

April 27, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the April 27, 2026, Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:35pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Locke, and Ms. Riffle. Also, present was Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Nolan and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the April 27, 2026 meeting was City Auditor Mrs. Campbell and Council person 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 April 13, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of April 13, 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 voice vote to correct the December 22, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a voice vote motion to correct the December 22, 2025 meeting minutes. The original meeting minutes was approved by council however the incorrect date was approved on the meeting minutes. The date reflected was December 11, 2025 and should have been December 8, 2025. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

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

Mr. President and Citizens:

Since our last meeting we have been busy, we had a very successful City clean up day on Saturday the 18th of April. This cleanup day is part of our Rumpke trash contract. This was advertised in a flier that Rumpke sent to all homeowners. They are usually bright red and give key dates for Freon bearing appliance pick up dates as well as when the city cleanup days occur. We will be having another one in the fall. So, keep an eye out for the next opportunity.

On Friday April 24, we celebrated Arbor Day here in the city with a planting of a White Oak Tree in Civitan park. We were proud to host the 4th graders from Belpre Elementary to share the day with myself and the Tree Commission.

The Belpre Tree Commission participated in Earth Day at Kraton with their staff. It was a well-attended event.

Thursday was dispatcher Donnie Myers last day with the city. We wish him well in his next adventure. Since he tendered his resignation, we have held interviews for the full-time dispatcher position. We have extended an offer and will be welcoming a new police dispatcher to our department starting in May.

Today we posted on the City Website and on Indeed an ad to hire a Water Reclamation operator. This position does require the applicant to get certified within 18 months of hiring.

Our Housing Technical assistance group continues to meet and work on completing the Comprehensive Plan project that will conclude in May.

On the 23rd I had the pleasure of attending the County Engineers Dinner in Lowell. The food was wonderful and the discussion topic was very interesting. They discussed the growth happening in the county and the construction jobs coming to the county with all of the large-scale projects. The key topic was the transient lodging tax that is levied on hotel rooms and other sleeping rooms. The current tax is 6%, 3% to the Convention and Visitors Bureau and 3% to the general fund. The suggestion is that all townships adopt lodging ordinance so that 3% goes back to township. The conversation if this should be levied on Air BNBs. This does not affect the property owner this is paid by the guest. This would be done through the rental platforms. In reviewing this topic, we currently have a transient lodging tax in Chapter 185. This could be implemented. Currently Belpre has 7 properties that would qualify. Those collections would go to the general fund.

Starting tomorrow, you will see the Source Water signage being installed around the well field to remind people why we are protective of our green space in Civitan park.

Upcoming Events:

- May 31, 2026 Memorial Day Flag Raising Ceremony at Leavitt's followed by a Memorial service at Cedarville Cemetery to honor our Revolutionary War Soldiers.
- June 27, 2026 Belpre will kick off 4th of July week with a community picnic and our theme is "Proud to be an American". There is a lot of exciting things happening this day. A list of the day's events will be posted soon.

Legislation Pending:

- EMS Equipment Lease Renewal
- EMS Contract Renewal
- Salt Contract Purchase

Project Work:

- Water tank will resume construction in May – How to proceed determining.
- SCADA – Work on sites to begin in April
- Lift station assessments at Rockland and Clement – this project to kick off Thursday
- City Valve Assessment to begin in next few weeks. This is being funded by a grant for \$20,000.

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

- Code Enforcement Activity since April 13, 2026: 9 code violation warnings issued /5 zoning permits issued.
- Code Enforcement Officer is attending a floodplain management course this week in Columbus.
- The fire department's tower truck is still at Blavos Diesel Repair and Performance for maintenance. Six injectors have been replaced with new ones, a new camshaft position sensor was installed, and the rear brakes (shoes and drums) were replaced. Lastly, the intercooler began leaking after the other issues were corrected. The intercooler could not be repaired so they have to fabricate a new one which will take approximately 10 days. Chief Rafferty has been maintaining contact and keeping me apprised.
- 99% of the MXUs have been installed. There are a handful (less than 10) that require new meters and MXUs (due to their location) which have been ordered.
- Street Department has been staying busy patching various potholes throughout the city.
- Dan Hulbert with Advanced Rehab Technology met with me and most of the water department in reference to their product. Clint Sayre has scheduled for ART to come and line a manhole with their product free of charge to demonstrate the process.
- I participated in the dispatcher interview process with Chief Stump, Mayor Abdella and Ryan Varian.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell was absent. Mrs. Nolan presented Mrs. Campbell's report before council.

- Tina and I attended a conference call on April 22nd and 23rd to go over our ARPA funds you utilized for 2025.
- We also attended the Farewell party for Donnie Myers, our dispatcher, as he moved forward in his career and education.
- I want to thank the council and city for your support and understanding while I take care of my father and hope to be back at council in the coming weeks. Cawley Hospice has also been a great support and we are lucky to have a family-owned business in Belpre to support us during this time.

The March 2026 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts reports were emailed to Council Monday, April 27, 2026 and; The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Report for March 2026 were emailed to Council Monday April 27, 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. Mr. Webster stated that we would need a motion to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss updates on litigation, real estate negotiations and contractual negotiations – required to be kept confidential. I will also be working up an agreement with the Civitan Club.

City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan reported that on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 Auditor Campbell and I worked with Heidi from RCAP to finalize and close the Federal ARPA grant due April 30, 2026.

The March 2026 Treasurer's report was emailed to Council on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 and will need Councils approval.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the March 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 announced that the only communication he has is that he passing around a thank you note from Mayor Abdella.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson announced that the 1st quarter of the 2026 Budget was sent out to all members of council. He would like council to take a look at where we are at and if there is anything that we should keep in mind when we do next year's budget.

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

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report. Mr. Locke stated that the trash collection was a success. The street department has been fixing pot holes, trimming trees throughout the city and has started mowing. They have been very busy.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee had no report however Mr. Ambrozy called a Utilities committee meeting for May 4th, 2026 at 6:30 pm for the purpose of discussing Enbridge Gas increase. Mr. Ambrozy also called a Utilities committee meeting for May 6th, 2026 with Jeff Carr in attendance for the purpose of discussing wastewater and the water tank project to include any additional utilities comments.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

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

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report at this time. Ms. Riffle called a Rules committee meeting for May 11, 2026 at 6pm for the purpose of discussing feral cats.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - none

NEW BUSINESS: - none

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Stephanie Lang a candidate for Washington County Commissioner appeared before Belpre City Council to introduce herself and to give background information about herself and why she is running for the position.

Richard Parsons resides on Leonard Avenue in Belpre and is a disabled veteran. He addressed council regarding the increase in his water bill. He has been in contact with Mr. Webster in regards to this matter. Mr. Parsons stated that he is unable to pay for the cost of the increase and he wants to know what can be done about it. Mayor Abdella and Mr. Rhodes are going to check to see if they can determine the cause and get back with him on the topic.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to excuse Mr. Seebaugh from this evening's meeting. Mrs. Dennis stated that it was his son's birthday and that was why he isn't in attendance. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Cassady made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of updates on litigation, real estate negotiations and contractual negotiations – required to be kept confidential. Jesse Rauch was also invited to the executive session. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that once the executive session is over council will return back to council for adjournment from executive session. There will be no further discussion come before council this evening other than dismissing.

A vote was called for adjournment into executive session at 7:07pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting eye.

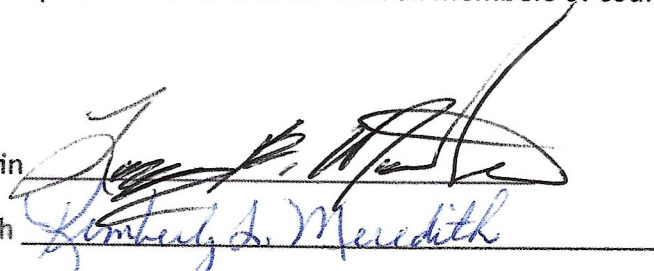
Ms. Riffle made a motion to resume from executive session at 8:07pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 8:08pm. 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 in blue ink. The first signature is for James P. Martin, the President of Belpre City Council, and the second is for Kimberly S. Meredith, the Clerk of Belpre City Council. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines.