

March 10, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the March 10, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh. 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. Absent from the meeting was Mrs. Dennis.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. President of Council Mr. Martin 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 24, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of February 24, 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 deferred the first part of her time to the Tourism Director for Washington County. Mayor Abdella welcomed Mary and Deana Clark to this evening's meeting. They are the owners of the Ohio Valley Opry

Mary Clark spoke before council about the Ohio Valley Opry that is coming to Belpre. It is Ohio's longest running country music show. Not only Country music but also Bluegrass and Gospel. This will be a nearby attraction with dinner options and bus parking availability. They will be located at 1948 Washington Boulevard, Belpre, Ohio 45714. Their phone number is 740-525-9218. You may also look them up on the web at www.OhioValleyOpry.com or ohiovalleyopry@gmail.com for more information.

Mayor Abdella presented her report before council. It is as follows:

Communications:

- Requested an Executive Session at the end of the meeting – Pending Litigation
- Ohio Ethics Form – Please submit

- This evening, I had the pleasure of attending the Marietta Chamber Dinner. It's a very nice event.
- On Tuesday I traveled to Columbus with the Auditor to present our project. We made lots of great connections and look forward to working with several of the agencies, Meet the Funders Program with the ARC.
- A Core group of leaders are in the process of creating a business plan to determine the functionality of a centralized 911.

City Projects:

- MXU – Radio replacement.
 - Work plan being developed – Radios ordered – Plan to install by sections in the community. The order has been placed for all of them.
- Communication Tower - Parts being ordered – work to conclude Mid-March.
 - Repeaters need replaced.
 - LED Lights to be replaced once received. Still waiting on them.
 - Connections to Emergency power for lights.
- WWTP project – we had 6 submissions, and the selection team is evaluating the companies.
- Well 2 Rehab
 - Survey Complete
 - Project paused due to meter project needs
- Water Tank and 10" Water Main Extension – Both project bids came in under budget.
 - Legislation to council to allow awards – 3-10-2025
 - Loan Award March 2025
 - Construction March 2025 to March 2026

SCADA Project Schedule – This project is being considered by OWDA in order to spread cost of funding. I will be asking for legislation very soon to be able to apply for the funding to complete this project. We are evaluating the finances since this is not a loan that can be paid off early.

Legislation Pending

- Trash Contract – To Bid
- Water Tank and Water Line project – Award Bid

- Legislation to post legal notices to website and on property vs in newspaper
- Golf Cart Fees

Ongoing Projects:

Lead Service Line – Sheet back to the EPA. Will work on collecting the rest of the data during 2025-2026.

Grants Pending

- EPA Drinking Water Grant - Filed: Generator and Signage for area of well field.
- VFA Grant Due Jan 15, 2024 - 10K matching grant – on hold

Grants to be submitted:

- ARC
- Marietta Community Foundation
- Belpre Community Foundation
- United Way
- State Farm - 10K Police and Fire
- Firefighter training grant

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby reported the following updates within the city on March 10, 2025. They are as follows:

Police Department:

- Chief Stump, Mayor Abdella and I met with the commissioners about the 911 funds. Conversations also pertained to the 911 call transfers from other agencies have been reduced based on the GEO fencing that was done, which was good to hear.
- The dispatch center consoles are old, have been outdated for several years, and need replacement. Over the weekend, the consoles went down, and we had to rely on the County Sheriff's office to dispatch Barlow. They have since started working but this process is something to keep on the radar for a major overhaul and is a very costly project.
- Sgt. Heddleston is back to work on light duty and is performing the duties per the light duty policy.

Street Department:

- Continue street patching throughout the city. Chris has been in contact with companies for quotes for repaving Lee Street to get it repaired.

- Replaced the burnt-out lights in the Council chambers. We want to thank Darian Lorentz for his assistance in making this happen.
- Removed trees that had either fallen or were not in great shape along the four lanes.

Sewer Department:

- Performed weekly testing and general plant operations.
- Weekly EPA water testing
- We have two employees that are currently continuing their education to obtain their call 1 Operator license.

Water Department:

- Have started the process of installing the MXU radios/water meters.
- Water Dept. Forman Sayre attended SPA training in Logan, Ohio.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan Thank you Mr. President and Council: I want to publicly thank Darian Lorentz and the Street Dept for their work in fixing the lighting. Tuesday, March 4, I attended the "Meet the Funders Program" at the Columbus Library with Mayor Abdella. We had the opportunity to present the Water Tank project. The panel was informative in providing feedback on obtaining grant dollars. We were handed business cards and given written as well as verbal information to use in placing grants. We began this week providing Jullian & Grube documents and reports used to begin the 2024 Audit.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report.

Communication and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned the following to committee:

Mr. Ambrozy – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A CONDITIONAL NOTICE OF AWARD TO MID ATLANTIC STORAGE SYSTEMS, INC. FOR 2.5 MG WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT AND DECLARING SUCH ACTION AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Ambrozy – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A CONDITIONAL NOTICE OF AWARD TO STONEGATE CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR WATER TANK SUPPLY MAIN AND VARIOUS WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING SUCH ACTION AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Campbell – AMEND CODE OF ORDINANCE 1313.08 © SERVICES.

Mr. Locke – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 343.03(D) INSPECTIONS, FEES, AND FINES.

President of Council Mr. Martin reviewed the Council Committee Referral List. Mr. Locke asked that 72-hour parking be removed from his assignment. Added to Mrs. Campbell was the request to Amend Code of Ordinance 1313.08 © Services.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee was absent. Per Mr. Seebaugh there was no report to give in her absence. Mrs. Dennis did ask that she be excused from this evening's meeting as she was working.

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

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee announced that on March 6, 2025 he attended the EDG meeting/RFQ Waste Water Treatment. *on March 7, 2025*

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that Spring sports are starting up. Start dates are as follows: Belpre Softball – March 24, 2025; Track – April 1st, 2025; Marietta Baseball – March 29th along with Fort Fry. Little League Baseball will start in a few short weeks. On April 5th Belpre Soccer begins and runs through the end of May. Mr. Seebaugh announced that Flag Football has already started.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning Committee called a committee meeting for March 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of discussing Code of Ordinance Sections 1313.08 © Services.

Mrs. Campbell Economic Development Committee had no report.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report. Ms. Riffle acknowledged the accomplishments of the Belpre Girl's Basketball Team for winning the District Championship.

Mr. Seebaugh also added that he would like to congratulate the Belpre Girls Basketball Team for winning the District Championship this year. Glad to see it coming back as well.

Mr. Locke made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 343.03 (D) INSPECTIONS, FEES, AND FINES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy called a Special Committee meeting for 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 for the purpose of the readings of two pieces of legislation: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A CONDITIONAL NOTICE OF AWARD TO MID ATLANTIC STORAGE SYSTEMS, INC. FOR 2.5 MG WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT AND DECLARING SUCH ACTION AN EMERGENCY** and **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A CONDITIONAL NOTICE OF AWARD TO STONEGATE CONSTRUCTION**

INC. FOR WATER TANK SUPPLY MAIN AND VARIOUS WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING SUCH ACTION AN EMERGENCY.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only –

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there is two pieces of legislation before you this evening. One is the second reading of **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS** and the second piece of legislation is for the first reading of **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 343.03 (D) INSPECTIONS, FEES, AND FINES.**

No one appeared to speak on the two pieces of legislation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

New Business:

Mr. Locke brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 343.03 (D) INSPECTIONS, FEES, AND FINES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council. Mr. Locke stated that he would ask for two readings at the next meeting.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

BJ Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue addressed the drainage problem at Civitan Park that is to the right of the foul line. Mrs. Cassady stated that he had talked to Greg Adams regarding the problem. There was a Community Block Grant for \$60,000 along with a Grant from Dick Thomas used to try and fix the problem. According to Greg the city had put in a catch basin however the pumps are not working and there has been water standing in the same area. I would like the city to investigate the problem. Per Mr. Webster the standing water was referred to as Lake Tom.

Mayor Abdella said that she would have Chris go down and check the pump. Mayor Abdella also stated that the meter had been pulled.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation. Council President Mr. Martin informed the public that there would be no further discussion come before council at this evening's meeting. Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:36pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Council President Mr. Martin informed the clerk that the Executive Session started at 8:40pm.

Council returned back to council chambers at 9:05 pm. Council resumed back to the meeting at 9:07 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin

Wendy Dennis president pro tem,

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

Kimberly Meredith