mr. Martin asked if we were going to have some kind of legislation done on this. According to Ms. Riffle there would be legislation. Mr. Martin reassigned Sober Living Moratorium to her committee.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -none

New Business: none

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mr. Locke asked the mayor if she had received any ground stabilization report yet regarding the water tower. Mayor Abdella stated that she has not yet received anything however she would be attending a meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Locke also asked about a grant writer. According to Mayor Abdella Katie Sulfridge is interested in helping us with grant writing.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to go into executive session at 7:04 pm for the purpose of discussing a pending or imminent court action as well as confidential information of an applicant for economic development assistance.

Council President Mr. Martin stated that once council returns from executive session that there would be no further action come before this council this evening.

A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle made a motion that council resume from executive session at 7:27pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 7:28pm. 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

