

June 22, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the June 22, 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 were Mayor Abdella, Safety Service Director Mr. Rhodes, City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief Stump 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.

Mrs. Campbell informed the President of Council that Mr. Webster would be late this evening as he was in a meeting.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the June 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of June 8, 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:

This past two weeks we have met with several State and Federal Departments to discuss opportunities and needs. We met with the EPA and ODNR. Each have opportunities for us. I also attended the RITA annual meeting. A lot of good information was gathered in each of these meetings.

Multi-Cultural Festival just occurred. It was well received and very well attended.

Community Picnic: the picnic is scheduled for June 27th from 11-3 in Howe Grove Park. Please remember at 9am there is a flag raising and flag retirement ceremony by the Belpre Area Veterans. Activities include: A picnic, with hotdogs, burgers, chips, watermelon, ice cream and apple pies. There will be kids' activities by Artsbridge, a mural painting, and a petting zoo. We are seeking volunteers to help serve the burgers and hotdogs.

Parking on Blennerhassett near Walnut: We are concerned with the increased traffic at that corner that parking should not be allowed on Blennerhassett between Elm and Walnut. We do not want to change the parking ordinance due to its effect on the other streets in town. This street has become a more heavily used road with increased use at the park. I don't know if this can be fixed by a voice vote however, I do feel it needs to be fixed.

Water Tank Reboot:

The Housing Technical Grant received an extension to complete till August. We will be bringing the entire document to council for review and adoption as per request of ODOD. This will then include separate ordinance changes as we move through this work. The plan itself will be reviewed by council. It is an acknowledgement as to what it is. It is not a strict guideline rule. This will go through Mr. Cassady's committee to discuss how we can update some of our ordinances.

Projects Completed

- SCADA
- 10" Line

Open Projects:

- Water model
- Critical Valve assessment
- Rockland Lift Station/Orion evaluation
- Meter Replacements
- Wate line extensions
- Server line replacement on Rt. 7 that is mandated by the EPA.

Upcoming Events:

- Every Tuesday this summer we will be hosting Music by the River, come and join us.
- June 26th at Ohio Valley Opry will be hosting a 250 Celebration of Patriotic music and a Laurel and Hardy Silent Movie.
- 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

- Supplemental
- Civitan Park Transfer legislation

Project Work:

- Water tank will resume construction soon – How to proceed determining.
- 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.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked Mr. Locke if he had any objections regarding not allowing parking on the street between Elm and Walnut on Blennerhassett Avenue. Mr. Locke stated that he did not. He said that he had been down and looked at the situation. There are three vehicles down there causing a bottle neck. With the amount of traffic going through there I feel that this is a good idea. SSD agreed with Mr. Locke on his decision.

A voice vote was made by Mr. Locke to close parking on Blennerhassett Avenue between Elm and Walnut Street as the traffic has increased. Mr. Ferguson asked if this includes no parking on either side. He was informed that there would not be any parking allowed on either side. Also asked was if there would be signs erected. There would be signs erected. Ms. Riffle asked how long they would have to move vehicles. According to the Mayor, SSD and Police Chief 30 days was a good idea. This would give citizens time to adjust. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes presented his report before council. It is as follows:

- Code Enforcement activity since June 8, 2026: 4 code violation warnings issued / 8 zoning permits issued.
- Heavy Rescue was sold on GovDeals. The winning bid was in the amount of \$15,850.00.
- Roberts Roofing will be completing the new shingle roofs at the city building and Station 1 near the end of August/beginning of September. ACR1 will be sealing the EPDM roof at Station 1. The date is to be determined.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell reported to City Council:

- The Mayor and I have been working on the supplementals this week and the finance committee will need to amend the updated changes.

- I had a meeting with RITA and went over non-filer/subpoena program. The cost of the subpoena program (\$1.00 per subpoena) and a (or voice vote). A voice vote is needed. (cost is on back end not something we pay upfront)
- The Mayor and I went to Upper Arlington for a RITA meeting and found ways we can utilize collecting income taxes from businesses and other revenue sources. Over 33 of the 38 counties in Ohio participate in this program. Rita just celebrated their 50th birthday.

Lastly,

The May 2026 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts reports were emailed to Council Saturday, June 20, 2026, and;

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Report for May 2026 were emailed to Council Saturday June 20, 2026. The Bill Adjustment report will need Councils approval please.

RITA non-filer/subpoena program the cost of the subpoena program (\$1.00 per subpoena) and a (or voice vote) Motion is needed.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the Bill Adjustment report for May 2026 as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote with RITA over non-filer/subpoena program. The cost of the subpoena program (\$1.00 per subpoena). This just needs a voice vote. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster wasn't present at the time of his report however he gave his report later in the meeting.

City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan reported the May 2026 Treasurer's report was emailed to Council, Wednesday, June 17, 2026 and will need Councils approval. There are copies on the back wall.

Per Juian & Grube, we were advised to receive verbal approval of the bank reconciliations by Council. January – April 2026 bank reconciliations were emailed to Council, Wednesday, June 17, 2026. These were reviewed and signed by President Martin on June 2, 2026 and will need Councils verbal approval.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the May 2026 Treasurer's Report as presented to council. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Point of clarification was given by President of Council. He wants the council all to be involved with the bank reconciliations.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote to approve January 2026 bank reconciliation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote to approve February 2026 bank reconciliation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote to approve March 2026 bank reconciliation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote to approve the April 2026 bank reconciliation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned electric bikes to Police and Fire Committee, Mrs. Dennis chairperson. If you are not pedaling it than it is some kind of motor bike. Chief Stump stated that later on he would provide council with information on that. Chief Stump to meet with Mrs. Dennis after the meeting to set up a time to discuss.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

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 he met with Clint Sayre from the water department to discuss the Hydrovac issues.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Cassady had no report for Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2026 APPROPRIATIONS.**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to amend Exhibit A to repair the rear glass on the Code Enforcement's truck and the generator for a \$50,000 grant. The money goes in and right back out. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for second reading on **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2026 APPROPRIATIONS as amended.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second reading **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF BELPRE EMS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF BELPRE EMS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for the third reading **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF BELPRE EMS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Resolution #7, 2026-2027** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BELPRE EMS, INC FOR THE USE OF BELPRE CITY REAL ESTATE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BELPRE EMS, INC FOR THE USE OF BELPRE CITY REAL ESTATE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BELPRE EMS, INC FOR THE USE OF BELPRE CITY REAL ESTATE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Resolution #8, 2026-2027** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LAND TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH THE BELPRE CIVITAN CLUB TO TRANSFER TITLE FOR THE CIVITAN CLUB PROPERTY WHERE THE BASEBALL FIELDS, CONCESSION STAND, STORAGE BUILDING AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ARE LOCATED, TO**

THE CITY OF BELPRE. A vote was taken with all member of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS: none

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Ms. Riffle asked where do we stand with the ambulance that was totaled. There have been discussions on how to replace. The value of the ambulance was negotiated. The radio has to be replaced and wrapped. Mayor Abdella stated that everything else was able to be removed from the ambulance.

Mr. Webster apologized for being late to the meeting. He announced that there has been a dismissal filed by the plaintiffs in the EMS case without prejudice. However, it has not been signed by the court or fire department. The previous EMS will have a year to refile should they decide to do so. We may have to pay if they refile.

Mr. Cassady discussed the land transfer. It states that the legislation should be passed asap or by July 1st, 2026. If we let it lay over will there be a negative effect. Per the Mayor/law director there will be no negative effect.

Mayor Abdella discussed the major flooding that we had from the last storm and the storm water issue. There were seven people removed from their homes by the fire department and taken to the fire house facility for shelter where they received clothing and food provided by the Belpre Masonic Lodge. Judy Frum was able to arrange all this for the victims of the flood. Mayor Abdella addressed the collaboration and commitment of this community.

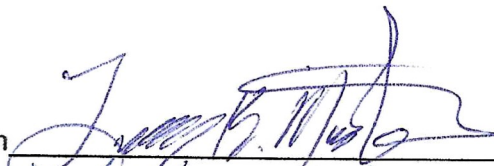
Chief Stump addressed e-bikes and three different classes. Research is being done on how to enforce the law. There Class 3 must wear helmets, have turn signals, a license to operate, insurance, etc. on a road way. Anything that doesn't have pedals on it is considered to be a motor vehicle. We are researching this and the main concern is the safety of those on e-bikes/motor vehicles.

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street Belpre asked how all this would be communicated to the public. According to Chief Stump once he gets with Mrs. Dennis and come up with legislation, we will do public service announcements and perhaps hold a town meeting.

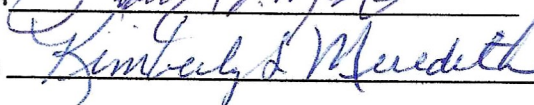
Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn from the regular council meeting at 7:21pm. 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 "Joseph B. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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