

December 13, 2021

Council President Mr. Martin called the December 13, 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 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 December 13, 2021 meeting was Mayor Lorentz

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 November 22nd, 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 announced that the Service Director and I met with the County Commissioners on December 3rd. This meeting was to discuss the county sewer line that comes to our city and funding for improvements to eliminate the problems on the west end of town.

The Belpre Area Veterans held a short but very meaningful Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial on December 5th. Many thanks to these folks that remind us how blessed we are in this country.

On the 10th the Zoning Task Force met with Sixmo in an effort to better understand zoning and zoning issues in town.

We attended the Chamber Annual Dinner which was a great success. Karen reserved for 175 and planned a very nice evening. Bill Harpold received the Citizen of the year award for all his efforts with Belpre Area Veterans. As Mayor I presented keys to the city to Kelly Cox for the great job with this years Homecoming. Kelly has always been there to help the chamber and we all know that she is good to help everyone.

The Service Director, County Commissioners, Marietta Mayor Josh Schlicher, and I met with Sunday Creek Horizons to discuss a partnership to assist us in getting better support and funding opportunities in Southeastern Ohio and mainly Washington County.

The WWW elected to keep the officers the same for 2022 so I will again be the Chairman of the Interstate Planning Commission.

The Mayor's Partnership sent me a list of grant opportunities for businesses that opened in 2021. The list of grants was sent to the Chamber office.

Construction on the Memorial Bridge is now slated for December 13, 2021. More to come!

Thanks, you all for your service to Belpre and may 2022 be a blessed year for all.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that George Street Extension to where it meets the Boulevard will be worked on at the end of this week or the beginning of next week. That portion will be closed until completed.

Maxine Mobbs with the Tree Commission was to be here this evening to give a report however she is sick and is unable to attend.

City Auditor Miss Pittenger announced that she has been training the new auditor. She has been coming in two days a week. She has prepared the report for both the auditor and the treasurer which is before you tonight for council's approval. She will be lost for six months but that is acceptable. The Utility Adjustment Report is on the back table and is needing approval by council. It will be placed online as soon as I make it available to the clerk. Ms. Riffle made a motion to accept the Utility Adjustment Report for November as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Miss Pittenger stated that if any of the new council would like to meet with me regarding the new budget before the end of the month, please feel free to do so. I would be glad to sit down with you to discuss just please call and make an appointment.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Copeland reported that a copy of the November Treasurer's Report is on the back table and needs approved. Ms. Riffle made a motion to accept the November's Treasurers Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions –

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that this is the end of the year and the end of council's two-year run. At this time, Mr. Martin recognized the following members of council that we will be losing. They are as follows: Treasurer Mrs. Copeland, City Auditor Miss Pittenger, Ms. Riffle, Mr. Gant, Mrs. Drake, Mr. Shutts, Mr. Locke and Mrs. Miller. Mr. Martin thanked everyone for their commitment to the city and he wished them all the best. If you can help the new people coming in that is great also.

Reports of Standing Committee –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson had no report.

Mr. Gant, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mr. Gant thanked the Citizens of Belpre in the 3rd Ward for voting me in for four years. I have work both on the Utilities Committee and Police and Fire Committee and I'm pleased to say they are all dedicated individuals. Both Police and Fire are #1 in my book.

Ms. Riffle Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer thanked the 4th Ward Citizens who helped vote her into office. I would like to thank all the employees for all they do. I'm proud to have represented the citizens of the City of Belpre. I'm looking forward seeing what the new council does.

Mrs. Drake had no report for the Utilities Committee. Mrs. Drake thanked the city staff. She stated that it was a pleasure representing the citizens in our community. She really enjoyed doing the research work. Mr. Martin stated that Mrs. Drake did an enormous amount of research.

Mr. Shutts Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. Shutts thanked the citizens of Belpre and the Volunteer Fire Department EMT's. He wished the city well. He wished the new council well on their two-year term.

Mr. Locke Planning and Zoning Committee had no report.

Mr. Locke Economic Development Committee had no report. Mr. Locke thanked council for accepting me. A lot of things were different because of the COVID issues. I enjoyed my time on council and I would like to wish the next council the same enjoyment.

Mrs. Miller Rules Committee had no report. Mrs. Miller stated that she appreciated the citizens of Belpre for having confidence in her. I will address any issues I may have.

Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only. none

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS.** This is the \$35,700 that was presented on October 14, 2021. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #36, 2020-2021** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading of **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022.** The total

on the bottom is 41. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Ordinance #22, 2020-2021** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR 2022**. Mr. Ferguson stated that this is for the first three months to operate the city. The budget amount for the 1st Quarter of the year is \$10,087,044.53. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council to allow for the third reading of **TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR 2022**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved the third reading of **TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR 2022**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Ordinance #23, 2020-2021** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Miss Pittenger pointed out a correction to the minutes on Page 4. She stated that it was confusing however she was informed that this was how it was handled.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street asked who was on the Task Force that was mentioned in the Mayor's Report. She was informed that it was John Ruth, Janet Gilbert, Jesse Roush, Dana Fouss and Karen Waller.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to cancel the last meeting of council on December 27th, 2021. Mr. Martin stated that all legislation has been cleared as of this evening. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Meeting of December 27th, 2021 has been officially cancelled.

Before we go any further, we have three new members of council in the audience that are coming on council. They are as follows: Alan Millhone 120 Elm Street, Apt. A; Lyndsay Dennis 803 Jenny Lou Street; and John Ruth #1 Buckeye Lane. The swearing

in ceremony will be January 1st, 2022 at 10 AM in Council Chambers. Family and friends are welcome to attend. There will be a short meeting following the ceremony to elect the President Protem and the Council Clerk Protem. We do this at this time in the event there would be an emergency in the city we would have a functioning government on the first day.

Mr. Ferguson thanked the six members of council who served in 2020-2021 and welcomed the new members of council who will be serving in 2022-2023. He also thanked the Auditor Miss Pittenger and Treasurer Mrs. Copeland for serving the City of Belpre and welcomed the new Auditor Mrs. Nolan and Treasurer Mrs. Cassady.

Mr. Gant thanked Mrs. Hoblitzell for all the help she had given him.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:05 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith