

December 22, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the December 22, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:32pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Campbell, 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. Rhodes.

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 December 11th, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of December 11th, 2025 as presented and bypass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Abdella presented her report of December 22, 2025 before council. It is as follows:

Good evening, it has been a very busy couple of weeks since we last met. Last night was the final night of our Christmas Vendors and Carousel in the park. Every evening, we have had an amazing turnout of the local community and visitors to our city in support of the vendors and nonprofits that participated. I can not thank Darien Lorentz and Belpre Holiday Lights, Jon Neff and Bobs Market, as well as Carrie Arnold, Jolene Reeder and Gary Webb for all their hard work to make the event a success. It has been so much fun seeing all the families in the park with hot chocolate and riding the carousel. A lot of memories are being made. The memorial trees were perfect along the walk way. We even had kids playing on the new playground after dark. It has been a truly magical experience. We have had people of all ages ride the carousel. One couple was 85 and said they had a wonderful time. Some one else said the ride was 10 times longer than Disney and the carousel operator responded their attendants did wear elf costumes. We learned a lot about a stationary parade. So, we have some work to do if we do that again but people enjoyed it and we had about 3000 cars in the park on Saturday night. Thank you, Chief Stump and Sergeant Campbell for coming and help us direct traffic. Also, Santa is at the

Bandstand tonight and tomorrow night to see the kids and take family photos. Be sure you're not on the naughty list and stop by.

- The department heads, auditor and I all continue to work on the budget for 2026. We are working very hard to nail down the cost of the water meter replacement project. I have placed a chart on your desk that shows the age of the city's meters. The meters that were placed in 2007 had 15 years life.
- All utility departments received stormwater training. This is a basic annual training for our MS4 permit so that all employees are aware of the critical need to be aware of storm drains and protection of stormwater system.
- The annual Lead line identification project letters were mailed or emailed this past week to all resident that have not identified their service line coming into their home. These letters will go out annually until all are identified and the city has worked on the replacement plan for any line required to be changed.
- Last Monday we had the preconstruction meeting for the SCADA project. We will begin work in the field in April. All will be bench tested prior to installation.
- The water department continues the MXU installations. They are making progress.
- We had the final inspection for our tree grant and Chris did an amazing job. We will receive the final payment.
- Finally, Mr. President the legislation for the AFSME contract is on councils' desk for consideration. It will require 3 readings if council chooses to act or it will take effect in 30 days. Please remember these are all one-year contracts.

Mayor Abdella thanked Tina for all her help as City Auditor.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

At this time, Chief Stump recognized Kim Martin for her 30 years of service with the City of Belpre on December 27, 2025. Chief Stump thanked Mrs. Martin for everything she does for the department. When she started for the City of Belpre she started as a dispatcher and now she is the Police Department Clerk.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes was absent from the meeting. Mayor Abdella presented the following update before Belpre City Council on December 22, 2025 that Mr. Rhodes prepared. It is as follows

• Code Enforcement Activity since 12/08/25: 6 Zoning Permits/15 Code Actions – door hangers for parking issues, litter, garbage cans being left by the roadways, unwrapped furniture to be disposed of, etc.

Have met with three contractors reference replacing the roof at the city building. I have been checking the area with the recent weather and so far, there has not been any additional visible problems.

Depot Park – A probationer out of Athens County has been working on clearing the fence line around Depot Park. He has been making progress. Work will continue for the next couple of weeks as he is required to complete 80 hours of service.

Catherine and I attended the Belpre Police Department Christmas party last week. It was a very nice turnout and great atmosphere to be a part of.

The water department has been continuing to work on MXUs and meters. All of the manual read locations were updated last week.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan:

Thank you, Mr. President and Council,

I want to take this opportunity to again thank the public for electing me as City Auditor. I feel honored to have been selected to serve four years. With my predecessor having had 12 years of experience in governmental accounting and the city moving forward with new software I knew there were challenges. Governmental accounting I quickly learned is quite different from General accounting. There was an antiquated system to learn as well moving forward with selecting new software. I was challenged to learn 2 software programs and governmental accounting practices. I learned the Deputy Auditor was the “only one” that knew the payroll process. We talked and agreed it is imperative for two people to know payroll. During 2022 beginning 2023 we worked through the payroll together. After VIP was installed, I was assigned by SSI to build the admin files while the Deputy Auditor was assigned to HR/payroll. I did sit through a few of the HR/payroll sessions, however, never independently ran the process. It is my recommendation to whoever is assigned Finance Chairman the Auditor be held accountable to payroll processing alongside the Deputy Auditor.

As I mentioned at the last Council meeting, our Admin team truly went through many emotions during the months of programming, installation, and implementation of the SSI software. We had multiple challenges; however, I would not have wanted to go through that trying time without the knowledge and understanding they have of running the city’s services.

When I advised the State Auditor that I was not going to run for re-election, I was told I had done a good job. This was comforting to hear. I’ve held on to this positive comment and hope the knowledge I have gained can benefit the new Auditor and Treasurer’s position. I see great things happening in our city’s future and want to stay connected. Team effort is “best practice” for success.

The State Auditor asked me to find out if Council wants a 2024 Post Audit meeting.

The November 2025 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts reports were emailed to Council Thursday, December 18, 2025.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Report for November 2025 were emailed to Council Thursday, December 18, 2025. The Bill Adjustment report will need Councils approval please.

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

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that the closing for the Badger Lumber Company would be held tomorrow at 1:30pm in his office. The bond money has been received.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that all members of council should have received a copy of the November's Treasurers Report. Copies appear in the back in the file for the audience to review. The Treasurers Report needs approved by council.

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

Mrs. Cassady also thanked the Citizens of Belpre for electing her as the Treasurer for the City of Belpre.

Communication and Petitions:

Mr. Martin informed council that he has decided to keep committee assignments as they are. I'm asking that the committee chairs cross-train those on their committee. As long as I have been on council, I'm so proud to say what a great job each and everyone of you have done.

As you know that since we are beginning a new term with only one new member. I'm asking that you review the remaining committee assignments for 2025 to see whether or not the items left need added to the committee assignments for 2026 as we will begin with a clean slate.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit committee meeting for January 19th, 2026 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the 2026 Budget.

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

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report. Mr. Locke recognized the guys on the street department for the great job they had done with snow removal and for all the things they had done at the park.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that since the last regular council meeting, he had attended two meetings that included the Water Tank Project and the Water Main Project. Mr. Ambrozy attended a Water Tank Foundation meeting at the Tank site. Mr. Ambrozy stated the plan for the hill behind the tank is still being determined. There are a number of engineers waiting on the final stabilization plan. Mr. Ambrozy stated that he feels much better about the tank being on the hill after the last meeting he attended. They are in hopes to start back in April with completion sometime in August.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that he had talked to the mayor regarding Scott Gilbert who is draining his farm pond. He was asking if the fish (trout) could be released in our city pond. Mr. Seebaugh stated that after the conversation with the mayor it was decided to allow Mr. Gilbert to do so. This would save the city some money as they wouldn't have to stock the pond this year.

Mr. Seebaugh also stated that he attended the reverse parade at the park. He stated that he watched and listened to the mood of those in attendance and also the fun that the children were having.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development reported that her committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:15pm for the purpose of discussing the third reading and possible amendment if needed of the storage containers. Discussed was the following:

- Grandfather existing locations total of 9 to 10.
- If in flood plain needs to be anchored down.
- Simple google search will give options of power planters, helix/auger anchors or steel plates and twist locks, EST cost \$150-\$500 depending on what options utilized.

Why are we doing this:

To protect the integrate of the properties surrounding current storage container locations in flood plain locations.

Who to contact:

Code enforcement at 740-424-7592 or 740-516-3068 code@cityofbelpre.com Mr. Gherke (UR-kee). He can go over the specifics with what options will fit each container.

Other concerns brought up by community member

- Flood plain doesn't have heavy flood way or water
 - This is mother nature and weather is never predictable. Locations are in a flood plain map and we have to predict the unpredictable. We cannot make exceptions just because something hasn't happened before.

- We have had a total of 3 public meetings now and we scheduled and announced these meetings during regular city council meetings.
- I gave out handouts at each meeting as well and left blank sections in case the community and city council wanted to write down their questions.
- We are not addressing modular homes, RV's, campers, heavy equipment or garages.
- We are trying to provide a safe and clean environment for our community.

In closing the current locations will be grandfathered in. The Code Enforcement and Safety Service Director will be in touch with the community members that have current structures that fall into this space.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee thanked the street department for their hard work. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none

At this time, Council President Mr. Martin assigned to the Finance/Audit committee **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND LAW DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LABOR AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES: OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3507.**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to the agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND LAW DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LABOR AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES: OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3507.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS.** Mr. Ferguson stated that the latest copy Exhibit A is dated December 18, 2025. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution 44, 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 AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF CHAPTER 1323 REGULATING THE PLACEMENT AND USE OF PORTABLE STORAGE AND SHIPPING CONTAINERS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell moved this be **Ordinance 37, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

New Business:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND LAW DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LABOR AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES: OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3507**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND LAW DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LABOR AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES: OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3507**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second and third readings **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND LAW DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LABOR AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES: OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3507**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution 45, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: none

Mr. Locke stated that in looking at the Ordinances and Resolutions this council has passed 45 Resolutions and 37 Ordinances making it a total of 82 pieces of legislation. This is the best the city has operated since I've been around.

Mrs. Nolan requested a certified copy of **Resolution #44, 2024-2025**.

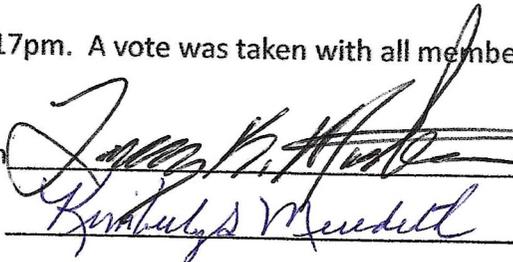
Council President Mr. Martin reminded council that the swearing in ceremony would be held at 10:00am on New Years Day.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 7:17pm. 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



The image shows two handwritten signatures. The top signature is in black ink and appears to be 'James K. Martin'. The bottom signature is in blue ink and appears to be 'Meredith'. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines.