

November 8, 2021

Council President Protem Ms. Riffle called the November 8, 2021 meeting to order at 7:38 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 Treasurer Mrs. Copeland and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was City Law Director Mr. Webster.

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. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of October 25, 2021 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Drake made a motion to accept the minutes of November 1st, 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 November 3rd I attended the Chamber Breakfast hosted by MOVE. A lot of our Chamber Members are local business owners in town, and these are very helpful keeping in touch on issues.

ODOT sent legislation to me for approval of their working on bridges in Belpre. The work being done will cover bridges going to and coming from Marietta. Mr. Webster has this and there is some urgency in getting council to act.

November 4th, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Pioneer Cleaners. The owner of the property has not changed but, the business owners have.

The Sheriff's Contract that we had for off hours Dog warden response is now a thing of the past. We are working with the county to assure response and a plan to better manage.

The walking track was damaged during an event at Civitan Park. Our street department placed a gravel crossing just at the bottom of George Street extension. This is the only place you can cross at anytime until we get concrete approved crossings completed. As of now you damage you pay.

The Holiday Lights Committee is well under way installing Christmas Displays. Anyone wanting to volunteer needs to call Darien Lorentz.

And finally, the Pickle Ball courts are complete. All Sonny has left is to complete his report back to the review board for his Eagle.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that we received the new dump truck last week and it is already gone. The dump truck had an oil leak.

I have also been working on the budget.

Washington Boulevard is getting closer to being paved. Received drawing for the handicap sidewalks.

I also want to talk about the walking path. It seems that people think they can cross wherever they want to with vehicles. We want to keep in mind that this is a new path. We did put a crossing by the pond. If you get permission to do something in the park you need to cross at the designated area.

Mr. Locke asked Mrs. Hoblitzell about cut ins before paving. How are we coming along with that? Are we going to be able to get that done before the paving starts? Mrs. Hoblitzell replied that some work on the Farson Street waterlines still needs to be completed. The Washington County course main needs to be complete. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that the gas lines are soon to be completed. Mr. Locke stated that he knows that there was a lot of work to be done at the west end.

Ms. Riffle asked if we are in hopes to have the bulk of sidewalks in before winter sets in. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell the completion date is what is stated on the contract.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger had no report.

City Law Director Mr. Webster was absent. No report was given in his absence.

City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland had no report.

Communication and Petitions -

President of Council Protem Ms. Riffle assigned to Mr. Gant's Police and Fire Committee the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Gant was informed that this needs past before end of the year. Ms. Riffle stated that this has to do with emergency response time.

Reports of Standing Committee -

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson announced that his committee met at 6:30 PM prior to these evenings meeting to discuss the 2022 Budget. We went through five pages. We will continue our discussion on November 15th, 2021 at 6:30 PM to further our discussion on a full budget or temporary budget. At this time, I would like to make a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all

members of council present voting aye. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mr. Gant called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for November 22, 2021 at 6PM to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Members of Council were informed that you can find this plan at Washington Gov.org/mitigation plan.

Mrs. Miller stated that I think that since this is part of the 5-year plan we should wait and let the next council take over. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that if we wait, we won't have it. Ms. Riffle stated that it was a county requirement and must be complete by the end of the year. Mrs. Miller asked why they didn't get it to us earlier. Mrs. Miller stated that she guessed that whatever the next council didn't approve of they could change it at that time. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that basically what this is, is what needs mitigated within your city. There is a list of what they plan to do for the City of Belpre.

Ms. Riffle Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report. Ms. Riffle apologized for missing her last committee meeting that she had called. Ms. Riffle stated that she was ill.

Mrs. Drake, Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. Shutts, Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. Shutts announced that the Pickle Ball Court is finally complete. "Go Play"

Mr. Locke Planning and Zoning Committee had no report. Mr. Locke asked that the 3 committee assignments that had been previously assigned to his committee be removed. They are as follows: C-3 Commercial Zoning changes, Zoning changes, Section 1141.04 and the Burton Plan. All three items have been resolved at this time.

Mr. Locke Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mrs. Miller Rules Committee had no report.

Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only.

Steve Null, 2321 Washington Boulevard stated that he didn't have a problem adding the Manpower Ordinance however he would like to have a readable size copy. (Larger Copy)

Jesse Wynecott 805 Main Street asked about the amended copies on Section 3 on **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. Mrs. Wynecott stated that she feels that amendments need to be brought back to council before placing on the agenda. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that there wasn't anything amended. Mrs. Wynecott stated that Mr. Webster was supposed to do an amendment however I'm not seeing one. Mrs. Wynecott asked if there had been any other companies researched. She was informed that they came to us. Mrs. Wynecott to address this issue with Mr. Webster if he returns back to council this evening.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Gant brought before council for second 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. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Drake brought before council for first reading **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.** Discussion followed. Mr. Ferguson stated that in light of Section 3, I would like to make a motion to table the legislation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Motion tabled.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS.** Mr. Ferguson stated that there was an attachment dated 10/14/21 by Miss Pittenger. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022.** Mr. Ferguson gave a point of clarification. Ms. Riffle asked if we are going to have a meeting on this before the next reading. Miss Pittenger stated that there is a new employee on there. Mr. Ferguson stated that he would add this to the Finance/Audit Committee meeting on the 15th, 2021.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Jesse Wynecott 805 Main Street asked in the new budget was the software package included. Ms. Wynecott asked if this had already been put out for bid. According to Miss Pittenger it was first put out in December 2019 and again in March 2020. Ms.

Wonycott asked if Miss Pittenger could explain what that program does. Miss Pittenger stated that the program runs money in, money out, payroll, utility billing, utility collection, paying the bills, etc. Ms. Wonycott asked who makes the decision regarding the software? Per Ms. Wonycott your software could crash. Miss Pittenger stated that it was in the budget and with COVID we lost revenue and we cut it from the budget. We cut a lot of things. This money that was for the software was used to make the city building safe. The deposit will be paid out of COVID monies.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the software company would still honor the 2019 bid that came in. According to Miss Pittenger they would.

Miss Pittenger stated that with COVID monies every supervisor received a laptop and scanner. This allowed supervisors to do all purchase orders along with other work related to their job on their laptop. \$20,000 was knocked out for those purchases.

Mrs. Wonycott 805 Main Street asked Aaron at Enterprise to explain our vehicles and how it works. He stated that last year the city budgeted approximately \$153,000 for three vehicles. Two being vehicles and 1 being a utility truck. He stated that under our program through our open-end equity lease for that amount of money you could lease 6 police vehicles and 6 other vehicles. The cash flow would be approximately \$101,000, We would help with the sale of the city's vehicles. We would save the city \$469,000 in the next 10 years.

Mary Aquino 119 Elm Street addressed speed bumps. She stated that we don't have a speed limit sign nor do we have a stop sign on Elm Street and Ridge. Mrs. Hoblitzell to take a look at the area.

Louis Radcliff 220 O'Neill Street addressed the Enterprise Leasing and the \$101,000 to lease 12 vehicles every year. She was informed that 4 vehicles were replaced last year and 4 this year. Aaron from Enterprise gave Mrs. Radcliff an explanation. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that our vehicles range from 2014 and older.

Steve Null 2321 Washington Boulevard asked what company we would be leasing the vehicles from. Ms. Riffle stated Enterprise Leasing. We currently are not leasing. We are purchasing everything. This is an option we have through Enterprise. Our vehicles would be newer and our replacements would happen sooner.

Mr. Ferguson clarified that we have 7 vehicles over 10 years old.

Jerry Radcliff 220 O'Neil Street stated the only problem he has is that we are giving up everything and that we will be leasing everything. What happens in a couple years if we find this isn't working out? Aaron explained that basically you are financing the

vehicles at a lower cost to you. At the end of the term, you sell the vehicle and you end up with the equity of the vehicle. Our partnership would be very flexible.

John Ruth #1 Buckeye Lane Belpre stated that the lease is set up for vehicles on a 5-year contract. If council changes in a couple years and we decide that we are going to resolve the contract with Enterprise the vehicles that we have at that point we would still have 3 years of financial obligation or 3 years of a set amount since we really wouldn't have any equity in it. Aaron stated that you would have equity as a purchasing agency. There is a lot of flexibility. If you would have to sell vehicles after three years, we would sell them for more than you owe leaving you with equity, if we sell the vehicles, we would cut you a check for what the vehicles sell for.

Ms. Riffle gave a shout out to our schools recognizing our fall sports. It was a rebuilding year for our football team, Cross-Country had another resounding year, our band made it back to state after 21 years. Winter sports are beginning so go out and support our schools/students. Thursday is Veterans Day! Ms. Riffle recognized all Veterans in the audience and thanked them for serving our great Country. If you go on-line, you can find out where there are free meals being served to our Veterans on Thursday.

Adjourn:

Mr. Gant made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 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