

May 11, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the May 11, 2026, Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:35pm. 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 were Mayor Abdella, City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Nolan and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the May 11, 2026 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. 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 27, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 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** presented her report before council. It is as follows:

Mr. President and Citizens:

I would like to start this evening by letting everyone know that this week is NATIONAL POLICE WEEK. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. Please keep all officers and dispatchers in your thoughts this week as the work they do is vital to a strong community. To kick off the week the MOV Operation Blue Sky was held. It was estimated 79 vehicles from various departments participated. Thank you to all our dedicated Police Officers, Dispatchers and Clerk for making Belpre safer. Just a quick fact in 2025 the city dispatch answered 11533 calls for service. That averages 950 a month.

Last week our new shelters were completed and the tables were placed for use. The team stated the tables filled up as fast as they could place them. They will be anchoring them as soon as we decide on the best layout for them.

We currently have an open position at the Water Reclamation facility and we have been evaluating possible candidates that applied through indeed for FB as well as those on our current list. We hope to be full staff soon.

This Friday is our Health board meeting at 10am at the Health Department in Marietta. Please remember we have a nurse here the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. The nurse is available in Marietta on a daily basis.

This last two weeks we have spent a lot of time working on our utilities collecting data and working on key projects to move our system forward.

- We kicked off our water model project, the goal of this project is to help us understand how our water lines are functioning currently and what measures need to occur to add capacity to our system or to correct pressure issues for residents, businesses and fire hydrants.
- Our onsite SCADA work kicks off this week with the anticipated lasting 3-4 weeks. We will keep you posted.
- We hosted a presentation by our engineering firm related to our water and sewer projects. This had a lot of valuable information.
- We finalized our submission for the grant dollars related to PFAS. We are currently expecting 6 million dollars towards the identified projects.
  - Farson Street out over the hill
  - Hill Street 10" Line with Booster station
  - Braun Road – past current line end and to add the people unable to connect at this time.
- SOPEC Media Kit – Mary McNally here to discuss the aggregation
- You will find a copy of the RFQ I am posting tomorrow for the work on the engineering and design for the upcoming waterline project for the Dupont PFAS funding. This is a reimbursement grant and does not require City funds. However, we may need to put some in the budget so that it can start and then will be paid back to us. From the rough schedule it appears that engineering these projects will take till November, then bidding, review and award will occur quarter 1 and 2 in 2027 with construction in quarter 3 and 4.

#### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- EV Charger grant
- Gas Letter to PUCO

Project Work:

- Water tank will resume construction in May – How to proceed determining.
- SCADA – Work on sites to begin this week
- 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** was absent. Mayor Abdella presented the SSD’s report prepared by Mr. Rhodes.

- Code Enforcement Activity since April 27, 2026: 3 code violation warnings issued /3 zoning permits issued.
- Code Enforcement Officer attended Managing Floodplain Development training for four days in Columbus.
- McKeever Excavating has completed a large portion of the sewer jetting/CCTV footage documentation. They are currently on Florence Street. Pending no issues, they should be finishing up tomorrow afternoon. No issues have been reported to me pertaining to the project.
- Mike Bickley from AEA Claims Services came on behalf of both insurance companies to inspect and document the condition of ambulance #490. On May 5, 2026, we received a letter from Glatfelter Claims Management, Inc., which advised they were handling the matter on behalf of National Union Fire Insurance Company (EMS insurance company). The evidence retention notice stated the ambulance is to remain at 715 Park Drive unless prior written approval by their subrogation department or counsel is provided.

- The fire truck should be completed this week or next week.
- Chase Dickson, A PERRP (Public Employment Risk Reduction Program) Compliance Safety and Health Officer from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, made a visit to the City of Belpre on May 6<sup>th</sup>. After his "surprise" visit, he met with Chris Barringer. Mr. Dickson noted he observed two employees not wearing Class 2 or Class 3 high-visibility safety apparel. New apparel will be ordered in the near future to be in compliance.

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

**City Council:**

• I want to thank the council and city for your support and understanding while I took care of my father. He did pass on Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Again, I want to thank Cawley Hospice, who has been a great support and a local business in Belpre for supporting us during this time.

• Thank you for the beautiful flowers and cards as well from council and the community.

• We will be working on Supplements for the next meeting to help the water/sewer dept, police department regarding backing up their systems and the park expansion with flag football. The mayor can give more details on what is to come on any additional supplement as well.

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that we have been working on the documents for the new agreement with the EMS for the city as well as the lease for the use of the equipment. I will be giving Mrs. Dennis a copy of the document agreement prior to her May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting at 5:30pm. We should have legislation for the next meeting.

**City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan had no report.**

**Communication and Petitions:**

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the review of AN ORDINANCE TO READOPT ORDINANCE NO. 20, 2020-2021 WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 26, 2021, AS SECTION 939.04 to the Rules Committee, Ms. Riffle, Chairperson.

**Reports of Standing Committee:**

**Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.**

**Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report.** Mrs. Dennis called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:30pm for the purpose of discussing the EMS Contract.

Mrs. Dennis remarked on how nice the pavilion is at the park. My family had a picnic on Mother's Day there. This is a great addition. Also, there was a lot of people in the park.

**Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer** had no report. Mr. Locke made a motion to bypass committee and add to tonight's agenda for first reading A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF BELPRE AT 1618 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, BELPRE, OHIO 45714 FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGER(s). Mayor Abdella stated that this was a grant that SOPEC has been working on for a couple of years. The grant process was finally approved. The charging station will be in the front part of Badger with zero cost to the city. It will be owned, operated and maintained by the SOPEC organization. We are just allowing a place for it to be placed and it will enhance our city to allow visitors to charge their vehicle and be able to walk to the area restaurant while it is being charged. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee** reported that the Utilities committee met May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:30 pm for the purpose of discussing the Enbridge proposed gas bill increase. The big question was do we want to pass a resolution stating our position on a proposed bill increase. The committee did vote and agree to pursue a resolution stating our opposition to the proposed bill increase. Mr. Ambrozy made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ENBRIDGE GAS OHIO'S REQUEST TO INCREASE DISTRIBUTION RATES AND REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO DENY THE UTILITY'S REQUEST. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Below is a copy of the report that Mr. Ambrozy presented to the clerk. A copy on file in council chambers.

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

All Utilities Committee members were in attendance (Bill Locke, Penne Riffle and John Ambrozy) as well as other members of City Council (BJ Cassady, Lyndsay Dennis and Dave Ferguson) and Tom Webster.

---

### Agenda

- **Enbridge Gas Ohio proposed bill increase**
- **Do we want to pass a Resolution stating our position on the proposed bill increase?**

### Enbridge Gas Ohio proposed bill increase

- The attached Consumer Alert from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel was reviewed.

- If approved, the proposal would raise bills for the average residential consumer by about \$9.50 per month (approximately 10%).
- A key point is Enbridge is proposing to increase the fixed monthly charge on your bill.
- Reasons for increase: infrastructure investments, rising operating costs, high market demand and acquisition costs (Dominion Energy).

Do we want to pass a Resolution stating our position on the proposed bill increase?

- After discussion, we agreed to pursue a Resolution stating our opposition to the proposed bill increase.
- It was pointed out a similar Resolution was passed a few years ago when AEP proposed a bill increase. AEP ended up withdrawing their proposed bill increase. We should be consistent with the AEP Resolution.
- John will ask for a draft Resolution from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel. Once received, he will send it to Tom.
- The Utilities Committee (Bill, Penne, John) approved adding the Resolution to the agenda under New Business at the upcoming May 11 Council Meeting.

Meeting ended at 6:48pm.

John Ambrozy

Belpre City Council (4th Ward) Utilities Committee Leader

Mr. Ambrozy also reported on the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Utilities committee meeting with Jeff Carr and Michael Spade from EDG. Jeff Carr presented an update on key utilities projects. Our proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Project timeline and funding also known as Water Reclamation Facility. We also had a status update on our water tank project. I'm confident that we will at some point get the engineering correct. A copy of Jeff Carr's, Director of Water and Wastewater report is on file in council chambers.

Also, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 several of us participated in a kick-off meeting with EDG on a water model that they are building for us. This will be a key tool once it is completed. It will help us understand flows, pressure drops, where we need to increase or change the diameters. It will be a good model for us.

**Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee reported that he saw a post over the weekend from a citizen that was absolutely in support of what we have here in Belpre when they come to the park and see what we have for kids to do. The person notated the Belpre Soccer Club, flag football, and playground equipment. It was really nice to hear even though this citizen**

and I don't always see eye to eye for what is happening in this city. They had their Super Bowl with the flag football over the weekend and I heard they had a rousing turn out. The kids got to play on the high school field. The Belpre Soccer Club did a fund raiser for a young man who has cancer, Reese Waterman. We were able to give that family \$5,000 for them to go to Houston for treatments even though that little boy's outlook is dyer they are still looking at it in a positive light. That was a really nice Mother's Day gift that I got to give the family yesterday. We had a little tear-jerking episode in the Burger King parking lot but it was all good. The new structures we have at the park that Lyndsay was referring to in her report, I have also been hearing good comments. Mr. Seebaugh said that within the next couple of weeks the pond will be stocked with fish, Bass, Blue Gill, and Croppie's.

Mr. Cassady Planning and Zoning/Economic Development reported that he continues to work on the ordinance associated with Housing and Technical Assistance that is still on going with Sunday Creek Horizon. They are focusing on R1 and R2. Hopefully they will finish sometime the second half of this year we hope. Mayor Abdella stated that the project will be done in June. We are almost to the end. At that time, we will meet and decide how we want to move forward.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee reported that her committee met on May 11, 2026 at 6pm to discuss feral cats. Information was dispensed and some questions need updated. Ms. Riffle called a Rules committee meeting for May 25, 2026 at 6pm to further the discussion. Hopefully Mr. Seebaugh has some information and I will be seeking information from other municipalities. At some point I will be addressing the moratorium once we see what comes out of Sunday Creek Horizon study. It has not been forgotten. Mr. Cassady and I will be working on that. Mr. Martin asked when the Moratorium expires. Ms. Riffle stated September but they will need something in by July in order to complete legislation. Mayor Abdella stated that we can't rezone people's property. We would like to create an overlay for Main Street and make a medical district on the West end. We want to build toward infrastructure.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** - none

**NEW BUSINESS:** -

Mr. Locke brought before council for first reading A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF BELPRE AT 1618 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, BELPRE, OHIO 45714 FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGER(S). Mr. Locke stated that these chargers are like the Tesla chargers. They are fast chargers not like the one down at the park. Mary Nally stated that she thought there would be two chargers. 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 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ENBRIDGE GAS OHIO'S REQUEST TO INCREASE DISTRIBUTION RATES AND REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO DENY THE UTILITY'S REQUEST.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ENBRIDGE GAS OHIO'S REQUEST TO INCREASE DISTRIBUTION RATES AND REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO DENY THE UTILITY'S REQUEST. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council second and third readings A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ENBRIDGE GAS OHIO'S REQUEST TO INCREASE DISTRIBUTION RATES AND REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO DENY THE UTILITY'S REQUEST. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy moved this be **Resolution 5, 2026-2027** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Mary Nally, SOPEC leason, addressed council regarding both Gas and Electric Aggregation. With the prices going up due to supply issues SOPEC is trying to work with you giving you a fixed term rate meaning that it is locked in. Residents can opt in and out as they wish. They can use Apples to Apples to look for the best rate. Mary thanked the City of Belpre as they have been a member since 2020. They understand the financial pinch that residents are having. Mayor Abdella asked Ms. Nally to confirm that the letter that went out to residents is a fixed rate and not a variable rate. Mayor Abdella stated that they are working to make the area around the soccer field path and the pond solar lit.

Ms. Riffle stated if she is understanding correctly, they are bringing in bigger cities to help strengthen the bargaining power. Ms. Riffle was correct on her comment.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street addressed the \$4.00 and \$2.00 fee on our water bill that is not calculated into 1.5% on our water. Can we change that and put it on the base rate and make a separate fund like we are doing on the sewer. Mayor Abdella stated that she didn't know the answer to that and that she would have to talk to the EPA. Ms. Wonycott would like to see it separated out to see more transparency and clarence on our water bill. Ms. Wonycott discussed the line items on her water bill.

Mr. Locke stated that we deliberately placed the \$4.00 and \$2.00 on the water bills. We did not add them to water rates deliberately. Now we are going to go back and change that? Mr. Locke

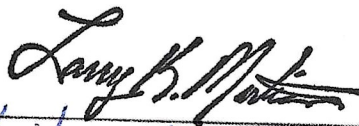
stated that it will take a lot of legislation and we would have to go back and redo the budget because the \$4 and \$2 is listed separately in the budget.

Mr. Ferguson addressed the truck storage area on Putnam Howe. The gentleman is building food trucks. He is building them and sending them out. Mayor Abdella stated this fell under the Home Base Business. Our code enforcement officer is working with the individual to try to eliminate the number of trucks/concession vehicles being stored there.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Locke made a motion to adjourn at 7:26pm. 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

