

February 23, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the February 23, 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 Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes, City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Nolan and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the February 23rd, 2026 meeting was Mayor Abdella.

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 February 9, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of February 9, 2026 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 was absent. No report was given in her absence.

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

- Code Enforcement Actions since February 10th : 7 code actions/5 permits/1 demolition permit at (206 Maple Street).
- Salt order for Street Department was delivered last week.
- Chris Barringer met with Stonebridge at Richmiller Lane this afternoon. They are very close to having that water main where it is supposed to be. They ran into an 8-inch water line and had no idea where it was going. Chris and Clint were going to check it out the next day.
- Chris Barringer sent three new employees for snow plow training.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell presented her report before Belpre City Council:

- We have worked on finalizing the budget

- Added the appropriations for 2026 budget
- Scheduled training in mid-March 17, 18 and 19th.
- Had two meetings to talk about 2-4 fees
- Attending lunch with the Senior Center on Thursdays to get to know the community

The January 2026 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts reports were emailed to Council Thursday, February 19, 2026.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Report for January 2026 were emailed to Council Thursday, February 19, 2026. The Bill Adjustment report will need Councils approval please.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the 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. Nolan reported that council has before them tonight the January 2026 Treasurer's Report. Copies were mail to all members of council and there are copies in the back for the citizens to review as well. The Treasurer's Report needs council approval.

Mrs. Nolan also reminded council about filing their Financial Disclosure Forms.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the January 2026 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 Mr. Ambrozy and Finance/Audit committee AN **ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 939.08 OF THE BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING A SENTENCE TO SECOND PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 939.08 – ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES.**

Council President Mr. Martin stated we have had some concerns regarding the water tower project. The \$4.00 fee takes care of the water tank. It looks like we are short. I'm going to ask the committee to take a look at the \$4.00 fee to see if we need to do something else to cover the debt service.

This year when we get our Codified Ordinances, I'm going to request that it is reviewed as Council of a whole. In reviewing past Ordinance 20, 2020-2021 we found that Ordinance 8, 2024-2025 superseded part of Ordinance 20, 2020-2021 which was an important part to our Codified Ordinance Book. According to Marie at American Legal the only way to correct it is to pass another Ordinance adding the \$2.00 and \$4.00 charges and to do it as a separate

Ordinance. Mr. Webster stated that he was preparing legislation to correct the issue. This new piece of legislation will repair the old legislation.

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 finalizing the discussion of the 2026 Budget. This piece of legislation appears on the agenda this evening for first reading. Mr. Ferguson called a committee meeting for March 9, 2026 for the purpose of discussing three items: 2026 Budget, Senior Center Contract and the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District.

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

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that that he attended several meetings since our last council meeting. I attended the monthly meeting on the Water Main pipe replacement project, EDG monthly status meeting, and last week we had a meeting on the \$2.00 and \$4.00 monthly fees. With that being said I would like to have a combined Finance/Audit Committee meeting and Utilities meeting on March 9, 2026 at approximately 6:10pm to discuss the \$2.00 and \$4.00 fees and who those fees apply to and do we need to look at increasing those fees.

Mr. Cassady asked if you can combine committee meetings. He was informed that the meetings can be combined.

Mr. Ambrozy made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading under new business **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 939.08 OF THE BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING A SENTENCE TO SECOND PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 939.08 – ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that the meeting called for 6:10 can go longer into the regular scheduled council meeting if it needs to.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Cassady Planning and Zoning/Economic Development had no report.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -none

New Business:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING YEAR 2026 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 939.08 OF THE BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING A SENTENCE TO SECOND PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 939.08 -- ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES**. There was a point of clarification given. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next council meeting.

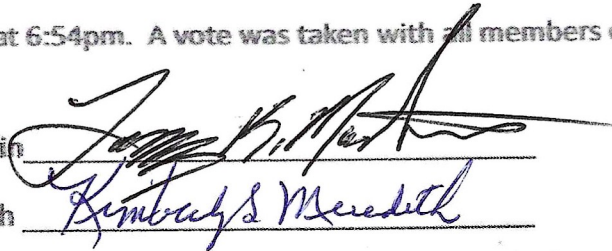
PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mr. Webster stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Barringer regarding pot holes in streets around our city. He was informed by Mr. Barringer that they had received 10 tons of cold mix and that they are filling the larger pot holes first and then the smaller ones. If any of our citizens sees any pot holes that might have been missed to please contact our Safety-Service Director, Mr. Rhodes.

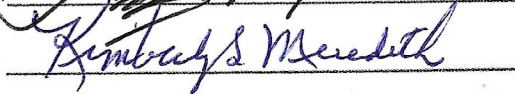
Adjourn:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 6:54pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Belpre City Council Mr. Martin

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

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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