

September 13, 2021

Council President Mr. Martin called the September 13, 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, City Auditor Miss Pittenger, City Law Director Mr. Webster and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland, and Councilperson Ms. Riffle.

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.

Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of August 23, 2021 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported that the Safety-Service Director and I have met with the Commissioners since our last Council Meeting to discuss the county sewer as well as a county 911. Some correction and improvements are forth coming for the sewer but, a consolidated 911 is still being discussed.

On September 1st I attended the facilities meeting for our schools. The Superintendent managed to get a pretty well-rounded group together.

The O'Neill Center Board met to discuss the options for the center and Covid. As for now we are requiring masks and encouraging vaccines.

Later this week I will meet with the new owners of the Memorial Bridge. Hopefully I can communicate back to council the future of the structure and effect on Belpre.

We hired a new employee in the water department to replace our Matt Bremar who has decided to retire at months end.

On Friday I attended the opening for the Sternwheel Festival and also judged the Queen Genevieve pageant. My wife Joyce was one of the judges for Little Miss and Mr. Sternwheel.

Saturday morning, we attended a very nice 9-11 memorial ceremony in Reno. Our Belpre area Veterans along with other groups in the area should be commended for their efforts. (Copies on desk).

The Mayor's Partnership for Progress devoted some of our time together to discuss the upswing in drug use. I thought you may want to see a few of the statistics from the presentation.

Tomorrow evening I will attend a meeting to discuss the growing number of injection wells in our area. This is a growing concern for Washington County. After the meeting I will communicate back to council.

Mayor Lorentz announced that our Safety-Service Director was out today but she sent me a text message requesting that I add to my report that SIXMO has completed their initial work on zoning with Brownfield. They are now ready to form teams within the next 2 weeks.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell was absent.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger stated that she does have a report on the back desk but she wasn't going to ask it to be approved because with the new website I was unable to find it. I will ask at the next meeting for my reports to be approved.

Mr. Locke stated that he has read part of the 300 and some page report from the State Auditors and asked that Miss Pittenger give us a quick run-down on that.

Miss Pittenger announced that there were two findings that we were written up for. This is the first time in the last ten years that we were written up. None of them are earth scattering things. No money missing or anything like that. Every year they change something so they have something to look for. One finding was out of our control. The findings were so insignificant that I can't even tell you what they are. We are in balance. We have more money coming in than going out right now. Our assets are higher than our expenses.

Mr. Locke stated the second question was I read the letter from RITA. Can you expand on that?

Miss Pittenger stated that our projected revenue for this year is higher than projected because the economy is coming back. We didn't lose as much last year as they had projected also. We did lose a significant amount of income. Even though we have a lot of small businesses and businesses that pay minimum wage we have enough larger businesses to pay our higher wage so those kind of balanced each other out.

Mrs. Miller asked the mayor if SIXMO and the Safety-Service Director was looking for ordinances that need to be updated. Mayor Lorentz stated that they are looking for Economic Development zoning. Mr. Webster stated that they are looking at properties that need to be rezoned commercial. They are also looking at old Brownfield sites (gas stations) as to whether or not they need to be cleaned up. They are trying to analyze what is here now and make recommendations and suggestions. Mrs. Miller asked if we are paying SIXMO to do this and how much are we paying. Mayor Lorentz stated that he didn't have the amount in front of him. Mr. Locke stated that he thought it was \$125 per hour. Mr. Webster stated that there was a cap on that. Mr. Locke stated that he thought it was \$50-

\$60,000. Mrs. Miller stated that she has a concern. I can't see us paying for something that we can do ourselves. Mr. Locke stated that he didn't disagree with her. I honestly don't think that anyone of us could do what they are doing in the amount of time they are doing it in. Mayor Lorentz stated that we need to be prepared for what is coming.

Mrs. Drake stated that she wanted to support what Mr. Locke said. I have set through six years of Economic Development meetings and what is required wouldn't even begin to touch the Burton Plan. There is no one sitting on council present or future that has the knowledge, or skill or the time to even touch the plan. A plan is better than no plan. Mrs. Miller didn't agree. Mrs. Drake stated that Belpre is a landlocked community. There is very little space to do anything. When you're thinking about bringing in jobs it would have to be technology of some sort. There is very little space. I have no problem that they are trying to do what is in the Burton Plan.

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that you have lots of legislation.

City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland was absent. Miss Pittenger stated that the Treasurer's Report was the same as the Auditor's Report. The report is on the website somewhere. We will ask for approval at the next meeting.

Communications and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the following to committee:

Mr. Ferguson – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE CITY AUDITOR TO REQUEST THE APPROVAL OF THE OHIO STATE AUDITOR TO CREATE AN IMPOUND LOT FUND.

Ms. Riffle – was assigned the Washington Boulevard maintenance resurfacing project in the City of Belpre. Mr. Martin stated that Ms. Riffle contacted him this evening and said she wasn't feeling well and would not be in attendance this evening.

Ms. Riffle requested a committee meeting for September 27th 2021 at 7PM for the purpose of discussing the Washington Boulevard maintenance resurfacing project in the City of Belpre and to discuss the waterline and sewer line replacement.

Mrs. Drake – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO FORMALLY ACCEPT A SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (SOPEC) GRANT ISSUED TO THE CITY.

Mr. Locke – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION NO 1145.01(e) TO ADD ADDITIONAL PERMITTED USES IN THE C-3 COMMERCIAL RECREATION DISTRICT.

Mr. Locke – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION NO. 1141.04

Mrs. Drake – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION NO. 939.04, EXHIBIT A. Mr. Webster stated this has to do with water rates.

Mrs. Drake – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION NO. 1313.12(B) 1,2, and 3. Mr. Webster stated inoperable vehicles.

Ms. Riffle – A RESOLUTION FOR THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ADOPT A NEW POLICY IN REGARD TO WATER AND SEWER LEAKS AND WATERLINE AND SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT. Mr. Martin stated that this would be added to her committee meeting on September 27, 2021 in the event she wants to discuss.

Mr. Locke – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS OF THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE AOPTED JUNE 28, 2021 AND TO AMEND OTHER EXISTING BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION.

Mr. Gant – AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Martin stated that all assignments need to be taken care of prior to December 31, 2021.

Mr. Locke asked to remove C-3 zoning changes and the Burton Plan from his committee assignments. After discussion it was decided to leave on the list of assignments.

Mr. Martin went over committee assignments with council.

Mr. Gant asked to remove use of cellphones from his committee assignments. I'm waiting on Mr. Webster regarding the Nuisance Ordinance.

Mrs. Drake asked to move Servline to Ms. Riffle.

Mr. Martin informed Mrs. Miller that the Codified Ordinances needs to be passed. Mr. Webster stated that it could be added to the agenda next meeting.

Report of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee had no report.

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

Mrs. Drake, Utilities Committee had no report.

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

Mr. Locke Planning and Zoning Committee reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting. Mainly discussed was the wording to get the point across regarding the golf cart legislation.

Mr. Locke asked that his two pieces of legislation assigned regarding zoning be added to the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Locke Economic Development Committee no report.

Mrs. Miller Rules Committee had no report.

Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only. None

Unfinished Business: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Gant brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1501.01 OF THE BELPRE FIRE PREVENTION CODE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Locke brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS OF THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2021 AND TO AMEND OTHER EXISTING BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION.**

Mr. Locke moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS OF THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2021 AND TO AMEND OTHER EXISTING BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mrs. Miller who voted nay. The vote was 5 for and 1 against. Discussion followed. Mr. Martin stated that there wasn't anything wrong with the ordinance it was just whether or not we had enough to suspend the rule for second and third readings. Motion carried.

Mr. Locke brought before council for second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS OF THE GOLF CART ORDINANCE ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2021 AND TO AMEND OTHER EXISTING BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION.** Mr. Webster stated that he was incorrect and there was not enough to suspend the rule for second and third readings. Motion denied. It will have to be read at the next meeting of council.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Dick Roller 1433 Poplar Street, Belpre addressed wanting to get the railroad crossing repaired on Belrock Avenue. Mr. Martin stated that we can't do much with railroad crossing as they are controlled by Federal Government. We will need to pressure CSX.

Mr. Roller also asked about tin buildings on residential property. Mr. Roller was told that size of the building is controlled by zoning. Mr. Locke stated that he thought there was a certain percentage of property that was under roof. I'm pretty sure it falls under the regulations.

Mr. Roller also addressed the two sections of guard rail that was tore up on the 4-lane. Also addressed was the grass on Route 7. Mayor Lorentz told Mr. Roller that both guard rails were tore up by accidents. Neither had insurance. So therefore, it has fallen back on the city. The Safety-Service Director has the funds to repair that now. As far as the grass, we are shorthanded. Hopefully by the 20th we will be back to full staff.

Mr. Locke stated that this Saturday there is a Cross Country meet at Civitan Park. This is the third year for the event. We have a lot of schools participating. Belpre has a lot of Cross-Country racers. Please be careful if you are in that area.

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

Jackie Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue requested documentation regarding the water tower issue. Mayor Lorentz to give her the drawings tomorrow.

It is my understanding that the city has already applied for some type of grant for the water tower. If so where does the matching funds come from and what is the total amount of the grant. According to the Mayor we have applied for the grant. The grant would be for 2.4 million dollars.

What is the plan of action for the replacement of software in the auditor's office? If it's put in the budget it would come before council to determine.

Mr. Webster stated that there are potentially three grants and loan to be paid back for the water tower. One of the potential grants is coming from Washington County. It has to be determined if it is going to be a grant or if it is going to have to be a loan. The plan is to get the grants to cover the majority of the cost.

Mrs. Cassady asked about the \$6 raise on the water bill. Mrs. Drake stated that \$4 will go toward the loan and \$2 will go toward the infrastructure. It will average \$22,500 per month. The water tank is needed due to the fact that there is nothing more we can do in the west part of town without the tank due to the pressure.

Steve Null 2321 Washington Boulevard addressed the dead trees near his property. I contacted AT&T and it is on their property. They will be here in the near future to remove.

Mrs. Cassady asked about the water tank issue. Mrs. Drake stated that the tanks are old. We have a water pressure issue. The hospital needs extra pressure. We will be using the same amount of water. The old tanks will remain in service until retired.

Mr. Ferguson addressed the EMS Services. He stated that there is no opt out paragraph. Mr. Webster is to review Page 5 (Emergency Vehicles) and make correction. Mr. Ferguson wanted to know what vehicles.

Last year we received money from the Cares Monies. Miss Pittenger stated that it was around \$440,000. Mr. Ferguson asked how it was spent and was there a break down to how it was spent. Miss Pittenger to email the detailed information to Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson asked about water in our system should the system fail. Mayor Lorentz stated that if our water system would fail there is less than 1 day worth of water. It should require 2 to 2 ½ days.

Mrs. Drake stated that the Belpre Woman's Club has received a grant from the Belpre Foundation. They will be taking out the walking track and will be completely replacing track with a new track. Mrs. Drake asked if the water leak under the track was ever repaired. Mayor Lorentz stated that the leak was on the pond side however he would check on that to be sure before the start of the project.

Mrs. Drake asked if there was anything council could do to help the Eagle Scout with the Pickle Ball Court. Mayor Lorentz stated that he is waiting on equipment. Paint was donated. Hopefully next week it will be painted and the poles set. He is good on funds.

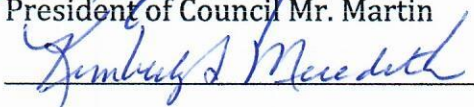
Mrs. Locke 726 Tuttle Street stated that October 12, 2021 at 7PM there will be a meet the candidate's night at the Senior Citizens Building. Come out and meet your candidates.

Adjourn

Mr. Locke made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith