

July 26, 2021

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 26, 2021 meeting to order at 7:30 PM. If you aren't a member of council and are on ZOOM please mute your computer so it will cut down the background noise. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Drake (ZOOM), Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gant, Mr. Locke, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Shutts present. Also, present was Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Miss Pittenger, City Law Director Mr. Webster (ZOOM), City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Gant gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of June 28, 2021 as presented and bypass the reading of the minutes. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Gant made a motion to accept the minutes of July 12, 2021 as presented and bypass the reading of the minutes. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Before Mayor Lorentz began his report, he asked that we all remember Jim George in our prayers. Jim has had a very rough year and was having some complications as I speak. He was a fire fighter and a very good friend to the city.

The Safety-Service Director and I met with SIXMO to get the ball rolling on our Economic Development Plan for the city.

The permits for golf cart use are at the printers and should not be a holdup. Permit stickers are sequentially numbered, and color coded for the ease of identification. The legislation was missing a couple items and went back to Mr. Webster for correction or review.

July 21st, I met with Rick Hindman from Buckeye Hills who explained the change that will be coming in the future. Buckeye Hills will not be so hands on but, more regional in their service. We at Belpre are blessed to have their help and should see no difference in using their services.

Melissa Zoller stopped in from Buckeye Hills with our latest project info for the water line project on Farson Street. All is a go when the bids come in.

On the 21st, Mr. Webster, the Service Director and I met as a records retention committee to make sure we were complying with our ordinances.

The Elementary Principal and the elementary music group want to hold more of a Christmas Festival and tree lighting ceremony at Christmas time. The Holiday Lights, Woman's Club, City Officials and Ms. Keeling and staff are planning something special along with the parade.

The Records and Retention Committee met on July 21st at 1PM in the city building conference room. Those in attendance were Law Director Tom Webster, Safety-Service Director Connie Hoblitzell, and Mayor Michael Lorentz. The only action taken was to add electronic to the mode of communication. Nothing deleted at this time. Ms. Hoblitzell took minutes.

This week has been a string of constant complaints. The cat population at Civitan Park is out of control. Grass blown in the streets, blighted properties and out of state traffic on back streets. The Chief and I had a discussion on areas that patrol needs more attention.

City auction tomorrow night at the street garage at 5:30PM.

Tonight, we have Fire Department officers that will need sworn into their new roles.

Sworn in as lieutenants are Zach Clegg, Casey Rafferty and Wes Hale.

Jeremy Crouse was sworn in as the fire inspector.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she had no report as the mayor had already given what was on her report.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger reported that at 1 PM we had a ZOOM call with our State Auditors (IPA). We had an audit exit meeting and there were 2 findings on this year's report. Both findings deal with Grants and the Coronavirus Fund and the confusion caused at the end of last year and the timing of how it was to be spent.

I also have the Utility Adjustment Report before me tonight that is needing approved by council. Ms. Riffle made a motion to accept the 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. Copeland reported that the June Treasurers Report is before you and needs approved by council. The report has been posted on-line, signed copy to the clerk and copies at the back table for the citizens.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to accept the June's Treasurers Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communications and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned the following to committee:

Minor change to the Fire Prevention Code to Mr. Gant

Resolution Supplementing 2021 Appropriations to Mr. Ferguson

Codified Ordinances to Mrs. Miller

Report of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson stated that this was a second supplemental. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to by-pass committee and add to the agenda for first reading. **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mr. Gant called for a Police and Fire Committee meeting on August 9, 2021 at 7PM for the purpose of changing the fire codes from 2007 to read current.

Ms. Riffle Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer reminded people that when they do mow to keep grass off city streets. There have been complaints that people are throwing their grass onto city streets which is a hazard to motorcyclist as well as others.

Ms. Riffle also announced that sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowners.

For travelling purposes please be aware of all the work that is being done on Washington Boulevard and adjacent streets.

Mrs. Drake, Utilities Committee reported that her committee met prior to these evenings meeting at 7PM to discuss HomeServ. At this time, I would ask council to take a voice vote on this as to whether or not this is supported by council so I know whether or not to have legislation drafted. President of Council asked Mr. Webster if it was okay to do this. According to Mr. Webster it would be fine. Mrs. Drake made a motion for a voice vote in support of HomeServ. Discussion followed. Mrs. Miller stated that she felt there wasn't enough discussion on water and sewer. She stated that we talked about water but not sewer. Mrs. Miller was informed that discussion had been done on both water and sewer. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that this was just a voice vote to determine if we wanted to move forward. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Shutts, Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. Shutts stated that whoever was responsible for the resurfacing of the Pickle Ball Court did a fine job. Mr. Shutts asked who was responsible for the stripes and nets. Mayor Lorentz stated that the company that paved Blennerhassett Avenue was responsible for resurfacing the court. Spencer (Eagle Scout) is responsible for the striping and the netting. Mr. Shutts was informed that the Eagle Scout is responsible for raising the money to do so. The Eagle Scout is responsible for coming up with the project, financing the

project and the execution of the project. Mr. Jon Neff and the Mayor's son is working with Spencer on this project.

Mr. Locke Planning and Zoning Committee had no report.

Mr. Locke Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mrs. Miller Rules Committee had no report.

Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only. None

Unfinished Business: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2021 APPROPRIATIONS.** Mr. Ferguson stated that Exhibit A shows 218-10 is the EMS Funds for \$50,000 and 481-34 is the Coronavirus Relief Funds with a breakdown of 3022 for COVID Sanitation and Cleaning \$14,000 and Fund 3048 to reimburse other funds \$8,073 totaling \$22,073. The amount of \$72,073.00 is the total of the 2021 Supplemental Appropriation.

Miss Pittenger stated that these are funds that are not appropriated so you can't spend them until they are appropriated. Mrs. Drake asked about the Coronavirus Relief money. Miss Pittenger stated that this money pays for employees with COVID that had to be off work but could still draw a pay check.

The roll was called with all members of council present voting aye on **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2021 APPROPRIATIONS.** This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked what was the last day for the pool to be opened. Mrs. Locke was informed by Mrs. Hoblitzell it would be August 7th or 8th. Mrs. Locke asked about recreation time for the dogs at the pool. Is this possible? Mrs. Locke was informed that the administration would check about this.

Mrs. Locke asked if there was any hope in getting the parking lot paved within the year.

Miss Pittenger stated that you can't use paving monies to do a parking lot.

Mrs. Locke asked if grant money could be used for that? She was informed that Civitan could apply for grant money.

Miss Pittenger stated that it will be very difficult to get grant money for parking lot paving. Donations is probably the only possible way to get the parking lot paved.

Mrs. Locke asked about a Kayak Ramp. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that monies were used for sidewalk around the pond and for making it handicap accessible.

Miss Pittenger made a comment about the Dog Day Recreation. She stated that they did do this in the past however they had to wait 5 days after the pool was closed for the chemicals to evaporate. Those in charge weren't very happy because there was so much dog hair in the pool when it was over. Mrs. Locke stated that Vienna Pool was doing it and she just wondered if Belpre was also doing it.

Mrs. Locke asked if the water fountains were going to be turned back on around the pond. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell the fountains were broken.

Ms. Riffle reminded everyone about homecoming. Great time to get out and socialize.

Mrs. Locke asked about the address to contact someone about the light going into the boat ramp. Mayor Lorentz stated that the lights have been ordered.

Mr. Shutts asked about the wild animals in town. Is anybody doing anything about this? Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she isn't aware of anything. Mr. Shutts stated that you could trap them. Jessie Wynecott said that she would trap them for him.

Mr. Ferguson addressed the American Rescue Fund. Miss Pittenger stated that she sent to Mrs. Hoblitzell about a month ago to fill out and forward to the grant writer. It is a million-dollar grant. If you don't apply you don't get the money. President of Council Mr. Martin asked that this be checked to see if the grant writer is doing anything about this.

Mayor Lorentz addressed all the complaints he has been receiving about blighted property and other issues mentioned in his report.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated a few weeks ago he inadvertently missed thanking Jackie Cassady and Tina Nolan as two of our newly elected officials. Mr. Martin stated that he appreciated them coming to council and learning about things going on within our city.

Mario Coon 1111 Blennerhassett Avenue addressed the availability of funds and some of the complaints.

ADJOURN:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin

Larry B. Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith

Kimberly Meredith