

July 13, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 13, 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, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, Safety Service Director Mr. Rhodes and City Law Director Mr. Webster. Absent from the July 13, 2026 meeting was City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan, Councilman Locke 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. Mr. Ambrozy 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 June 22, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of June 22, 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:

I would like to start by thanking everyone who came out volunteered, participated and contributed to the very successful America 250 Celebration here in our community. A great time was had by all. Brian, Chris, Pat, Erica and John worked hard making it a success. We again want to thank all the elected officials who came out to participate in our event.

On July 4th the President of Council represented me at the flag raising and retirement of flags held by the Masonic Lodge. Thank you, President Martin. The Belpre Area Veterans held a ceremony here at Howes Grove Park, that also retired flags. Thank you to all that supported these events.

This past Saturday the Belpre Alumni held their annual ice cream social here in the park. All of these community events continue to bring everyone together. A great time was had by all.

We received the updated drawings for Well 1 so that we can get a new vault and check valve installed into it. So, it will be back in service.

July 14, Citywide paving will begin. I have distributed the letter to each of you and it should be on your desk. It was also placed on Facebook today. The paving will take one to two weeks to complete. They will grind the roads first and then paving.

July 20, 2026 the work will begin in Civitan park with the new fencing around fields one and two. We will then begin work on the multiuse fields so they will be ready for spring.

I have a landlord that is questioning the practice of owner liability for tenant unpaid water bills.

939.02 OWNERS'S LIABILITY:

The owner of any premise on which a tenant is the water consumer shall be liable for any unpaid water assessments, and fees, if such tenant fails to pay the assessment or fee. If the assessment or fee becomes delinquent for ninety days or longer, such delinquency shall be certified to the Auditor of Washington County, Ohio, to be placed upon the property owner's tax duplicate, with interest and penalties, for collection as other City taxes are collected.

This is Ordinance #8, 1996-1997, Passed 4-22-96.

Projects Completed

- SCADA
- 10" Line

Open Projects:

- Water model
- Critical Valve
- Rockland Lift Station/Orion evaluation
- Meter Replacements
- Water line extensions

Upcoming Events:

- Every Tuesday this summer we will be hosting Music by the River, come and join us.
- Belpre Homecoming August 6, 7, 8, 9

Legislation Pending:

- Supplemental
- Civitan Park Transfer legislation
- Tax Budget 2027

Project Work:

- Water tank will resume construction soon – How to proceed determining.
- Water Line extension is being discussed at this point.
- 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 presented his report before council. It is as follows:

- Code Enforcement activity since June 22, 2026: 8 code violation warnings issued / 18 zoning permits issued.
- Met with two train organizations about Depot Park. The Huntington WV group is in the process of getting rid of all their assets and will most likely transfer them to the Parkersburg WV group once they become a 501C3. Should that not happen, the Huntington group would like to transfer ownership to the city.
- Station 2 now has a leaking roof in two locations. Quote obtained from ACR1 Roofing to seal the roof. Option 1 is to just repair obvious areas for leaks or potential leaks for \$4,092.00 and no warranty. Option 2 is to seal the entire roof for \$17,021.00 with a 15-year warranty. The mayor and I agree that we should do the entire roof for \$17,021.00 which includes the 15-year warranty. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that Station 2 may be moving due to the expansion of the hospital on Farson Street but nothing has been determined at this time.

I also have a letter from Chief Stump that he prepared however he is not in attendance this evening. I will read the letter and try to explain the best I can with the mayor's assistance. Chief Stump stated that he is planning to convert our dispatch and police department to P25 Marcs Radio System due to the overall cost and I'm applying for a Jag Grant and would like to get city council approval to submit the grant application. Due to the cost and complexity, I would like to conduct a four phase roll out of this project. Phase I would be to install a new console Marcs Radio's and dispatch. Our dispatch is the brand of communication network that must be completed first to lay the foundation for future upgrades. I plan to keep our legacy radio system for emergency use if needed. Phase II acquire hand held portable radios. Hand

held Marcs radios will be purchased and issued to officers once they are trained on them. Phase III would be to acquire in car radios and would be purchased and installed in each marked police vehicle. Phase IV to install a second console and second dispatch station would be upgraded to include a new console and Marcs Radios. Discussion followed regarding the cost. This grant has to be submitted by July 21, 2026. There is no match required. Everyone is on Marcs except for us per Mayor Abdella. City Law Director asked how quickly we would have to use the money if we received the grant. Mayor Abdella stated by FY2027. Mr. Ferguson stated that we should apply for the grant. The grant will cover the console and 911 will have to cover the rest. Mr. Webster stated that the 911 monies may change.

Ms. Riffle made a motion for a voice vote for approval to submit the grant application for 911 Marcs Radio's. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell was absent. No report was given in her absence.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the following to committee:

Finance/Audit Committee – Mr. Ferguson, Chairman – Tax Budget for 2027

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he had visited the new hardware store. I encourage each of you to visit the store for your needs instead of running to Parkersburg. The store is crammed full.

Police and Fire – Mrs. Dennis, Chairperson – Emergency Purchase Agreement with Penn Care Inc., to purchase a Medix Metro Express Type III on a Ford E-350 Chassis (Gas) Ambulance.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson requested a Public Hearing for July 14th, 2026 at 7:30pm for the purpose of discussing the Tax Budget for 2027 followed by a Special Committee meeting on July 14th, 2026 at 7:45pm to present three readings on the Tax Budget.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to by-pass committee and add to tonight's agenda for first reading AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER AN EMERGENCY PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PENN CARE INC. TO PURCHASE A MEDIX METRO EXPRESS TYPE III ON A FORD E-350 CHASSIE (GAS) AMBULANCE. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye,

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Mr. Ambrozy, Utilities Committee called a committee meeting for Monday July 20th, 2026 at 6pm for the purpose of meeting with Centrix engineering firm. There will be a presentation by the firm.

Mr. Ambrozy, Utilities Committee called a committee meeting for Monday July 27th, 2026 at 6pm for the purpose of discussing the purchase of a new hydrovac. There have been two meetings held prior to this meeting. The committee feels that we can purchase a new hydrovac.

Mr. Ambrozy made a motion to excuse Mr. Locke from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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 third reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2026 APPROPRIATIONS as amended**. Discussion followed on the amendment. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #9, 2026-2027** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for third 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 as amended**. City Law Director confirmed that each member of council received a copy of the land transfer. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Resolution #10, 2026-2027** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER AN EMERGENCY PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PENN CARE INC. TO**

PURCHASE A MEDIX METRO EXPRESS TYPE III ON A FORD E-350 CHASSIE (GAS) AMBULANCE.

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 second and third readings on **AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER AN EMERGENCY PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PENN CARE INC. TO PURCHASE A MEDIX METRO EXPRESS TYPE III ON A FORD E-350 CHASSIE (GAS) AMBULANCE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for the second and third readings on **AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER AN EMERGENCY PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PENN CARE INC. TO PURCHASE A MEDIX METRO EXPRESS TYPE III ON A FORD E-350 CHASSIE (GAS) AMBULANCE.** Ms. Riffle asked what the turnaround time is. According to the mayor it was a short time. The company was going to allow them to keep the loaner until the end of the month until the wrap was done on the new ambulance. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Ordinance #5, 2026-2027** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: none

Mrs. Dennis extended an invite from the Homecoming President for city council and the administration to attend the opening ceremonies of the Belpre Homecoming.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn from the regular council meeting at 7:31pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Belpre City Council Mr. Martin _____

Clerk of Belpre City Council Protem Mr. Seebaugh _____

