

February 14, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the February 14, 2022 meeting to order at 7:37 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, and Mr. Wallace present. Also, present was Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the February 14, 2022 meeting was Councilman Mr. Ruth.

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. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of January 24, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Martin stated that Facebook live is being tested this evening however no questions can be asked.

**Reports of City Officials:**

Mayor Lorentz reported that the Alumni Association asked me to notify council that Superintendent Greenley will be the guest speaker March 1<sup>st</sup> our next meeting. This is open to the public and will be held here in Council Chambers. His goal is to reach as many as possible before election day.

Our Police Officers are aware of the vandalism in our parks. Superintendent Greenley is also aware and helping in the investigation. I have offered a \$250.00 reward and another person offered another \$250.00 for information leading to an arrest. There is no point or excuse for destruction of public property.

A group from the city travelled to Vienna and inspected the water tank much like what is being proposed for Belpre. The company and engineers gave a very detailed report of what is needed and our next steps.

Our Chamber as well as the Mid-Ohio Valley Chamber held a Business after hours at the Strecker Center on Thursday evening from 5 until 7. This amazing facility and the needed service to our area is truly a blessing.

A group of students and teachers have offered to paint at our parks in an effort to repair all the damage from the pointless graffiti. Our Street Department and employees are assessing the damage and preparing an estimate for the officers to submit at the court hearing when time comes.

The Civil Service Commission is gearing up for testing. At this point we have had very few applicants and only two Police Officers apply.

The County and Sheriff's Department are once again talking a centralized 911 system. This has caused quite a concern among our employees so another meeting with all the parties is being scheduled.

Thanks to Representative Edwards, I submitted projects for the Capitol Bill consideration.

We received the bid package for the Farson Street water line. As soon as approved we can move forward. Next project will be the forced main at the west end of town. Folks it is imperative that we get this going as soon as possible. Washington Boulevard is coming in May.

Please make sure that your calendar is somewhat clear for March 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be Student Government Day. Mayor Lorentz asked Mr. Ferguson to help with this as he always does.

Lin Watson is currently a Life Scout in Belpre Troop 91 and Barlow Troop 217. Mr. Watson stated that this is part of my citizenship in the community to work towards his Merit Badge. I'm looking for a topic to begin working on my Eagle Scout.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that the appraisers with our insurance company went around and appraised all of our buildings. I haven't got the report back yet but will share once I get it.

Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that the Mayor, Denzil, Eddy, Mr. Millhone and myself toured the Vienna Water Tank and it is quite awesome. A couple of engineers from ADR explained how that tank works.

We are looking for some money to get cameras to place in the parks so we can start seeing who is doing the damage. This might be something we want to add to our budget to get those covered. It looks like the cost will be between \$19,000 and \$20,000 to get cameras for all the parks.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that February 2<sup>nd</sup> a representative from RITA (Regional Income Tax Agency) visited for 3 ½ hours of website training.

Software bids were closed at 3 PM on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. One Bid was received "Software Solutions". At this time the Licensing Agreement is being reviewed by our Law Director. We need Legislation necessary for the Safety-Service Director to sign and begin as soon as possible. There is an 8-9 month waiting period once the Licensing Agreement is signed before the implementation can begin.

Last council meeting it was brought to our attention that the Ohio Checkbook had not been updated. I reached out to our Accounting Firm Julian and Grube and was advised the Ohio Checkbook is voluntary.

The January Utility Adjustment report is larger than normal. This is due to account inactivity clean up while adding the Water Fee passed by Council. Attached you will find explanation of an oversight and correction that was caught and made 1/31/22. Report copies are on the back table and needs Council's approval.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Auditor's Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Martin asked Mrs. Nolan to get him a copy of the Bid Package for the Software so he can get it assigned to Finance/Audit Committee.

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that he is currently reviewing the submission contract for the Farson Street water improvement project. The bids were open. The low bidder was recommended. We will hopefully have it for the next council meeting for your consideration.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

**Communication and Petitions** – None

**Reports of Standing Committee** –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30 PM for the purpose of discussing the final Budget for 2022. Tonight, we started at the Auditor's Office, County Division Street Lighting 101-15-1501 and went to the Police Department 101-9-901. At this time, I would like to call a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for February 21, 2022 at 6PM to further the discussion on the 2022 Budget. We will start with the Police Department. Mr. Ferguson also called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for 6:30 PM prior to the next meeting of council on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to continue our discussion on the 2022 Budget.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that Tina and I have been working with the Police Chief regarding the Impound Lot Funds. I was invited by Karen Waller to attend a Teachers Work Day. A team consisting of Kevin Dennis, Peyton Cochran, Brittany Engle and Suzanne Halterman presented to council a proposal to have a 7.2-acre Dog Park in Civitan Park next to Boxer's Bed and Biscuits. The committee was asking Belpre City Council to allocate \$18,000 to support the fundraising efforts for the City of Belpre Dog Park. They were also asking City Council to commit to the upkeep and maintenance of the fence and property. The estimated cost for a 1-acre dog park is \$30,000-\$35,000 which includes fencing, signage, trash cans/trash bag stations, shaded area (Sail Canopies), water source, play equipment, and 2-4 benches. They are in hopes to get City Council's approval in March, Estimates/Promotion/Fundraising in the Spring of 2022, Begin Construction in the Summer of 2022 and Opening Fall of 2022.

Mr. Null asked for clarification of the location. Mr. Null was shown the location. Mrs. Dennis stated that these 6 groups of teachers have a lot of good ideas and I am very proud to have had the opportunity to attend.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee reported that he had toured the Water Tank in Vienna, WV. Mr. Millhone commented that all the steel was made in the USA. Mr. Millhone was asked to attend the tour by the Safety-Service Director.

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

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee presented the conclusion letter dated January 21, 2022 from Leonard L. Wiggins II Code Enforcement Officer. The public hearing was held February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the City Council Chambers located at 715 Park Drive, Belpre, Ohio. The property owner at 215 O'Neal Street requested a zoning variance on the front setback. The property owner wishes to construct an attached garage to the residence and the structure would extend three (3) feet into the front setback area.

Upon a brief meeting the property owner was granted the variance.

Mr. Wallace also reported that on February 9, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. a zoning task force meeting was held at the City Council Chambers.

Sam Tuten from Sixmo (Marietta Office) discussed and briefly went over what they had covered in the last meeting and what his take aways were from that. Discussions were rezoning the city, establishing a downtown district committee, long term action and a comprehensive master plan.

Mr. Wallace stated that he plans in the near future to have a committee meeting with Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Millhone along with Mr. Tuten of Sixmo and would very much like Mr. Null and anyone else to attend and give insight. To discuss taking the planning committee and zoning committee and combining them. From what I understand the same people sit on both of those and it would stream line it if they were combined.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee reported that his committee met on February 7, 2022 at 7PM for the purpose of discussing the Safety-Service Director not living in the city limits. Mr. Null stated that it is an important position. The State requires them to live in the city limits. They are given a 6-month grace period. Mr. Null stated that it was combined in the 60's. The Law Director can write a variance and it can be passed by council however it is council's decision. This needs to be resolved.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only** ((President of Council will ask if there is anyone wishing to address City Council on any agenda items.)) None

**Unfinished Business:** -

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #4, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Jerry Radcliff 220 O’Neil Street asked council what we just passed. Mayor Lorentz stated that it is the CHIP Program (Community Housing Improvement Program). It is through Community Action. There may be residents in the community that needs assistance. They go through Community Action to get these repairs and we hold the mortgage until the project is complete.

Lin Nelson 503 Stone Road announced that the Alumni Meeting would be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked Mr. Wallace when his next meeting would be with Mr. Tuten. Mr. Wallace stated that he had not yet scheduled the meeting. Mr. Locke asked to be included in the meeting.

Shayla Greathouse gave her monthly report for Belpre Volunteer Fire Department, Inc and EMS for January. Below is her report.

Total calls: 176

7a truck – 84

7p truck – 42

9a truck – 50

Out of those calls we did 18 mutual aid calls (Wood Co and Dunham Township)

Missed calls – 3

2 – on a cardiac arrest at 5am when 2 other calls came in within a 5 min period. Wood Co took the other 2 calls.

1 – both dayshift trucks were held up at Camden Clark Medical Hospital. Barlow took that call.

Mr. Null asked if Little Hocking backed up Belpre. He was informed that they do not back up a 911 call. Mr. Null stated that Athens County came and transferred his nephew.

Mr. Millhone asked if we would receive monthly reports. Ms. Greathouse informed Mr. Millhone that a monthly report would be given. Mrs. Dennis asked for a copy of the report.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dennis to adjourn. Mrs. Dennis withdrew her motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson to excuse Mr. Ruth from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**Adjourn:**

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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President of Council Mr. Martin

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Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith