September 28, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the September 28, 2026 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:34 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mr. Cassady, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Locke, and Ms. Riffle. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes, City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan. Absent from the meeting was Councilman Seebaugh 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. 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.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote to appoint Lyndsay Dennis as Council Clerk Protem fill-in. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the September 14, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of September 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 Good evening,

Over the past couple of weeks, I have spent a lot of time on the road and in meeting related to our infrastructure. I attended the WWW meeting where the 2050 long range plan was presented and Belpre has a couple of projects listed in the plan. One being a multi-use trail along Blennerhassett Avenue.

I met with EDG to discuss the NPDES time line for the required replacement of the sewer line from Orion to O'Neil and relocating to Clement area. This is a project that has been noted to the city for over 10 years and this time they gave us a timeline to complete the work. We must have it completed prior to 2030. We have met this year's expectation of evaluating the lift stations going up RT 7.

I attended The EDG annual Community recognition event. It was a very nice evening and we were recognized with the Community Impact Award. They did a wonderful presentation of all the work we are doing in many areas. When they were done speaking, I was tired from all they identified. I guess when we are in the middle of all this work, we don't realize the true impact we are making to our community. Thank you all for being such great partners in this journey.

On September 17, I attended a conference on data centers. This was not for or against. It had panels that discussed the good, the bad and how to be prepared if one approaches your community. This was presented by Sunday Creek Horizons.

Today, Pickering started the soil borings at the water tank site. This is the first step in getting the tank operational.

We are also working on a capacity fee structure for those people seeking to tap into our water and sewer system. We will keep you updated on this. From basic searching this is not an uncommon practice for communities when potential large users are accessing a community's utilities.

Today we received the paperwork for the PFAS mitigation grant funding. I would suggest that council create legislation accepting these grant dollars. This is $5,950,331.20, and they will be completed by December 2028.

We are in full planning mode for Christmas in the Park. We will be working to secure sponsors for the Carousel. I have placed sponsor forms on each of your desk in case you are interested.

Over the last two weeks we have had a very busy park system. We had a wonderful Cross-Country meet with many schools attending. The volunteers and city workers did an outstanding job. On Friday night we had a tribute to Dolly Parton at the bandstand with a variety of performers. We want to thank Robin White for organizing the fun evening. Then on Saturday we had a Jeep event that was very well attended. The baseball field fence refresh is now completed and we will be starting on the multi-use fields very soon.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Abdella – Mayor

Council President Mr. Martin assigned PFAS Mitigation Grant Funding to Mr. Ferguson's Finance/Audit Committee and asked that Mr. Ambrozy, Utilities Committee work along with him.

Brian P. Rhodes – Safety Service Director

- Code Enforcement Activity since September 14th: 4 written warnings for code violations / 13 permits issued.
- The roof at the city building was completed last Friday and Saturday. Work will commence at Station 1 this week once the solar panels are removed.
- The soil boring began today at the future water tower site. They will be here until Wednesday.
- The street sweeper, truck, and senior center bus have been successfully listed on GovDeals. Also, the van has been transferred to the City of Belpre.
- Last week, Mayor Abdella and I met with three Rumpke officials to discuss ways to improve efficiency with their services. Rumpke will be deploying a new side load truck which will enable the driver to pick up many of the stops with a mechanical device. After it is deployed, they will analyze the data to see if it is possible to reduce the amount of time the truck is operating on the city streets.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell reported the following before council:

- I went to the Mid-Ohio Valley Safety Council lunch on Wednesday the 16th at the Shriners in Marietta and participated in a Safety Panel.
- Attended a ribbon cutting for the Arts Bridge for the art on the wall near Campus Dr.
- I also attended the Cross-County meet on Saturday.
- Will be attending an Ohio Auditor Training on Oct. 1 with Tina our Treasurer.

City Council:

The Aug 2026 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, Bill Adjustments, Credit Memo Report, Mayors Court payouts and General Receipts reports were emailed to Council Friday Sept 25, 2026.

Lastly,

The **Aug 2026 Bill Adjustment** report will need Councils approval. Also, our Washington Country Auditor request a Resolution to be approved no later than Oct 1st for our Tax Budget 2027 the Council President has the Resolution and will assign it accordingly.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the August 2026 Bill Adjustment Report 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 thanked the City Auditor for filling in for her at the last meeting. Before you this evening is the August 2026 Treasurers Report that needs council approval. There has been copies placed in the back for citizens to review. We will also need approval by council on the August 2026 Bank Reconciliation.

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

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the August 2026 Bank Reconciliation as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions: none

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to by-pass committee and add to tonight's agenda for first reading A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW MINORS' CURFEW STATUTE. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 351.15 – STORING OR PARKING UTILITY TRAILERS IN RIGHT OF WAYS OR UPON STREETS. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer reported that on September 24, 2026 I attended the Ribbon Cutting at the Mural on Campus Drive, Thanks to Belpre City Schools art department, Belpre Area Chamber of Commerce and Artsbridge for the support of this project. Our own City Councilwoman & Executive Director of Artsbridge Lyndsey Dennis & our Auditor Erika Campbell cut the ribbon, also in attendance was Chad Stevens & Amy Gallager.

I have attended many events in our city in support, Breakfast & Vendors mall, the BVFD on Saturday, and the "Camber Jeep Club" @ Civitan, a great group.

Coming up very soon is our Apple Butter Stir off at Civitan park, don't miss it.

The guys are continuing to work hard mowing and patching streets.

Mr. Ambrozy, Utilities Committee reported he was contacted today by a constituent who had concerns with several items. Mr. Ambrozy met with the constituent to see the items first hand. He then discussed the items with our Code Enforcement Officer who was aware of most of the issues.

Mr. Seebaugh, Parks and Recreation Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

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

Mr. Cassady called a committee meeting for October 6th, 2026 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Cassady called a committee meeting for October 8th, 2026 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing Infill Housing.

Ms. Riffle, Rules Committee had nothing to report.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Ms. Riffle brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE CREATING NEW REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION FOR BELPRE CODE ORDINANCES SECTION 505.08.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting.

Ms. Riffle moved this be Ordinance 8, 2026-2027 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle brought before council for second reading AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lay over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council of three different days to allow for the second and third readings of A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES

AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second and third readings A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this Resolution 17, 2026-2027 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Each member of council will need to sign the legislation before leaving this evening.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW MINORS' CURFEW STATUTE. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lay over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 351.15 – STORING OR PARKING UTILITY TRAILERS IN RIGHT OF WAYS OR UPON STREETS. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lay over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ferguson called a committee meeting for October 12, 2026 at 6:00pm for the purpose of discussing PFAS and the 2027 Budget.

Ms. Riffle asked about the fire department. Mrs. Dennis will be meeting with the mayor and others to discuss and will address at the next meeting.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Rod O'Donnell #3 Bay Pointe Drive addressed council in regards to the Cross-Country meet that was held at Civitan Park on September 19, 2026. Mr. O'Donnell thanked all volunteers and the City of Belpre for all their help in the event. He stated that there were 69 schools, and 734 athletes participating. It was a great turn out. It is very important seeing people come together. There were approximately 2,000 people in Civitan Park that day.

Penne Riffle asked about the old ambulance and why it was still here. Ms. Riffle was informed that the company was contacted however they have not come to pick it up yet.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street addressed the Flock Camera's concerns/questions.

Carolyn Mollendick 1572 Gene Street addressed council street flooding and water going into her basement.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 7:32pm. 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 Mrs. Dennis Lyndsey Dennis pro tem