

July 27, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 27, 2026, Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:37pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mr. Cassady, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the July 27, 2026 meeting was Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes and Councilperson Mrs. Dennis.

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.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the July 13, 2026 meeting minutes. Mr. Seebaugh made a motion to accept the minutes of July 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 motion for the July 14, 2026 Special meeting minutes. Mr. Seebaugh made a motion to accept the Special meeting minutes of July 14, 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:

Before I proceed with my report, I would like to thank Austin for his technical support in getting us logged into Facebook live. With his help we have Kim ready to go this evening.

Tonight, I would like for Chief Stump to join me, as we have a couple of individuals that we would like to recognize for their compassion, selflessness and efforts on behalf of their neighbor and community.

- Bobbi Wilson was recognized for her city leadership when she helped a lady who had fallen into a window well.

- Malcolm Barber was recognized for his service to the Belpre Volunteer Fire Department when he helped the department during an explosion in Belpre on Fifth Street. He was there handing out water, running the pumper on top of the truck, helped with the hoses and anything else that he could help/assist with. Also recognized were members of the EMS and Fire Department that were there helping to fight the fire and take care of any emergencies that might have arose.

Thank you for your service to our community.

On your desk I have placed the Senior Center Operations report for your review. Bonnie is retiring from her role as Director and Abbie will be assuming the director role. Please wish Bonnie well in her retirement.

Belpre is a community with many exciting things happening. This weekend we have the exciting Long Dog Fest and the Belpre Bass Tournament for Adults and Children at the pond. The pond will be closed for fishing starting Thursday in preparation for kids' tournament Saturday. It starts at 9am. With lot of great prizes to be awarded.

This weeks Music in the Park is being moved to Wednesday at 7:30pm due to the possible severe weather that is predicted. The music will be provided by Band of Brothers.

Mr. President will you assign the following item to the utility committee for review. Water section 939.02. This was passed in 1996. Also Mr. President I have forwarded the Chair of Economic Development the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan that will need accepted by city council that would be in the form of a resolution. However, the three proposed additions to the ordinances are: Infill housing, Backyard Cottages/ADU's and Planned Unit Developments. My goal would be these ordinances would be reviewed and completed by the end of October if possible.

The team is working on removal of the fencing of Fields 3 and 4. The contractor for the new fencing was delayed last week on another job but I expected to start this week. However, we did find a water leak in the floor of the concession so we are evaluating the repair of the concession stand at this time or if a larger renovation needs to occur.

I have placed a picture on your desk of a homeowners' sewer lateral that has possibly collapsed allowing debris into our sewer mains. We should probably have a discussion related to what is the city position in extensive and costly homeowner repairs. There are a couple of others potential sewer collapses that we are investigating.

Storm water letters with fines,

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:

Project Work:

- Water tank will resume construction soon – How to proceed determining.
- Water Line extension
- 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. No report was presented in his absence. Mayor Abdella did comment that Brian was in Canada catching fish.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell reported the following before council:

- Working with OWDA to do yearly reporting on utilities
- Finishing Tax Exempt Status for the Badger Building
- Thank you for help with 2027 tax budget and supplemental
- Continuing working with RITA with outstanding collections

· Next month meeting with BWC on grants for Water/Sewer Hydrovac and potential for other safety grants.

City Council:

The June 2026 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts reports were emailed to Council Friday July 24, 2026.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Report for June 2026 was emailed to Council Saturday July 24, 2026. The Bill Adjustment report will need Councils approval please and Mayor's signature please.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a voice vote on the Bill Adjustment Report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Bill Adjustment Report for June 2026 as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that he will be completing the document regarding the agreement with the Civitan Club. Title Action may be needed.

City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan reported that the June Treasurer's report was emailed to Council, Friday, July 24, 2026. Copies are available on the back wall and will need councils' approval.

The May and June bank reconciliations were reviewed and signed by President Martin, Thursday, July 23 and emailed to Council Friday, July 24, 2026 and will need councils' approval.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the May and June bank reconciliations as presented. A vote was taken with all member of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the June 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 committee:

Assigned to Mr. Ambrozy's Utility committee is Section 939.02 of the water section.

Assigned to Mr. Cassady's Planning and Zoning/Economic Development committee is the Compensation Plan.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer asked that he have street paving removed from his committee. President of Council Mr. Martin asked if they are all paved and striped. According to Mr. Locke they are all paved just not striped. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that we would leave it on his committee until the striping is complete. All streets were completely paved by last Monday at noon.

Mr. Ambrozy, Utilities Committee reported that on July 20th, 2026 at 6:00pm his committee met with Centrix engineering firm.

All Utilities Committee members were in attendance (Bill Locke, Penne Riffle and John Ambrozy). They were joined by other members of City Council (Dave Ferguson and BJ Cassady), Brian Rhodes and Susan Abdella.

From Centrix, Adam Corwin, Duane Titus and Michael Popa were in attendance.

The attached presentation (copy of file in Council Chambers) was distributed to everyone in attendance and presented/discussed by the Centrix representatives.

Meeting Objective - Learn about Centrix and how they might be able to help Belpre.

Meeting highlights

- Centrix is a national, privately-held "Design-Build-Finance" specialty contractor. They serve municipalities and K-12 districts.
- Brian Rhodes found out about Centrix through Marietta contacts.
- Centrix has proposed they can work on the following projects: Collection Systems (inflow and infiltration solutions), Manhole rehabilitation and Water System improvements (smart metering and lead service lines).
- Belpre has 653 manholes.
- A key point is that projects have quantifiable savings which can pay for project work.
- Centrix can help with funding as needed. They can also write grants.
- TIPS is a national purchasing cooperative that may help us.
- Centrix is relatively new to Ohio.
- Centrix has three phases with their work: Phase I (preliminary assessment), Phase II (investment grade audit - shovel-ready scope with guaranteed maximum price) and Phase III (project implementation). Phase I has no cost to Belpre.

Forward Plan (based on post-meeting discussion involving Susan, Brian and John)

- Hold off on using Centrix for the time being.
- Evaluate the Ameresco study completed approximately 20 years ago. What projects are remaining?
- What other projects is Centrix interested in?

I believe we are going to hold off a month or so before we commit anything with Centrix.

Meeting ended at 7:24pm.

John Ambrozy

Utilities Committee Leader

Mayor Abdella stated that it was a positive meeting. We just have a little more work to do.

July 27, 2026 Utilities Committee Meeting started at 6:00pm.

All Utilities Committee members were in attendance (Bill Locke, Penne Riffle and John Ambrozy). They were joined by other members of City Council (Dave Ferguson, BJ Cassady and Rick Seebaugh), Clint Sayre, Susan Abdella, Tom Webster, Larry Martin, Erica Campbell and Kim Meredith.

The Sales Order for a new Hydrovac (dated 6/25/2026) was distributed to Attendees. Price is \$229,000.69.

Meeting Objective - Determine if we should purchase a new Hydrovac for the Water Department.

Meeting highlights

- Clint Sayre (Foreman of Water Department) was in attendance and explained issues with current Hydrovac.
 - The Hydrovac is a critical piece of equipment. It is basically a shop-vac on a trailer. It is used for water and gas lines. It is used the majority of time for water lines.
 - The current Hydrovac is 5 years old (2021 model). Expected life is 5 - 10 years.
 - The current Hydrovac has safety and reliability issues. The hose is difficult to use and can cause bruises. Also, the lift gate will not stay closed and the tank leaks.
 - We have tried to repair the current Hydrovac three times with zero success.

- A new Hydrovac is a different brand and has several upgrades including larger tanks and hoses.
- We prefer to use the Hydrovac for water only.
- If needed, a rental Hydrovac is available in Athens.
- We need to decide if we should keep the current Hydrovac. With current issues, it is most likely best to trade it in. Trade-in value is \$20,000.
- There is a good possibility we can get a \$40,000 grant for a new Hydrovac. We will most likely find out on August 25.
- Erica Campbell has looked at Water Department revenue and expenses. We are able to fund a new Hydrovac. We would most likely pay for it over a 4-year period with a 5% interest rate.
- It takes 6 months to build a new Hydrovac.

Forward Plan

- After going around the room and getting input from all Council members in attendance, it was decided to proceed with the purchase of a new Hydrovac.

Meeting ended at 6:32pm.

John Ambrozy

Utilities Committee Leader

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Seebaugh made a motion to excuse Mrs. Dennis from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all member of council present voting aye.

Mr. Cassady reported that Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee reported that we are dealing with R1 and R2 redefinitions. Ms. Riffle has a Sober Living Moratorium that has been assigned to her and because we aren't going to get that far with the zoning issue, she may want to extend that moratorium. It is coming up and we won't be able to deal with it in this council year.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report. Ms. Riffle called a Rules committee meeting for August 10th, 2026 at 6:00pm for the purpose of discussing the Sober Living extension and Feral cats. I will be sending out a proposal on feral cats for your review.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: none

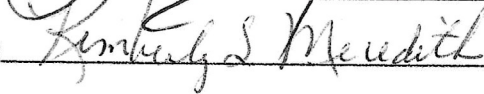
Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn from the regular council meeting at 7:06pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Belpre City Council Mr. Martin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Riffle", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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