

May 25, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the May 25, 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. 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 25, 2026 meeting was Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes and Councilman Ferguson.

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 May 11, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of May 11, 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:

As we gather on this Memorial Day, we honor all the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and our freedom. I would like to thank all of you who have served our country and also thank everyone who continues to serve in many other ways.

Today the DAV after cancelling their picnic provided meals to our police department.

Mr. President I would like to have a voice vote to allow the sale of the old heavy rescue. At first it was thought to be needed for the utility dept for the camera equipment. However, it is too large for their needs.

I am also requesting a voice vote for Dravon Blow to be accepted as a probationary fire fighter. We have done the background check and he is fine. Also related to the fire department, we will be holding a strategic planning with them on June 2nd at their monthly meeting.

I am requesting that the following items be assigned to committee:

Parks and Recreation: Camera upgrades for Civitan Park, Portable fencing discussion, and the creation of multi-use fields.

Utilities: the exploration on the purchase of a hydrovac

Finance: Supplemental

- Gates and doors
- Sewer plant skimmer
- Dirt works – Multi use fields
- Generator
- Line issues

A local youth group will be revitalizing the basketball courts. They are working with Chris Barringer on the timing.

On June 27th we will be having the Community Picnic for the 250th Anniversary of our Great Nation. It will be here before we know it. It will be held in Howe's Grove Park with lots of activities.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes was absent. No report was given in his absence.

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

City Council:

- I have been working on supplementals for the first 6 months and will need the finance committee to have a meeting to go over the supplementals please before our next meeting in June.
- I had a meeting with RITA and went over non-filer/subpoena program. We also went over some other programs that I will go over in our next meeting in June.
- We had an initial audit review May 11-13 with Julian and Grube which had a few suggestions about Purchase Orders over \$3,000 and Monthly Bank Statements that we will be implementing during the next meeting as well.

Lastly,

The April 2026 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts reports were emailed to Council Thursday May 21st, 2026.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Report for April 2026 were emailed to Council Thursday May 21, 2026. The Bill Adjustment report will need Councils approval please.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the Bill Adjustments Report for April 2026 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 the April 2026 Treasurer's Report is before you this evening. Copies have been sent to all members of council and copies have been placed in the back file for citizens to also review. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the April 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 the following to council committee:

Utilities: Mr. Ambrozy Chairman, purchase of a hydrovac

Finance: Mr. Ferguson Chairman, supplemental

Parks and Recreation: Mr. Seebaugh Chairman, Camera upgrades for Civitan Park, Portable fencing discussion, and the creation of multi use fields.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion for a voice vote to accept Dravon Blow as a probationary fire fighter for the City of Belpre. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion for a voice vote to allow the sale of the old heavy rescue. Mr. Locke asked where the funds would go after the sale. Mayor Abdella stated that it would go back to the general fund. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle asked if we have a buyer for the old heavy rescue. Mayor Abdella stated that we do not have a buyer and that it would have to go out on the government site for auction.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence. Mrs. Dennis called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for June 1, 2026 at 6:00pm for the purpose of discussing the supplemental.

Mayor Abdella asked President of Council Mr. Martin to assign street paving to Mr. Locke Streets, Sidewalks, and Storm Sewers. We have quotes.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that her committee met on May 18th, 2026 at 5:30pm for the purpose of discussing the EMS Contract. There were no major changes in the contract. Mrs. Dennis requested that the law director draft legislation to be added to the next meeting.

Mr. Martin asked about if we have the condition of the new/old squad. Mayor Abdella responded by saying that the insurance company and the adjusters have been here. We are waiting on them to give us permission to take it to the factory. The vendors will take it back to the factory for analyzes to determine the cause of fire. They have sent us another squad to use. It is red and white. It is a loaner from a factory in Indiana. President of Council Mr. Martin said that is very kind and very helpful.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer called a committee meeting for June 1, 2026 at 6:30pm (approximate) for the purpose of discussing street paving. Mr. Locke encouraged all members of council to attend.

Mr. Locke reported that our street department has been busy the last month or more, patching potholes, clearing broken branches and mowing which they will never get done.

All of that and completing the shelters, adding electric to them and many other needs the park has.

I attended the Triple W meeting with the Mayor on May 20, 2026.

A lot of information was distributed. Rt 50 and Rt 7 is scheduled to be paved in 2028, our portion of this paving is just under \$600,000 (I expect this number to raise as the cost of asphalt will most likely raise in the future).

The new street sweeper has been out cleaning our streets. It is working great.

Council President asked the mayor about Rt. 7. She stated that it is the City Limits, down by the Church of Christ all the way to the pay bridge and then it takes the ramp north to that end piece.

Mayor Abdella announced that she is the president for Triple W. (Washington, Wood and Wirt) They are an MPO. Mayor Abdella stated that this is where we get Federal Funding for roads. Mrs. Dennis asked what an MPO is? Municipal Partnership Organization. We pull together so we can get the federal funding for the roads.

Mr. Locke stated it was like SOPEC, where organizations pull together for funding.

President of Council asked about leak on Route 7. Mayor Abdella stated that it was so bad. The hillside going north was actually sliding. The pipe was compressed and crushed. There was a 20-foot-long crack in it all the way up so they had to replace that entire section. Doug Lowe was called in because our mini excavator wasn't large enough to dig it. Our guys worked with them to get that repaired. The only other problem we have now water wise is the Farson Street Booster Station keeps kicking off therefore Farson Street is without water. There is an electrical issue on Farson Street. I was out there with AEP yesterday evening. They lost 3 cans on one

pole so they are trying to get them repaired. What was happening is that every time the pole would switch or flicker it would shut the pumps off but would kick back on before the generator could kick on. The power was turned off from the grid, we shut it completely off. Farson Street ran on the generator up until this evening. We are trying to get the electrical company squared away.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that on June 19th, 2026 the Multi-Cultural Festival will be begin in Civitan Park. Mr. Seebaugh stated that he will be getting in contact with the mayor in regards to his committee assignment on the camera upgrades for Civitan Park, Portable fencing discussion, and the creation of multi-use fields.

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

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee reported that her committee met this evening at 6pm to further her discussion regarding feral cats. Ms. Riffle stated that she has reached out to other municipalities however she hasn't received a lot of response. One item that was touched on was the concern of citizens feeding the feral cats. I'm not going to schedule a meeting at this time however there will be more to come once we have more solid information.

Ms. Riffle commended all the first responders fire and police departments, sheriff's department, State Highway Patrol and the surrounding areas for responding to a fire on 5th Street in Belpre. We are so blessed to be associated with these organizations.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Locke brought before council for second 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). A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of 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). A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke brought before council for the third 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). A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved this be Resolution #6, 2026-2027 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS: none

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: none

Mayor Abdella mentioned the Police and Fire Safety Awards Recognition that will be held after Mrs. Dennis comes back from vacation. It will be held the second meeting in June. With that we will have a Citizen Award for a lifesaving award. Also, we will have recognition for a couple officers as well as we are going to ask those responding to the fire be present.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 6:58pm. 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 _____

