

October 23, 2023

Council President Protem Mr. Ferguson called the October 23, 2023, Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null Ms. Abdella, and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

Council President Protem Mr. *Ferguson asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.* Mayor Lorentz led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

President of Council Protem Mr. Ferguson asked that everyone turn off cellphones or turn them to vibrate so they don't interfere with the recording.

If you address council this evening, please rise, state your name and address clearly so that the clerk can record it for the minutes.

President of Council Protem Mr. Ferguson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 9, 2023. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the October 9, 2023 minutes as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**Reports of City Officials:**

Mayor Lorentz reported that Holiday Lights are busy getting ready for the Holidays. If you are willing to assist, get ahold of one of the volunteers at Civitan. I'm sure they will greet you with open arms.

The Apple Butter Stir-Off was successful but very wet. Mr. Webster and the team worked very hard as did the Lion's Club. Thanks to all.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> I met with the Secretary of State in Marietta. The Commissioners held a meet and greet style meeting in their meeting room with numerous elected officials.

October 17<sup>th</sup> The Belpre Woman's Club hosted the Meet the Candidates Night at our Elementary School. A nice crowd attended and went very well.

The annual Chamber Dinner was October 19<sup>th</sup> with a packed house at Grand Point. Janet Gilbert was chosen as the Citizen of the year for all her work and volunteering in our city. I presented Karen Waller a Key to the City for all her efforts to make this

a better and more successful place to work and live. Belpre is blessed to have these wonderful people on our side. Recognized at the dinner was Mayor Lorentz for his distinguished service and Mrs. Gilbert was recognized and congratulated for being chosen as the Citizen of the Year.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Habitat for Humanity held an open house at the 4<sup>th</sup> home built in Belpre. This is a beautiful home and will certainly help the young people who will live there. Alvin Phillips was recognized as he is retiring. All wished him well and thanked him for his efforts.

Don't forget, Halloween is the 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-pm until 7:30 p.m.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported she is continuing her review of Capital Funds for all the departments within the city.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that a Profit and Loss statement for the Pool was previously requested by Councilwoman Susan Abdella. We were waiting and did receive payment from the Boys and Girls Club. In front of you is a Trial Balance Report from our Budgetary system thru October 20. On the back side of the Trial Balance Report are the actual Expense/Revenue and 2022 Carryover figures indicating a deficit of (\$28,246.20). After the \$55,000.00 Transfer is approved and applied the surplus balance will be \$26,753.80.

On page 8 of the 2023 Budget there is an allocated Transfer of \$20,000.00 to the Street Department Fund 202, on page 9 are allocated Transfers of \$55,000.00 to the Pool Fund 601, and \$4,800.00 to Mayor's Court Fund 250. At this time, I am requesting verbal approval from Council to transfer these appropriated funds.

The State Auditors will be on site tomorrow attending to the wrap-up of our 2022 Audit.

The September Utility Report was emailed to Council Thursday, October 19, copies are on the back table and needs Councils approval.

Mr. Ferguson verified that we needed a voice vote on the transfer of the already appropriated funds. He stated that he didn't ever remember doing that. According to Mrs. Nolan it was done that way the previous year. Mrs. Nolan had copies of the minutes where it was done.

According to Ms. Abdella there are two funds in the negative: one was Permissive Tax and the other was the pool. Since we are nearing the end of the year there will have to be a supplemental done in order to transfer money and take it out of the negative. Time spent on a point of clarification.

Ms. Abdella made a motion for a voice vote of the transfer of the appropriated funds. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the September Utility 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. Cassady reported that a copy of the Treasurer's Report for September is before you tonight and is needing council approval. Each member of council was sent a copy of the report prior to this evening's meeting. There are also copies placed on the back table for review. Ms. Abdella made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report 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 announced that there was a committee meeting on October 23<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 for the purpose of discussing the SOPEC Grant. There is a voice vote needed for a \$15,000 SOPEC Grant that is ere marked for the pool. From the \$15,000; \$7,000 will be used for the chemical feed pump and \$8,000 for the variable speed. Mrs. Dennis made a motion for the voice vote. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Also discussed at the 6:30pm meeting was the 2024 Budget. It will be 25% of the 2023 Budget for the first 3 months of 2024. Two of the funds will be over 25%, one being EMS and the Capital Fund will be cut to \$250,000. Another meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on November 13, 2023 to review the legislation for the 2024 Budget.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the EMS Budget. At this time, I would like to invite Mr. Jeff Greenly and Mario Coon to the meeting as they serve on the committee. A vote was taken to go into Executive Session at 7:50pm with all members present voting aye. Our meeting will continue when we return.

Ms. Abdella made a motion to resume from Executive Session at 8:09pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **RESOLUTION ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNITY GRANT FROM SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL** 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 **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that her committee met October 23, 2023 at 6:15 pm for the purpose of discussing the legislation regarding people sleeping on public property. This kind of mirrors legislation that was passed in Parkersburg recently. At this time, I would like to add

to the agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING COMPING AND CREATING BELPRE CODE ORDINANCE SECTION 541.12**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported that he had several calls regarding the July completion date of the curb approach of the Spires Car Lot on Washington Boulevard that has not yet been completed. According to Connie she would check with the Street Foreman, Chris for a status update.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning /Economic Development committee had no report.

Mr. Null Rules Committee reported that his committee met at 6:10 on October 23, 2023 for the purpose of discussing the Codified Ordinances. This piece of legislation is already on the agenda and will be read for first reading.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ms. Abdella brought before council for second reading **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. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Null brought before council for first 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.

Mr. Null moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **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.

Mr. Null brought before council for the second and third readings **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.

Mr. Null moved this be **Ordinance #15, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for first reading **RESOLUTION ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNITY GRANT FROM SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL**. 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 first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS**. 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 of **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Resolution #38, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CAMPING AND CREATING BELPRE CODE ORDINANCE SECTION 541.12**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Eric Freed 513 Blennerhassett Avenue, Belpre addressed storm sewers and drainage before council.

**ADJOURN:**

Ms. Abdella made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

---

President of Council Protem Mr. Ferguson

---

Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith