

July 12, 2021

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 12, 2021 meeting to order at 7:33 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, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gant, Mr. Locke, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Shutts present. Also present was Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland. Absent from the July 12, 2021 meeting was Council Person Ms. Riffle, City Auditor Miss Pittenger 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. Mayor Lorentz gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no minutes to approve at this evening's meeting.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported that the Chamber of Commerce and many dignitaries along with Mrs. Drake, Mr. Gant, Mr. Locke and others cut the ribbon officially opening the facility. This is without doubt the most impressive structure in town. Thanks to the council members that attended. Open House was today before council.

Much work is being done in our city by Dominion. Gas lines from George Street to Victor will be replaced. Traffic will be affected at numerous points. One good part of the project is the lowering of George Street extension. This work will create a better transition to the Boulevard benefitting all who travel to the park.

The Fire Department Inc. employees have assumed the ambulance service and to date no issues. They have however been very busy.

Former Mayor Matthews and I attended the Mayor's Partnership in Athens on July 8th. The Partnership celebrated 25 years in existence. Mayor Joe and Mayor Sulzer from Chillicothe were among the founders.

The Concrete is poured and complete at the rear of the police station for the generator installation.

Work continues on the shopping center rehab. The county issued permits for the restaurant remodel last Friday. Rumor has it September is the scheduled opening.

On Saturday, the Alumni Association held their Ice Cream Social that helps to fund scholarships for Belpre students. I grilled almost 500 hotdogs during the day with the assistance of State Representative Jay Edwards. Our new grill was not working properly,

and Jay repaired the issue. He asked for top billing and a front-page headline stating his emergency response.

On your desk is the last revision of the golf cart inspection program. Please take a look at these and let me know your thoughts. We made a visit to a printer to start the process of cart stickers.

With us this evening was Ali Terrell and Gerry Harstine who gave a brief presentation on Servline. Servline is a company who is known for saving water and helping people. Servline Protection Program will pay for high water bills that are caused by customer leaks. The cost to the resident is between \$1.30 to \$1.80 which will cover one leak for every twelve months. Packages are prepared for customers that aren't for sure about the leaks. There is a dedicated customer service number that can be made available to customers calling into the city. This service will help with the loss of revenue and the additional work that is done by your employees. This service will also help improve relationships with your customers. The program will pay 100% with no cost to the city. Also, this program is launched out as a separate line.

Mr. Gant asked if this would cover the cost of sewer back-ups in your home. He was informed that if there was a break in the line it would be covered.

Mr. Gant was informed that this was just for water loss. What he was asking was for the repair of the sewer line.

Mr. Ferguson asked Ms. Terrell if the coverage was for both water and sewer. Per Mr. Harstine we can cover water or we can cover water and sewer. It is up to the customer. This is done through the water bill.

Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she was concerned for those customers who don't receive a water bill.

Mrs. Terrell stated that it can be billed separately. Also combined rates are an option.

Mr. Harstine stated that water loss is the only one that is on the water bill.

A copy of the Servline package is on file in council chambers and is effective 30 days from the proposal date issued which was April 22, 2021. This package also includes pricing.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that the line replacement has started along the Boulevard. I believe the only road they needed to close was George Street.

Concrete at the swing at Civitan Park has been fixed. He will be adding dirt to that. It is closed for now however the rubber mulch is here to complete.

Belpre Fire Department Inc., took over the EMS Contract July 1st, 2021 and everything seems to be going very well.

We have had some core drilling going on at the pond. They have found where the leak is. Waiting on prices to get that fixed. They did decide to put in clay to fix the problem.

Bids are going out tomorrow and due back August 10, 2021 for bids on Farson Street. These will be new 10-inch lines from the hospital to Rockland Ridge.

The gentleman at Sixth and Elm Street is gone. Someone is looking into buying the property and tearing it down.

Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that her daughter finally got married.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger was absent. No report was given in her absence.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland had no report.

Communications and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded council that council can't drag over any committee assignments to the next year. If you have anything in your committee and you wish to get out please do so. If not, it will be reassigned.

Report of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee reported that the Belpre Volunteer Fire Department Inc., took over providing services to the city on July 1st, 2021. Since then, they have responded to 42 calls. I also wanted to report that they have 8 EMT's, 1 EMT advanced, 7 paramedics with plans to hire an additional one on Friday. Uniforms have been purchased. The department appreciates all the citizens that have stopped by to wish them well. Mr. Gant stated that this is working very well.

Ms. Riffle Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Mrs. Drake, Utilities Committee had no report. Mrs. Drake asked that the two committee assignments be removed from her list. The two are the antenna on top of the water tower and the back water valve. Mrs. Drake stated that she is requesting the antenna on top of the water tower be removed as it is irrelevant. The back water valve is being removed because of lack of information for the past eleven months.

Mr. Shutts, Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. Shutts asked Mrs. Hoblitzell if the concrete at the playground had been fixed. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell it has been fixed.

Mr. Locke Planning and Zoning Committee had no report.

Mr. Locke Economic Development Committee reported that the Burton Plan that was worked on this year it still a working progress. Hopefully very soon I will have a more detailed report.

Mrs. Miller Rules Committee had no report.

Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only. None

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ferguson announced that he had talked to the administration about the current resolution that was up for third reading. Attached are two exhibits. The first exhibit totaled \$79,868.73 which we have voted on for the first and second readings. Tonight, we have an additional exhibit that totals \$22,073.00 for the Coronavirus Relief that was updated on July 06, 2021. After a short discussion it was the decision of the Finance/Audit Committee Chairman to only approve for third reading the \$79,868.73.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS** with an Exhibit dated June 2, 2021. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be Resolution #27, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mrs. Miller whom voted nay.

NEW BUSINESS:

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mario Coon 1111 Blennerhassett Avenue addressed council regarding tree branches along roadways. My question is who is responsible for these three branches.

Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that we are responsible for cutting the branches and trees that are on the city right of way. Trees in homeowners' yard they are responsible for. Our crew is currently out cutting branches and have been for the last three weeks. They should hit all the streets asap. Mr. Coon asked for a point of clarification as to some of the branches.

Dominion Work on George Street is being done. Are we pondering the option of putting a light there? According to Mrs. Hoblitzell we are not.

Also addressed by Mr. Coon was diverting the boat traffic direction on Blennerhassett Avenue. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell there will be a sign.

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked if we could contact Leonard Wiggins here at the city determining whether or not trees are on the city right of way or on citizen's property. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell that is not Leonard's job as Code Enforcement. That would be the Street Department.

William Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue asked a question regarding the Home Serve proposal. Will this be assigned to committee for discussion before it comes out to council to vote on? According to Mr. Martin it would be discussed in committee.

Mr. Locke thanked the Mayor for the golf cart inspection sticker. Mr. Locke also asked what the contract cost was for the BVFD EMT? Mrs. Hoblitzell stated \$70,000 a year. This is for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Do they get to keep the MCA money? According to Mrs. Hoblitzell they didn't go with MCA so no. They went with someone else and will only get half that amount. Are we looking at purchasing new ambulances? They talked to Finley and they have one that they can sell the city for \$150,000.

Mrs. Drake called a committee meeting for July 26, 2021 at 7PM for the purpose of discussing Home Serve.

Jesse Ann Wynecott 805 Main Street asked Mrs. Hoblitzell about the new website. It was scheduled for July 15th but we haven't trained yet.

Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she has prepared a purchase order for \$50,000 to SIXMO for the Burton Plan.

Mr. Locke stated that a lot of people have worked very hard on Economic Development. I feel that if we continue to work hard on it, we will see changes. This is just the beginning.

Mr. Martin assigned Servline to Mrs. Drake's Utility Committee.

Mr. Gant made a motion to excuse Ms. Riffle from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

ADJOURN:

Mr. Locke made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council David Ferguson, Protem