

February 28, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the February 28, 2022 meeting to order at 7:38 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Mr. Ruth and Mr. Wallace present. Also, present was Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the February 28, 2022 meeting was City Auditor Mrs. Nolan.

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 February 14, 2022 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 received a check for the Drug Dog from Marietta Lodge 67 in the amount of \$500. This was handed to the foundation for deposit.

The Service Director and I have spent a lot of time with a couple different companies wanting to develop land in town. As these projects progress, I will communicate to council.

Ms. Dennis asked for name tags to be provided for council. I had them made last week for all.

Tomorrow night in Council Chambers Superintendent Greenley will address the Alumni. All are welcome. Alumni at 6PM, public at 6:30.

This morning during park rounds our employees found more vandalism at Civitan Park. If this continues the restrooms may need closed and only open certain hours.

Tonight, we have representatives from Sunday Creek Horizons Consulting Group. These folks were instrumental in the county acquiring some 10 million dollars for the Devola Sewer project. My hope is that we can sign on with them as the county, Marietta City, and probably Beverly is either signed on or waiting on council.

With us tonight are representatives from the Marietta Belpre Health Board. If you have questions on our program, now is the time to ask!

The Discovery World on Market Street has made a formal request of City Council in the amount of \$5,000 to be awarded as scholarships for Belpre Students. Mr. President, I ask that this be assigned to committee for consideration.

At this time, Mayor Lorentz introduced Will Dradold from Sunday Creek Horizons who gave a presentation on Belpre and this region. Born and raised in Athens, attended Ohio University and moved out of the region in 2016. He moved to Washington, DC to work on Capitol Hill as a reporter for a couple of years. Like others I moved back to the region. A couple of years ago I was lucky to meet up with a gentlemen Zach Stacy who represented a lot of Appalachian, Ohio. He ran for auditor in 2018 but was unsuccessful. We started talking about this region and that it is fundamentally fraternized. As we looked around the community, we found that there has not been a public investment at a State or Federal level for a long, long time. We have worked with the Devola Sewer line. They have been great to work with. As you bring communities together as we were able to do on this project, we made the case with Governor DeWine that we are being forgotten here. After working with the commissioners, we took it a step further. We wanted to split the cost with the communities with each group paying around \$2,500 a month. We do have to pay bills. Tonight, I'm not going to throw out projects that we may or may not be able to do. We know this region and we do know how to sell it. I know how hard it is to make projects work here and I do know how frustrating it is when you don't get calls back. I'm going to make it simple. I believe this region is on the upswing if we can get the water and sewer improved, the Broadband Infrastructure, sites for businesses to come to this area and grow, and housing situations improved. What interest me the most is to be able to support two cities and a county to find common grounds.

Mr. Ruth asked Mr. Dradold if he had any business cards. He was informed that Mayor Mike has a card that he is willing to share.

Mayor Lorentz stated that today was the second time that he has emailed their proposal to council. I would appreciate council to take a look at the proposal. It is time for Belpre to step up and step out.

Mayor Mike introduced Barb Bradley and members of the Health Board who is with us this evening to discuss the expanding services of the Marietta/Belpre Health Board. Mr. Ferguson asked what the amount of their contract is for 2022. He was informed that it was for \$75,000 for which council is working on to approve. If approved that is what the Health Board will budget. Mrs. Jones stated that the Health Boards merged together in 2019. We were responsible for immunizations for both children and adults, contact tracing required by the ORC, and expanding services. We are going through Accreditations. We have hired a nurse practitioner. We inspect 50 food services twice a year which is required by the Ohio Revised Code. We would like to expand Sexual Health Services and Substance abuse. We are working with folks trying to get them approved with Medicare, Medicaid, etc. We have a unique opportunity here. I have been in practice for 14 years and have worked with women health. As a member of public health, we can address other issues and have a longer time frame to talk with the patients.

Mr. Null asked if they had ever considered using the Senior Center for the Health Board if it could be facilitated. He was informed that it could be considered. Mr. Null asked additional questions on the topic.

Mrs. Dennis clarified that the funding comes from individuals that they are able to bill through based off of their income. Additional funding comes from grants. The Nurse Practitioner is paid from a two-year grant.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that the Mayor, Denzil, Eddie and I met with ADR Engineers and then later with Burgess and Niple to review any future projects that may be eligible for WSRLA grant funds.

Ken Zileiga called to let us know that the Memorial Bridge will be closed for 45 days starting mid-March.

Reed Byers received permission from BIP to paint under the RR overpass of Campus Drive. I am not sure of the schedule for this to happen, but the area will be closed for a couple of hours when it does.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan was absent. No report was given in her absence.

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that the Fire and EMS Levy has been scheduled for the ballot on the primary. There has been lots of legislation prepared since our last meeting of council. When reviewing the legislation if you find any typo's let me or my office know and we will get it corrected.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report.

Communication and Petitions –

Council President Mr. Martin announced to council and the public that he is happy to say that we do not have a resignation on city council.

Mr. Martin assigned legislation to committee. They are as follows:

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire was assigned pay raises for the Police Department.

Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee was assigned Discovery World Grant, New Software and Software Services for the City of Belpre, Senior Center and the 2022 Appropriations.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer was assigned the Salt Contract, Washington Boulevard Force Main Extension Project, Farson Street Water System Improvements Contract 21-1 and the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District.

Reports of Standing Committee –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met on February 21st, 2022 at 6PM for the purpose of discussing the final Budget for 2022 and again on February 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM to continue the discussion. There will be one modification made to the Police Training Budget to increase from \$5,000-\$8,000. We will have the first reading this evening. Mr. Ferguson called another committee meeting for March 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM to finalize the budget discussion.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that she had the opportunity of riding with (2) officers today and to see what their day consist of. They take care of the city and we need to take care of them. Mrs. Dennis called a committee meeting for Police and Fire on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 5:00 PM to discuss the police contract and possible raises.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report.

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee had no report.

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

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee reported that his committee would meet in March or April after the Budget is complete to address different topics.

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: - None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALANDER YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS.**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to amend the legislation to reflect 2022-2023 instead of 2020-2021 at the top of the ordinance. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALANDER YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS as amended.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting except for Mr. Null whom voted nay. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AUDITOR AND THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR NEW SOFTWARE AND SOFTWARE SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** Mr. Null stated that it is important that we run for all three

readings this evening. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AUDITOR AND THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR NEW SOFTWARE AND SOFTWARE SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second and third readings **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AUDITOR AND THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR NEW SOFTWARE AND SOFTWARE SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be Resolution #5, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Henry Sasyn 1307Greenmont Hills Drive, Vienna, WV addressed council about making a contribution to the Parkersburg YMCA Pool Liner Replacement Fund. He would like for the surrounding councils to donate \$6,000 toward the replacement of the liner.

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee the Parkersburg YMCA Pool Liner Replacement Contribution.

Amy Marian came to address council about an issue her friend was having with Code Enforcement after living in her residence for over 14 years. She asked for direction as to how to deal with the issue. She was asked if she had contacted the Safety-Service Director regarding the issue. Ms. Marian stated that she had not. She was told to contact the Safety-Service Director and if she didn't get any action that she could come back to council and address her problem.

Mr. Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked if it would help to put Software Bids in surrounding areas or in large cities such as Columbus, Cleveland, etc. Mr. Webster informed Mr. Locke that he was checking with 25 different entities. After his research is complete, he will get back with Mrs. Hoblitzell with his findings.

Mayor Lorentz informed council that today he was touring the old shopping center which reminded him that on Monday, March 14th at 12:15 PM there would be an

official ribbon cutting for Family Tree Dental. It would be nice to see some new faces at the ribbon cutting.

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 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