

August 9, 2021

Council President Mr. Martin called the August 9, 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, 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, and City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland. Absent from the meeting was City Law Director Mr. Webster 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.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to accept the minutes of July 26, 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:

Mayor Lorentz reported that the Service Director and I met with Jesse Roush from the Port Authority to discuss progress on the Burton Plan and a CIC for the city. No decisions at this time as we decided to explore our options more before acting

We attended the Joint Waste quarterly meeting in Caldwell. Our recycle program as well as others in our surrounding are working well. Until you see these reports it is hard to believe how much waste we accumulate and discard.

I travelled to the United Way headquarters with the O'Neill Manager to receive the check for our Senior Center. Our United Way is doing an amazing job supporting so many activities and groups.

A letter from my office was written for the support of Title III programs at the center. These are the Ti-Chi and balance classes that help with mobility and continuing healthy lifestyle.

Attended the Chamber Breakfast sponsored by our city schools. Hopefully you can attend the round table discussion on September 1st with our superintendent.

Much work was done to get ready for homecoming. Thanks to the Street Department as well as the Water Department everything was ready on the cities to do list. We should also thank Mark Mondo for volunteering his helicopter for the day on Saturday. Without people like Jon Neff, Ryleigh Hanna, Jerry Burkhart and the Bass

Club for a very successful tournament. Hopefully you noticed how clean the park was yesterday after the event, please thank the Band Boosters and band members.

BSA has approved the Eagle Project for Sonny Britton and Troop 91. A lot of interest in this project so if you would like to help let me know. I thought it may be a good idea for city council members to donate to the project since it does benefit the city.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that the sewer line from Orion to Lockwood has been jetted. The water department worked until 7:30 every night last week.

I applied for the American Rescue Funds and we will be getting approximately 334,000 this first round and the same amount this time next year.

The police auction was held on July 28th. The impounded cars and other items brought in approximately \$9200.

We have received a lot of good feedback on the EMS.

Shala Greathouse President of the Belpre Volunteer Fire Department Corporation addressed Belpre City Council. Shala currently lives at 107 Colonial Square in Belpre. For the month of July Belpre EMS ran 91 calls. We had one missed call and was the second call that came in at the beginning of the month. So far for the month of August we have already made 31 calls. We anticipate more than 91 obviously. Currently staffed we have 8 EMT's, 1 Advanced and 9 paramedics. Our out the door time average is 2-3 minutes for these calls and to the scene is 6-8 minutes. Ms. Greathouse stated that this was pretty good for EMS.

Mr. Grant thanked Ms. Greathouse for all that they are doing. As you heard Mrs. Hoblitzell say we are receiving a lot of compliments for our service, our uniforms and for having the fire department back in general. We are proud to serve.

Mr. Locke stated that he knows you are getting away from the MCA reports. What are we going to replace MCA with? Ms. Greathouse stated that we are going to EMI Solutions. Their main base is out of California. Mr. Locke asked if council will get a copy of their report like we did with MCA. Ms. Greathouse wasn't sure what council was receiving from MCA. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she would show Ms. Greathouse what they were receiving.

Ms. Riffle stated that since we are phasing out MCA how long do they continue or have to reimburse us for anything? According to Ms. Greathouse it takes awhile for payments to go through. We just recently received payment for February.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger stated that she sent an email to council last week that we received notice from the company that does our hardware/software that they are phasing out their services that we use. As far as our hardware support if our servers' crashes, we are SOL. Their software is very outdated. We are the only company that uses this particular configuration. We all knew this was coming as we have known about this since

2019. New software will be in our next budget otherwise no one will be paid, utility bills will not be collected, etc., etc.

Council President Mr. Martin asked if this is in the next budget what is the projected dates for implementation trainings and all those things.

Miss Pittenger stated that she has a call into him, to the gentleman that will give us the best fit for our needs. They are an Ohio Company so they understand what our Ohio Auditor need. We are in hopes to get together in the next week to talk about what we need so we can do a strip down version to save us money. It may be anywhere from 11-13 months implementation.

Council President Mr. Martin stated that this is scary if we have an unprotected server.

Miss Pittenger stated that there is a line.

Mrs. Drake asked if any other companies have been looked at.

According to Miss Pittenger, we put it out for bids in 2019 and a company from Michigan came and gave us a presentation. Lisa, Sandi or I didn't feel that the software was user friendly. It was a little more expensive. As far as I'm concerned, the company that is right here in Ohio has former Ohio State Auditor's working for them. It's a no brainer. They can get us the reports we need to give to the State Auditor's.

Mrs. Drake stated that she went on line and looked at different companies and the one we are presently with work with governments all across the country.

Miss Pittenger stated that they work with counties mostly?

According to Mrs. Drake they work with all municipalities and all forms of government.

Miss Pittenger asked if you're talking about Cofient that is out of Texas?

Mrs. Drake stated that yes, she was. I feel we need to look at other companies, especially dollar signs and I think we need to know what each and every department needs from this system to help them improve what they are doing.

Ms. Riffle stated this is the one that you gave us the whole presentation on last year or the year before. You can set it up to cover police and everything. We need to just pick and choose what we need.

Miss Pittenger stated that if Mrs. Drake wants to stay with Cofient that is fine however their customer service is a four-letter word.

Mr. Martin asked if they bided the contract when it was put out in 2019. Did they rebid the contract? Obviously if they sent us a notice now that they are stopping support next month that doesn't give us a whole lot of time.

Miss Pittenger stated that we called about an issue last week and no one knew how to help us. We had to call a former employee to help us.

Mr. Martin stated that the hardware is a critical aspect. Coming from a person who has installed servers for over 30 years, you don't leave that unprotected. It has to have some kind of back up system.

Miss Pittenger stated that we are backing up on a tape.

Mr. Martin asked what the cycle was for backing up. Is it every 24 hours?

Miss Pittenger stated it was every day.

Mrs. Drake stated that in your letter they referred us to a company in Davisville for assistance. Have we ever worked with them before?

Miss Pittenger stated that she just found out about this on Thursday.

Probably our obvious choice would be to work with BSSI, the same that the Mayor, SSD, and Code Enforcement Officer uses for their software along with the Police Department. It is a little company across the river. They can drive across the river and figure it out. However, they are not familiar with the program.

City Law Director Mr. Webster sent out a notice to everybody. I'm assuming everyone received it. There will be no report in his absence.

City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland had no report.

Communications and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin stated that he has initialed off on the June Reconciliation report for Miss Pittenger.

Report of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee reported that he had a committee meeting tonight at 7PM for the purpose of changing the fire codes from 2007 to read current. The only thing it consisted of was changing the date of Ordinance 1501.01 from 2011 to the current Ohio Fire Codes. This was a recommendation from the Safety-Service Director.

Council President Mr. Martin stated that hopefully the law director will be back with us to prepare legislation to get these things marked off.

Ms. Riffle Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report.

Mrs. Drake, Utilities Committee reported that Home SERV was pending a resolution. Since the law director is out, we will just have to wait. On the email that was sent on Dominion Energy shared key reasons to call before you dig before launching next outdoor projects. Mayor Lorentz stated he sent this to all members of council because if you don't see marks on the road stop the digging. Mr. President I do have before me

a petition with 133 signatures but could have had more had I not had a foot injury. This petition is to protect the value of our citizens properties. I have a list of properties that are either run down or have junk cars on their properties. With the signatures most people didn't even want an explanation. They want stuff cleaned up. Under Chapter 1321 Nuisance Abatement this gives the powers of the Board of Health to prosecute people who does not comply with the ordinance. They may regulate the location, construction and the repair of yards in order to bring property values where they need to be to clean up whatever needs to be cleaned up. Under junk cars 1313.12 inoperable vehicles should only be able to store one inoperable vehicle on the premises for more than 60 days. The removal of litter comes under 559.01 that includes parts of automobiles, wagons, furniture, glass or anything else. The Ohio Revised Codes back all this up. The citizens want to back up the Mayor, Safety-Service Director in getting these codes in order for citizens to comply with the ordinances. I have two friends that are now deceased who tried to get this taken care of during the term of Bill McAfee as Mayor. The time has come to clean up this town and get the town where it should be and to get the properties up to their value.

Mayor Lorentz stated that he is working on the property that there was a previous fire. There is a lot of equity in that piece of ground.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that we are getting conflicting reports from the law director as to the time frame that these vehicles are allowed on properties. Mr. Martin assigned junk cars to Mrs. Drake's committee since she has done the leg work on this. We could possibly have 3,000 junk cars on each piece of property if each citizen had a junk car. Mrs. Drake went over the list of properties within the city with issues.

Ms. Riffle stated that when she started this assignment in 2019, she kept running into problems in the ordinance of where it fell, whether it be health, dwellings, and just different areas. We kept falling into problems with the law director saying no, no, no, you can't do that. I had talked with Mr. Gant and we were going to try and work it in with the Nuisance Ordinance. Ms. Riffle stated that this is a daunting task because there are so many cross-overs. There are so many ways you have to attack it. I wish you all the best on this.

Mr. Martin stated that our job on council is to legislate and appropriate. It is our job to tell the law director to write and legislate. Mr. Martin stated that we need to get with the Mayor and SSD so that they can tell us what we need to do to amend the previous legislation.

Mr. Shutts, Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

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:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2021 APPROPRIATIONS.** Mr. Ferguson stated that Exhibit A was dated by Miss Pittenger July 22, 2021. The total amount of \$72,073.00 is the total of the 2021 Supplemental Appropriations. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS: none

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street commented that this year's Belpre Homecoming has been the best we've had in the last 10 years. Everything was great!

Mrs. Miller introduced Molly Hott 902 Boulevard Drive Belpre who is running for the School Board. Ms. Hott also commented on the Belpre Homecoming this year. She also felt it was excellent this year. My reason for running for the school board is to protect our values. We are under assault. Our community needs more than what we are hearing from the higher ups.

Mr. Locke asked about the American Rescue Funds. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she had applied for the funds and that we were supposed to get 1.2 million but it is now down to \$638,000. Miss Pittenger stated that she had talked to the County Commissioner today and he thought we would at least get that. She stated that it was something about Part 1 and Part II and she said we were Part II but she really didn't understand all of it. Small cities and townships got cut in half. Mayor Lorentz stated that it is power of the course.

Ms. Riffle asked if we have plans for the American Reserve monies. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that it would be used for our water towers. We are about a million gallons short of what we are supposed to have. We can hold up to 1.25 million gallons and we need 2.25 for the citizens to have the correct pressure. Mayor Lorentz stated that we are supposed to have a day and a half in reserve and we don't have that. Ms. Riffle asked if it is because of our current towers or because of malfunctions or problems with our towers. According to the Mayor we just don't know. Mayor Lorentz stated that we have a million in the air on Putnam Howe Drive and 200,000 on Mary Street and that is it. At some point the inspections are going to eat us alive. We are working with an engineering group on this matter

Ms. Riffle asked when the School Board will meet. She was informed they would meet on September 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Riffle asked Mrs. Hoblitzell about the AEP and Dominion Project. She wanted to know how long this will go on. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell AEP is not finished. She stated that Dominion still has George Street Extension and Middle Street. Once they are done will they have someone to clean up? According to the Mayor the sub-contractors would clean-up.

Ms. Riffle asked Mr. Locke if he was going to reschedule the Golf Cart Ordinance legislation.

Mr. Locke called a committee meeting on August 23, 2021 at 7PM for the purpose of modifying the current golf cart legislation and motor vehicle laws to include golf carts.

Mario Koon 1111 Blennerhassett Avenue addressed cell phones while driving. Is there any thought about tightening up that legislation? Discussion followed.

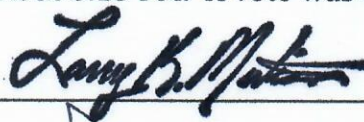
Council President Mr. Martin assigned cell phones while driving to Mr. Gants committee.

Council President Mr. Martin stated that we are in the middle of August. If anyone has committee assignments that are not going to be acted upon, please let me know so we can reassign as the assignments will end December 31, 2021.

Adjourn

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Protem Mr. Ferguson

