

October 25, 2021

Council President Mr. Martin called the October 25, 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. Gant, Mr. Locke, Mrs. Miller, 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 persons Mr. Ferguson and 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 October 11, 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 on October 16th my wife and I greeted the Legion Auxiliary attended at the Fall Rally. Joyce was actually the first speaker for the event. We appreciate this hard-working group of ladies, and our veterans.

The walking track was damaged over last weekend. Our street crew placed gravel at the bottom of the George Street hill for access of vehicles. At no time can anyone cross with a vehicle other than in that location. A concrete access point will be installed in the near future.

The Belpre Tree Commission is holding a tree trimming class on Wednesday for our volunteers. Last week our tree experts held a tree planting class for volunteers.

Our monthly meeting with the Commissioners continues. Sewer, water, 911 and now the Dog warden contract are the hot topics.

If the drill bit arrives, we will have the Pickle Ball courts complete by Wednesday evening.

The Safety-Service Director and I met with Sunday Creek Horizons discussing their help with development of opportunity zone investment projects. As we research the opportunity I will report back.

Tomorrow night at 6:30 is the next school facility meeting at the high school.

Saturday the Belpre Band qualified for state OMEA finals. This is the first time in 21 years. A rather nice and quite large parade gathered at 11:30 PM to welcome them home. Congratulations kids for a job well done.

Trick or Treat Saturday night 6PM until 7:30PM. Drive slowly and watch out for the little ones as they wander our streets.

Council, I need the legislation for the PM Company tonight. If you feel it needs three readings, then please do so.

Mr. Locke asked the mayor if he could expand a little on the Sunday Creek Horizons. Mayor Lorentz stated that it is a County wide partnership that hopefully will help us receive grants.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that Mayor Lorentz and myself met with ODOT to discuss handicap accessibility and drainage issues.

Mrs. Hoblitzell also asked the audience to refrain from talking because they can't hear on ZOOM.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger announced that before you this evening is the September Utility Adjustment Report that needs approved by council. Copies are on the back table and each member of council should have received a copy. It is not on the website yet but will be. At this time, Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the September Utility 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 announced that a copy of the September Treasurers Report is before you tonight and needs approval by council. Copies are on the back table; each member of council should have received a copy and a signed copy has been given to the clerk. It is not on the website at this time but will be in the future. Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions -

President of Council Mr. Martin announced that he had three pieces of legislation that he would like to add to committee. They are as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE BELPRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO was assigned to Police and Fire Committee, Mr. Gant, Chairman.

A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS was assigned to Finance/Audit Committee, Mr. Ferguson, Chairman

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR

YEAR 2022 was assigned to Finance/Audit Committee, Mr. Ferguson, Chairman.

Reports of Standing Committee –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson was absent. Mr. Gant called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for November 8, November 15, November 22, and November 29 at 6:30 PM to discuss the 2022 Budget.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mr. Gant made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH BELPRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer was absent. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that Ms. Riffle was feeling under the weather this evening. Prior to this evening's meeting Ms. Riffle had called a committee meeting on HomeServe. Per Mr. Webster this legislation has a lot of corrections to be made and that he would get it taken care of before the next meeting of council. Mrs. Drake informed Mr. Martin that this piece of legislation should be added to the agenda of the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Drake, Utilities Committee had no report. Mrs. Drake stated that she had a clarification for the General Public. I have had several Senior Citizens tell me that someone that was campaigning told them their water bill was going up to \$30 a month. I want to inform the public that this is a false statement. Their water bill will only go up \$6.

Mr. Shutts, Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. Shutts stated that he drove by the parks this week and the flowers are beautiful. The parks are mowed up nicely and the Pickle Ball Court is coming along.

Mr. Locke Planning and Zoning Committee reported that his committee met at 6:30PM prior to these evenings meeting 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.** Information was provided to the public. The meeting only lasted about 10 minutes.

Mr. Locke Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mrs. Miller Rules Committee had no report.

Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only.

Lois Radcliff 220 O'Neil Street addressed council regarding inoperable vehicles.

Judy Drake gave a point of clarification that inoperable vehicles were strictly residential.

Jeremy Radcliff 216 O'Neil Street addressed inoperable vehicles and the current ordinance.

Tony Alicen 408 Lee Street addressed junk cars.

Jeremy Radcliff 216 O'Neil Street addressed junk cars (licensed and insurance).

Mrs. Drake informed Mr. Radcliff that we are just cleaning up verbiage in Ordinance. This Ordinance has been on the books since 2002.

Mark Hinton 109 Elm Street addressed inoperable vehicles.

Carl **Buckland** 131 Lee Street addressed inoperable vehicles on both residential and commercial properties.

Mr. Webster stated that commercial properties were never added to the ordinance. We are amending #2, we are not amending #3. You can have an inoperable vehicle for 60 days. Anything after 60 days you can be fined. You can have 1 vehicle.

Mario Coon 1111 Blennerhassett Avenue addressed abandoned and dilapidated vehicles. Mr. Coon had concerns with the wording of the ordinance. He asked if this ordinance was correct. There is no real definition. Seasonal insurance, exterior storage (not eye sore) "language".

Derek Hadfield 1584 Lois Street addressed enforceable actions since the last meeting of council on inoperable vehicles. He was informed that action had been taken since the last meeting. He asked why we were changing things if the ordinance works.

Mr. Radcliff 216 O'Neill Street stated that the ordinance wasn't amended.

Mr. Locke stated that we have been discussing this piece of legislation since February 6, 2020. We have had committee meetings on this and we have discussed this. The Mayor and Safety-Service Director get weekly calls on inoperable vehicles.

Lois Radcliff stated that you can have (1) inoperable vehicle. Take that away you now have 0.

Unfinished Business:

Mrs. Miller brought before council for third 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.

Mrs. Miller moved this be Ordinance 17, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO FORMALLY ACCEPT A SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (SOPEC) GRANT ISSUED TO THE CITY.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Drake moved this be Ordinance #18, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for third 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.

Mrs. Drake moved this be Ordinance #19, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mrs. Miller who voted nay.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION NO. 939.04, EXHIBIT A.** Discussion followed. Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street stated that this project has no start date and once this ordinance passes it becomes a permanent fee and it won't go off. I do agree that we need the water tower but I feel we are jumping the gun. Mrs. Drake stated that if this falls through there is no reason to apply the \$6. You have to get your ducks in order to get financing to make this happen. We do have figures. Mayor Lorentz stated that we don't even qualify for any CDBG monies because our water fees are too low. If you want to continue with some of these larger buildings here, we have to do something in order to pay for it. We can't continue to patch things. Mrs. Miller asked where this money is going. She was informed that it would go to a Special account. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mrs. Miller whom voted nay.

Mrs. Drake moved this be Ordinance #20, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mrs. Miller who voted nay.

Mrs. Drake brought before council for third 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.

Mrs. Drake moved this be Ordinance #21, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Gant brought before council for third 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.

Mr. Gant moved this be Resolution #29, 2020-2021 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Gant brought before council for second 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 second 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.** Mrs. Miller asked if this is where the new fire station is. Mayor Lorentz stated it was the property where the old Kaiser Plant is. 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. Gant brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH BELPRE VOLUNTEER FIRE, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY 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.

Miss Pittenger asked that the minutes reflect that the President of Council Mr. Martin has initialed the bank reconciliation for September.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street stated that her husband has been sitting on council for a little over two years. He was nominated because the position needed filled. We have been attending these council meetings for way over 20 years. I'm very happy to see that there will be new council members coming in. I will assure you that you need to be at all committee meetings. You need to find out what Belpre needs to move forward. We need the water towers. You elected these people to serve you. Call them and let your voice be known. You need to know the facts. Serving on council is not an easy job. You need to help Belpre move on.

Mrs. Drake asked the SSD to explain where to go on Belpre's website to report pot holes, trees down, water leaks, trash, etc. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that we have Text My Gov on the new City of Belpre website. It is located in the lower right-hand corner.

Mary Aquino 119 Elm Street asked about the city adding speed bumps to city streets. We have terrible speakers. How do we go about getting this done? Mrs. Aquino was told by Mr. Webster that according to Ohio Law you can't have speed bumps on city streets.

Mario Coon 1111 Blennerhassett Avenue, Belpre, Ohio stated that the City of Athens and City of Marietta has something that they are using to slow down traffic. Mr. Webster is to check with the City of Marietta to see what they are using.

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

Mrs. Miller stated that Mr. Martin wasn't excused from the last meeting. She was informed that he wasn't a voting member of council and that he did not need to be excused.

Adjourn

Mr. Gant made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Larry Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith