

October 11, 2021

Council President Protem Ms. Riffle called the October 11, 2021 meeting to order at 7:35 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, City Law Director Mr. Webster, City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was Council President Mr. Martin.

Council President Protem Ms. Riffle asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Drake gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of September 27, 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 we are nearing the holiday season and our friends at the PM Company sent the flyer reminding us of the Spirit of Giving fast approaching. A flyer is in your desk if you wish to contribute to one of the chosen charities. The more we raise the more the match.

The Service Director and I have met with the Commissioners twice over the past month or two. Issues with the sewer line and contract as well as a consolidated 911 system has been discussed. A lot of questions and issues need to be addressed before we agree to move on. I will keep council apprised of any changes being discussed.

The Mayor's Partnership is helping put together a community profile for all the cities and villages in the partnership. When it is complete, I'll provide the link for your viewing.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, I completed the annual refresher training for Mayor's Court. This is a requirement to be able to hold court.

The Superintendent has been holding facility meetings to discuss the schools and their conditions. I have been in attendance and encourage you all to do likewise. The participation so far has been very encouraging. Next October 26<sup>th</sup> in the Lawton Building Gym at 6:30.

The Apple Butter Stir-Off was held this past weekend. Thank you, Pioneer Presbyterian Church and Belpre Lion's for holding this event. A special thanks to the Webster family for 43 years of working this event.

Meet the candidates is tomorrow night starting at 7PM in the Sr. Center Building.

The Belpre Woman's Club and the Elementary School is working on a program for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The date for the event is on November 19<sup>th</sup> a Friday evening. As this progresses more will be in the paper as well as Facebook and my reports.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that Shayla Greathouse with the Belpre EMS Ambulance Service was with us this evening and gave her report for August and September. In August there were 131 calls and in September 122. We currently have 8 EMT's, 1 Advance and 10 Medical. Also reported was out the door time and dispatch.

We also talked with Enterprise about 3 vehicles that we need to purchase next year. With us this evening was Aaron Martinez and Alan to talk to us about Enterprise Fleet Management. We have worked with the City of Belpre for the last couple of weeks. With the current budget plan, you can acquire 3 vehicles for \$152,962. This consists of two police vehicles upfitted (\$48,500 x2) and one F350 with utility body (\$55,992). With the revised budget (EFM Partnership) you could acquire 12 vehicles for \$51,253.19 which includes 12 vehicles lease costs to 4 departments (Police, Admin, Street, Water and Sewer). The lease cost of \$64,520.69, upfitting cost of \$46,732.50 and expected sales of 12 city vehicles to equal \$60,000. The 2022 Net Impact replaces 12 high age, high mileage, unreliable vehicles. In 2022 the net budget reduction of \$101,748.81 through EFM partnership. There is a copy of the Fleet Synopsis for the City of Belpre on file in council chambers.

Mrs. Miller asked what was the term on the lease. According to Aaron it is structured on a 60-month term.

Mr. Gant asked if we would be responsible for the upkeep. According to Aaron the city would be responsible for the upkeep. We could help facilitate the savings. He spoke about fuel cost, maintenance, insurance, etc. Mr. Gant asked if these vehicles were equivalent to what we have now. The vehicles are specific to the needs of the departments.

Mr. Gant asked the mayor if we were having issues getting vehicles. According to the Mayor in all fairness everyone is.

Mr. Ferguson stated that we started out with three or four vehicles. Now we are up to twelve. Mayor Lorentz stated that we are talking about two different things. We planned to put three or four vehicles in the budget for next year. With the plan we were given we can do twelve for less than the three or four cars that we had planned for.

Ms. Riffle stated that this is information gathered as we look for next years budget.

Mr. Locke asked about the turn over. He was informed that it depended on the vehicle.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger stated that she sent an email to all members of council and copies are on the back desk of the Tax Budget provided by the County Auditor. This legislation was due October 1<sup>st</sup> however we just received today. Miss Pittenger told Mr. Ferguson that if we could get this done by the end of the month that would be great. This is housekeeping and it will allow us to collect our money. I also sent a request for a supplemental. There are two items that we need to pay. One is for the pool totaling \$3,500 and Office Expense Reimbursement for the Law Director totaling \$2,874.00. There is also a sense of urgency for new software. I plan to get with Mr. Webster before our next meeting to see how to handle this process to sign a contract whether it is by voice vote or if legislation is required.

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that there is 2 new pieces of legislation before you tonight. They are as follows: **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** and **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON 23.552 ACRE TRACT LOCATED WEST OF FARSON STREET.** Mr. Webster gave a point of clarification on the restrictive covenants. There was multiple legislation requested to us today.

City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland had no report.

#### **Communication and Petitions -**

Ms. Riffle assigned the following to committee: Mr. Ferguson was assigned **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.** Mr. Locke was assigned **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON 23.552 ACRE TRACT LOCATED WEST OF FARSON STREET.** Mr. Gant was assigned the **EMS Agreement.**

#### **Reports of Standing Committee -**

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson had no report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first 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.** Mr. Ferguson gave a point of clarification. A vote was taken with

all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mr. Gant pointed out that this month is Police Officers Awareness Month. I feel we have one of the safest communities around. If you see an officer, please be sure to thank them for their service and let them know they are appreciated.

Ms. Riffle Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report. Ms. Riffle called a Streets, Sidewalks & Storm Sewer Committee meeting for October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7PM for the purpose of discussing the Serveline Proposal. I hope to have the information gathered to all members of council on the website by COB Wednesday.

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 at 7PM prior to these evenings meeting to discuss C3 zoning. There was a lot of discussion and it is the decision of my committee to pull from the agenda.

Mr. Locke Economic Development Committee had no report. Mr. Locke called a committee meeting for October 25, 2021 at 6:30PM to discuss **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON 23.552 ACRE TRACT LOCATED WEST OF FARSON STREET**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. At this time, Mr. Locke made a motion to add **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON 23.552 ACRE TRACT LOCATED WEST OF FARSON STREET** to this evening's agenda for first reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Miller Rules Committee had no report. Mrs. Miller wanted to be sure everyone understood what we are doing with the C-3 zoning legislation. Mr. Webster stated that it was never presented for first reading. It is being removed from the agenda.

#### **Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only.**

Steve Null 2321 Washington Boulevard wanted to know about the property on Farson Street. Mr. Webster informed Mr. Null that it was where the old Kaiser Aluminum Plant was.

Susan Abdella 420 Blennerhassett Avenue addressed the property on Farson Street. She asked what restrictions were being removed. Mr. Webster informed her that it was multiple and residential.

Ms. Abdella also addressed the inoperable vehicles that was coming up. Mayor Lorentz stated that if it hasn't moved or there is no license on the vehicle then it is considered inoperable.

Derek Hadfield also addressed inoperable vehicles. Mr. Hadfield asked if any action had been taken since our last council meeting on the ordinance we have in place. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell there has been action taken.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Gant brought before council for third 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.

Mr. Gant moved this be Ordinance #15, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke brought before council for third 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**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved this be Ordinance #16, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Miller brought before council for second 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. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO FORMALLY ACCEPT A SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (SOPEC) GRANT ISSUED TO THE CITY**. Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mr. Ferguson who abstained and Mrs. Miller who voted nay. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(B) 1, 2, AND 3**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mrs. Miller who voted nay. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION NO. 939.04, EXHIBIT A.** Discussion followed. Mr. Ferguson stated that normally when it states Exhibit A there is an attachment however in this ordinance the exhibit is in the ordinance itself. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE MAINTENANCE, RESURFACING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF BELPRE ON STATE ROUTE 618.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE CITY AUDITOR TO REQUEST THE APPROVAL OF THE OHIO STATE AUDITOR TO CREATE AN IMPOUND LOT FUND.** 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. Ferguson brought before council for first 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.

Mr. Locke brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON 23.552 ACRE TRACT LOCATED WEST OF FARSON STREET.** Mr. Webster provided input regarding the legislation and why the city is involved. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

#### **PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Debra Walbrown 804 Jenny Lou Street, Belpre addressed council regarding a building permit that she had applied for in August. At the end of our driveway, we were going to tear out and replace to improve the looks of our property. I was fined \$100 for work we did in the cities right of way. Mrs. Walbrown provided papers to the administration for review. Mrs. Walbrown stated that she has yet to hear from the Safety-Service Director. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that the fee for a right-of-way permit is \$100. Mrs. Walbrown asked what Ordinance that it is stated in. Mr. Webster stated

that this may or may not be in the code book. Mrs. Walbrown asked where this money goes. Mr. Webster stated that it goes in the General Fund.

Steve Null 2321 Washington Boulevard addressed issues with the PA System. He stated that it needs repaired. He was informed that with ZOOM there is a lot of feed back with the PA System. The system had been turned on however once ZOOM started it had to be turned off because of the feedback.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street asked if council knows when SIXMO is going to complete their study. She was informed that there is a Zoning Team being put together right now. There has been no actual completion date slated.

She also asked if Ordinance 1141.04 affects all zoning from R-1 to manufacturing.

Do you have any idea when the tank will be installed for the water? How long are the citizens going to pay the extra \$6 before we have to actually start making a loan payment? Do you have any idea? Mayor Lorentz stated that \$4 is to pay for the tank itself and it will be next year before it is installed. Once the legislation is passed will the tanks be installed? Per Mayor Lorentz the process will begin.

Derek Hadfield 1584 Lois Street asked what the plan are for the existing water tank? Are there maintenance issues right now? The mayor stated that there are no issues right now. The tank does need painted. The tanks will remain in service until they can't per Mrs. Hoblitzell.

Kelli Kuhn 1111 Blennerhassett Avenue stated that she appreciates the new website. Very user friendly. She did have a question about the meeting minutes. She is unable to find the most current minutes. Mrs. Hoblitzell tried to guide Mrs. Kuhn through the process. She also informed Mrs. Kuhn that it is a learning process and we are all trying to learn our way around. The minutes however was posted.

Susan Abdella 420 Blennerhassett Avenue *stated that* based on the expansion of the West end of town what is the status of the sewer plant. Back when I was on council, we were told that as the west end of town grows, we would have to expand our sewer plant. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that all we have to do right now is put in another line. Per Ms. Abdella there is not a capacity problem. Mrs. Hoblitzell informed her that there is not a capacity problem.

Lois Radcliff 220 O'Neill Street asked who removes you from the meeting when you are on ZOOM? Mrs. Hoblitzell is who gets us set up for the meeting. Mrs. Radcliff stated that ever time she is on ZOOM she gets removed. Mrs. Hoblitzell asked if she is registered on ZOOM? Mrs. Radcliff stated that she was registered. Mrs. Hoblitzell

stated that this should not be happening. Ms. Riffle stated that sometimes it is a connectivity issue and that it is never intentional.

Mr. Locke made a statement that part of the water towers off of Farson Street is the water pressure to Braun Road, Clement Avenue and Farson Street. The water towers we have now doesn't reach over the hill. The new water tower will help those areas grow. Ms. Riffle stated that this is not because of new construction but because of safety limits and the capacity it holds.

Kenyan Cox 2712 Underwood Drive addressed the vehicle fleet and whether we got other estimates beside Enterprise. The mayor informed Mr. Cox that they were the only one so far. There were others but they weren't interested in talking unless it consisted of more vehicles.

Debra Walbrown 804 Jenny Lou Street addressed Mrs. Hoblitzell about the \$100 fee that she had to pay for taking out her old driveway and putting in new. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she didn't decide this and it was put in back in 2006. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she wasn't an employee of the city at that time. Mr. Webster stated that the logic behind the \$100 fee is old driveways are being removed getting in our right-of-way and in our storm water system.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Gant made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

---

President of Council Protem Ms. Riffle

---

Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith