

August 10, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the August 10, 2026 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:30 pm. 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.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the July 27, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of July 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:

We had a very successful Homecoming this past weekend. The Committee and all of our employees worked a lot of hours over this weekend to make the event a fantastic time for all. Having a full-on event in the park along with a parade, a race and fireworks take everyone to make it successful. We also appreciate all those that sponsored this event.

This week's Music in the Park is Elvis so cross your fingers the rain holds off tomorrow. If is cancelled you will see it on the Belpre Woman's Club Facebook page.

The team is working on the renovation of the Belpre Baseball Fields. The renovation of fields one and two with new backstop and fencing will be a wonderful improvement for the youth of Belpre. The multiuse field will allow expansion of other sports to use the park facilities. We look forward to the Belpre Youth having a nice facility.

Mr. President please assign to Police and Fire the review of the fire department and the needed updates for future improvement.

The past couple of weeks has had a lot of exciting opportunities. I attended the Small Communities/Big Impact conference at Seneca Lake. It was wonderful to hear the Ohio River Commission Chair talk about the goals for the Ohio River communities. They also stated there is an opportunity for a 100K grant from them that supports access and tourism of the Ohio River. We are looking at projects that meet the goals of the funding. One thing we discussed was the resurfacing of the boat ramp. That quote came back at 242K.

There is also the opportunity for a 50K grant from MVWSD for parks. We are going to be looking at that as well.

In discussion today with Darien we discussed the need to update the power panel in the park for all the activities. We will be getting a cost for this, and we will be in the process of taking ownership of the light poles in the park.

I also completed the Mayors Court refresher this past week with President Martin.

I have also received the quote from Pickering Engineering for the proposal for the regrading plan of the water tank site. This proposal includes some additional geotechnical work and a review of the slip area. There will be a lot of talk on the uphill and downhill slope. As of this time the original company has not submitted a proposal to redo the work.

**Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes** presented his report before council:

- Code Enforcement Activity: 7 written warnings/10 permits issued.
- Estimates are starting to come in for the swimming pool. We received a quote for a liner. We are still awaiting the quotes for the pumps and pump house. Total cost for repairs will be completed by the end of August.
- Roberts Roofing will begin on the roofs at the city building and Station 1 the first or second week of September.
- I have received inquiries about the noise ordinance not having any times listed for enforcement. Other items needing looked at would be a juvenile curfew as well as e-motorcycles. Lastly, the city limit boundaries need finalized to be prepared for when US 50 is repaved. Mr. President, I respectfully request each of these be assigned to the appropriate committee for consideration.
- Tree Removal: Black's Tree Service has taken down 9 trees in the city. They have two more to remove once the weather cooperates.

Mr. Cassady asked if the tree by the fountain would be removed. He said the tree is in bad shape. Mr. Rhodes stated that he would have to verify with Chris and he would let him know.

Mr. Locke asked if the tree stumps would be removed. Mr. Rhodes to check with Chris about this. Mayor Abdella stated that she didn't think so. It is usually done by another company. Mr. Martin stated that it would add an enormous cost to the removal. Mr. Locke stated that it needs done.

Ms. Abdella completed her report. Tonight, I would like for Chief Stump and our new Patrolman Quinton Anderson to join me as we swear him in with council. However, Quinton was sworn in officially prior to homecoming. He has started his career in Belpre off on a very positive foot during homecoming. He participated in several situations to keep Belpre a safer community. Chief Stump stated that Quinton comes from Marietta and has eight years of experience. He lives in Belpre and we are very blessed to have him. Welcome Quinton!

**City Auditor Mrs. Campbell** reported the following before council:

- Went to Belpre Chamber Breakfast with Safety Service Director
- Met with Matthew Livingood the Washington County Auditor
- Met with Mr. Lowery with our Ohio State Auditor Department
- Attended opening ceremony at Belpre Homecoming
- Lastly my daughter Gabby Campbell won Teen Miss Belpre
- Alexa Wilson also won Miss Belpre both our Police Daughters

City Council:

No reports to be approved at this time.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan had no report.

#### **Communication and Petitions:**

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the following to committee:

Assigned to Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee Chair: Review of the fire department and needed updates for future improvement. Also assigned per request by the Safety-Service Director was the noise ordinance, juvenile curfew and e-motorcycles. Mrs. Dennis requested parking issues be added to her committee also.

City limit boundaries for paving of US 50. (Mayor Abdella stated that Mr. Webster has been working on the city limits boundaries). Discussion followed. This assignment will be given to Mr. Cassady once it is complete.

### Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee requested that e-bikes be removed from her committee assignments. After discussion and review with Chief Stump the guidelines have already been established through our codes and state law. However, we plan to do some public informational meetings since motorized vehicles have become so popular. Mrs. Dennis called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for Monday August 17, 2026 at 7:00pm for the purpose of discussing review of the fire department and needed updates for future improvement, noise ordinance, juvenile curfew, and parking issues.

Ms. Riffle questioned the e-bikes with pedals. Once again Mrs. Dennis stated that when reviewed with Chief Stump it has been already established through our codes and state law.

Council President stated that before he removes from her committee he will discuss with Chief Stump.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer thanked the Homecoming Committee for all the hard work they put into making our homecoming a success. We were there every night and it was packed. He also thanked all workers of the city that was involved. Mr. Locke asked that he have street paving removed from his committee referral. President of Council Mr. Martin asked if all streets were paved and striped? According to Mr. Locke all streets have been paved and half the streets are striped and I don't believe the others will be done. Mayor Abdella stated that Chris would see that Blennerhassett Avenue is striped. He will do it. Campbell Drive and Elm Street are small and they probably won't be done. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he would leave it on his committee until the striping is complete. Mayor Abdella stated that it probably would be a while before it is striped.

Mr. Ambrozy, Utilities Committee announced that this morning he attended the new water tank stabilization meeting. We discussed the pad stabilization by Pickering Engineering and some of the key roles of the project.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee stated that the Homecoming Committee did a bang-up job this year on the homecoming. I'm interested in seeing what they will do next year. He reported that he had received a lot of encouragement on the multi-use field at Civitan Park. Flag football is really excited as they were going to lose there playing field. Mr. Seebaugh is going to be in touch with Chris about revamping the boat ramp and making it more handicap accessible. There is concern about getting in and out. There has been discussion by the mayor and Christ regarding the slope. A gentleman who is handicapped is willing to come down and work with them on the issue.

Mr. Cassady reported that Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee met on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to discuss Housing and Technical Assistance. Packets were distributed on the infield housing and overlay. All this will role into our Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Cassady called a Planning and Zoning/Economic Development meeting for August 17, 2026 at 6pm, for the purpose of discussing the ordinance associated with Housing and Technical Assistance and our Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee reported that her committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6pm for the purpose of discussing feral cats and Sober Living extension. It was the decision of the committee to forward to Mr. Webster to draft legislation. The discussion on the Sober Living extension was to extend for an additional year but the committee agreed that it must be completed by December 31, 2027.

Mr. Webster stated that if you extend it for a year that would be until September 2027. Do you want it to be until December 2027 or September 2027? According to Mr. Martin it should be a year from the extension which would be September 2027.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** - none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Amanda Baker 715 Barclay Street, Lot 34 addressed council regarding a time frame on the noise ordinance. She is requesting a set time for the noise ordinance. I have called officers out multiple time after 9pm at night as our neighbor is hammering to, we hours of the night or reaving his motorcycle. I have been in contact with the mayor and she informed me that there is a noise ordinance in place however there is not a set time. If we can get a set time on the noise ordinance, it will be great.

Bobbie Cantwell of Barclay Street, Lot 47, addressed the issue of the gentlemen hammering reaving his motorcycle and continuous dog barking.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street appreciated the water department for assisting with issue with water. They were great and on the spot.

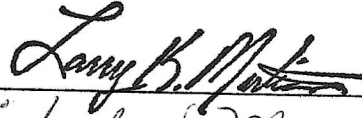
Holly Kellums, Marietta, Ohio addressed council regarding young people involved with local government. This was her first time attending a council meeting and she was interested in an explanation regarding a Special meeting, the number present for Sunshine Law and the moratorium. Council President Mr. Martin gave her an explanation of the Special meetings and Sunshine Law. Ms. Riffle gave her explanation regarding the moratorium.

Mr. Locke stated that this is why we need to be pro-active on the Recovery Homes.

**Adjourn:**

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn from the regular council meeting at 7:16pm. 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

