

June 13, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the June 13, 2022 meeting to order at 7:30 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 Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the June 13, 2022 meeting was Treasurer Mrs. Cassady.

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.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded council and the administration that if you have a report, please see that the clerk gets a copy of your report.

Mr. Martin also reminded everyone in the audience that is speaking before council to stand, state your name and address for the council clerk to hear and what you are addressing. Also please turn off all cellphones.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of May 23, 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 since our last meeting I attended a meeting to discuss the implications of the injection wells that are slated for our area. It is my opinion only that if we can deter this activity in and about the Arrowhead area we should do so. If our aquifers are contaminated none of us will live long enough to see them safe to use again. I plan to have legislation drawn up to reject these wells.

Due to a long court, I missed the Jobs Ohio, (Vibrant Community) meeting in Marietta. Ms. Waller at the Chamber took good notes for me so I will pass anything along that may be of interest.

The Safety-Director and I attended the Regional Round Table in Lebanon, Ohio on June 8th. It is amazing how much money and the number of grants being discussed. We are working diligently to obtain our share.

Representative Edwards has placed Belpre in the State budget bill for improvements to our park system. Thank you, Jay, for your help.

June 9th, I met with all the interested parties to meet and greet the candidates for Buckeye Hills Executive Director. Misty Crosby is retiring.

The Belpre Alumni has scheduled the Annual Ice Cream Social for July 9th from 11 am to 3 pm in Howes Grove Park.

I was invited to attend the neighborhood meeting at Pioneer Rentals to discuss needed repairs and improvements.

The advertising for civil service runs out Wednesday. So far, we have one applicant.

Mr. Millhone asked how you apply for the Civil Service Exam. He was told to go to the Civil Service Website to apply. Per Mrs. Hoblitzell they are not applying for the Civil Service Test. They are applying for an interview to move on.

Mr. Locke 726 Tuttle Street addressed the trailer park on Barclay Street. Mayor Lorentz stated that there are some issues down there that we have to resolve such as road ways, unkept properties, etc. Connie and I had a discussion with the Mobile Home Commission regarding the issue.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that this year we have two employees for the Summer Youth Program that are currently working in the street/water department.

Mrs. Hoblitzell also announced that Farson Street will be closed Wednesday after 4pm until Thursday evening or Friday morning.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the state Auditors Julian and Grube were on site June 6, 7, and ½ day June 8. Once the audit is completed, they will schedule a virtual meeting to go over their findings.

The January thru April 2022 bank reconciliations have been approved and signed off on by President of Council Larry Martin.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that he would be attending a joint meeting with the County Commissioners, Mayor, Safety Director, sewer folks from both the city and the county and myself to discuss an agreement regarding the sewer system.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady was absent. Mrs. Nolan reported that there was no Treasurer's Report this evening.

Communication and Petitions – none

Reports of Standing Committee –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer reported that he continues to follow up with the issue of parking on grass on Murray Street. Connie and I are working together to put an ordinance in place. The light on Washington Boulevard and Maple Street has been turned back on. Hours of operation are from 7am to 7pm. This made some happy while others not so happy.

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee reported that he received a letter from Patricia Masters, 1421 Boulevard Drive regarding her water bill and the \$6 charge that had been applied. She stated in her letter that it was her understanding that the new charges would only be on her main water bill for the home and not her sprinkler system. She also stated that the extra fees charged would go towards the construction of the New Water Storage Facility (\$4,00) located down by the hospital area, and for Capitol Improvements for the Water Supply System (\$2.00) totaling \$6.00 a month. My next steps taken are to understand why this charge was on this bill.

She called the water department to get an explanation

- Was told they were instructed to put this charge on all bills.
- Asked who else could I talk to about this matter and was told to contact Tom Weber. (Webster)
- Did not get his phone number, so went to the internet to look up his phone number

- Called Mr. Weber's (Webster's) office, talked to his secretary concerning this matter
- She took the message, my phone number, and said he was not in but would call me back. Never heard from him.
- Talked to my brother-in-law Tim Gant who gave me Mr. Millhone's telephone number because he was over the utilities of Belpre.
- Called Mr. Millhone who suggested I attend the next council meeting to bring it to the attention of the members or write a letter to him. I'm not into speaking in front of people, so I'm writing this letter.
- He said he would read it to City Council at the next meeting to get the concern recorded.

Also, I paid \$20 to have the sprinkler system meter turned on the morning of May 18, 2022. They turned on the water that same afternoon which was a very good turn around. The bill was zero usage but was billed for a full month \$11.01 from 5/18-5/23/2022. Do you not prorate the monthly charges? Just looking for answers.

Would you please give the community and myself a detail description of the new charges and exactly how our funds are going to be spent?

Others in the area are interested in this charge on their water bill for their sprinkler system. We are paying twice a month for the same thing.

Thank you in advance for listening to our concern.

Regards,

Patricia Masters

740-315-5113.

Mr. Millhone stated that a copy of the letter has been given to the clerk and is on file in council chambers.

Mr. Martin told Mr. Millhone that he needed to give a copy to the Safety Director and the Mayor. A copy was also given to the President of Council.

Mr. Wallace asked if the \$6 was per household?

Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she did not make the rules nor did she ask for the money. City Council did this so if there is anything that needs explained someone from the last council will need to do so. I wasn't included in the meetings.

Mr. Webster stated that this was Mrs. Drake's committee. The amount of the \$6 was calculated based on all the meters in the City of Belpre. The watering meters would also be meters and each of the meters in the City of Belpre have been charged the \$6 whether it is a specialty meter or a regular water meter. The additional \$6 charge on the water was created to maintain repairs as well as for the new water tank.

Mr. Millhone stated that he would call Ms. Masters back.

Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee reported that the nets were up at the Volleyball Court. We are still needing it tilled and sand added. Mr. McClead stated that it wouldn't take much to do it.

Mrs. Hoblitzell asked Mr. McClead about RC Racing. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that we need to continue working on this. According to Mr. Webster he is working on it.

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

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee had no report.

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: ((President of City Council will recognize that there is or is not any Unfinished Business this evening)).

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2023**. No discussion. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #13, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS**. Discussion followed as to why the additional charge for the paving. Mr. Ferguson gave the breakdown as to what the appropriations are for. They are as follows: Impound Lot - \$24,400, Street Department - \$24,250 and Water and Sewer \$37,851.00. Also discussed was the additional \$24,000 for the paving project. Mr. Webster called for a point of order. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mr. Null who voted nay. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Amy Marian 2717 Underwood Drive and Wendy Barber 109 Clement Avenue came back to council regarding property at 111 Clement Avenue. The property is unkept, trees overtaking the property and her house, etc. When they appeared at a previous meeting, they were told to speak to the Safety Director which they tried to contact by email. However, they had the incorrect email address. Hearing nothing, they returned to council on the subject. They were informed by the Safety Director that Mr. Leonard Wiggins had sent out letters and that it was in the hands of the City Prosecutor Mr. Andrew Webster. Mr. Webster asked for their telephone number to be given to him after the meeting and he would check about it and get back with them.

Steve McDougle 125 ½ Walnut Street addressed council on the condition of Hamilton Court. Hamilton Court runs between Walnut Street and Elm Street for those of you who don't know the location. A sign was put up prohibiting heavy trucks. It was abruptly taken down late in the evening. He stated that it was in the worse condition that he has seen in 5 years. He stated that there was pending legislation however nothing has been done. I would like to know the status of the situation. The Safety-Director asked Steve to call her tomorrow.

Light Murray 515 Fourth Street, Marietta addressed council on behalf of the Humane Society of the Ohio Valley. Due to the financial impact and being a non-profit they were unable to apply for relief. They are asking the County Commissioners, the City of Marietta and the City of Belpre if they could offer some type of relief. They had raised \$75,000 at the Furball but was unable to do the other fund raiser. A total of \$48,000 has been lost in fund raising.

Council President referred him to Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee

Michael Wright 508 Ridge Street addressed the historic landmark at the Belpre Historical Society and the graffiti in the City of Belpre and on the 5th Street Bridge. There is a lot of trash on the road ways that need attention. Mrs. Hoblitzell asked that Mr. Wright call her tomorrow.

Mr. Ferguson asked for a point of clarification. It was determined that it was the free bridge that Mr. Wright was referencing.

Judy Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane addressed the sandstone at the museum. There was a news letter that went out last week stating that they are going to have the marker repaired and place back where it was. Mrs. Webster sent out an email stating that was what would be done.

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street spoke on behalf of the water bill and the \$6 charge to the water bill. He stated that \$4 would go toward building the water tank and \$2 would be for the infrastructure. This will benefit all the citizens of Belpre.

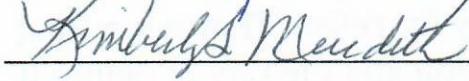
Judy Drake stated that our water rates are so low we can't apply for assistance therefore we had to add an additional charge.

ADJOURN:

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



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith