

July 11, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 11, 2022 meeting to order at 7:32 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, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the July 11, 2022 meeting was Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ruth 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.

Since the clerk has been on vacation there is no minutes to approve this evening. Minutes for the June 27th and July 11, 2022 meeting will be available at the July 25th, 2022 meeting.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported that on June 29th the Safety-Service Director, Mr. Webster and I met with the Commissioners to discuss the contract between Belpre and the county. I felt it was a productive meeting but, we have a way to go for agreement.

The Commissioners are suggesting a county wide 911 system for Washington County. We cannot find a reason that this will be a benefit to Belpre. As this discussion progresses, I will communicate to all. Today Ms. Dennis and I met again with Commissioner Schilling to discuss future plans. I will let her explain where we are at this point.

Hopefully you received an invitation for dinner with the Mayor's Association. Council members and their spouses are both invited. The date is Wednesday July 27th, 2022.

The Safety-Service Director, Denzil Ray and I met with people on the Joe Skinner Road area to discuss a tie-in to our city sewer system. As this discussion continues, we will keep you informed of progress.

Last word on the new Mexican Restaurant is that it will open August 1st, 2022.

The water line on Farson should be winding up soon. The sewer line on the west end has just begun and hopefully will complete so to not interfere with the Boulevard re-pave project. Be prepared for traffic delays in this area. Braun to Poplar, Poplar to Putnam Howe and Putnam Howe to Belrock will be the first paving job so to give the sewer line project more time to complete. We also held a zoom meeting with EPA Planners today in discussion on our water tank project. They should be here for a site visit in the next two weeks.

The Mayor's Partnership sent me a list of possibilities that we could use our Appalachian Community Grant Money. As we studied the options both the Safety-Service Director and I decided to have council voice their opinion. Ms. Hoblitzell may also place this on Facebook for community interest.

The Chamber of Commerce our Safety-Service Director and I met with a group from one of the large river cruise line representatives today. Hopefully we can entice them to make Belpre one of their stops on the Ohio River. Everything so far is a go for September 8th from 8am until 5pm. The American Countess will be docked at the Shrine Building. More info to follow as we get all the permissions.

A few months ago, we were looking at blighted properties within the city. Today the County Commissioners contacted me along with Ms. Dennis and three of those properties will be removed. There are 2 on Walnut Street and 1 on Washington Boulevard.

Mr. President, I believe it is time to discuss and possibly draft legislation to require all future utility hook up requests from outside our city limits agree to annexing inside our limits.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell was absent. No report was given in her absence other than what the mayor already reported.

Mr. Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked the mayor about something that he reported about a month ago in regards to Pioneer Leasing and the trailer parks. Mayor Lorentz informed Mr. Locke about a dozen folks met with Southeastern Ohio Labor Services and these folks were sent to help with these issues. There has been very little progress. Last Sunday in Church a lady came to me and said she has been overrun with cats. I told her I was leaving town but I would stop on my way out to take a peek. I pulled in and the cats were everywhere. We are being overrun in this town with cats and dogs. We get calls everyday about cats and dogs on the loose. There is an ordinance in the books about cats and dogs, that they have to be leashed. We are losing control. Mr. Locke stated that he talked to a lady the other evening after the pool closed and he thought she was feeding the animals. She said she was not.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that within the last two weeks we have had three conference calls with Software Solutions providing data that they are requiring in order to start building the software. Today we received three training cameras to begin. We are on our way.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that as the mayor reported we have met with the commissioners and have an agenda to prepare a rough contract in which it will be considered by both sides. It won't be ready to come back to council for a little while. It involves the capacity of our system, new users, maintenance, general upkeep as well as testing the calibrations of the meters at the site and how we are going to handle the increases and rates.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report.

Communication and Petitions -

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Millhone's Utility Committee drafting legislation for future utility hook up from outside our city limits and agreeing to annexing inside our limits.

Reports of Standing Committee -

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met at 7pm with all council present. Discussed was Discovery World for a

\$5,000 donation. A lot of good questions. We have invited Wendy to come to the July 25th, 2022 meeting at 7 pm to help answer any questions.

Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Ferguson's committee A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO RECEIVE FUNDS UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PURSUANT TO OHIO HOUSE BILL 169.

Mr. Ferguson informed council that he would like to add this to his July 25th, 2022 7pm meeting.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee stated that she had a few things. First, she asked that the Pay Raises for the Police Department be removed from her committee assignment until after negotiations.

The mayor and I met this morning with the Commissioner for the 911 System. We had a question-and-answer session. As the mayor stated we are not going to be a part of that now. They did ask me to be on the committee in order to keep those lines open so we can still work together.

The police department asked me to announce that on Saturday August 13, 2022 is Firearms Safety Day. They would like to invite our area youth to the Third Annual Firearms Safety Day located at 252 Downey Road, Washington, WV.

The event is for are youth from 10-18 both male and females are welcome.

Those under the age of 18 will have to have a parent accompany them and sign a liability release waiver the day of the event.

Range time for ages 10-12 is 9am-10:30am

Range time for ages 13-15 is 10:30am-12pm

Range time for ages 15-18 is 12pm-1:30pm

Additional shooting for those who want to stay from 1:30-2pm.

Mr. Wallace is also involved with this and can answer any questions you may have.

I am also on the Board for the Belpre Homecoming. Sign-ups for the pageant has been extended. Please spread the word. We are giving a scholarship this year.

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

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee called a Utilities Committee meeting for August 8th at 7pm for the purpose of discussing water and sewer tie ins.

Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee had no report

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee announced that he received a call today from Mr. Wiggins requesting a zoning change from R1 to C2 for a Pharmacy on Farson. There are actually 3 parcels in that. Mr. Webster asked if notices have gone out to land owners in the area. Mr. Wallace stated that he doesn't know for sure however he doesn't think so.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee had no report.

Mr. Martin asked Mr. Null the Safety-Service Director Residency could be removed from his committee. Mr. Null stated that as far as the residency goes it could be removed however we may revisit residencies at a later time.

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)). None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked as an employee of Belpre City do you have to live in the city to be employed by the city. She was informed that

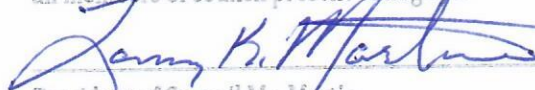
you do not. Mrs. Drake stated that the only ones that have to live within the city is the mayor and the law director as well as the elected city officials.

Mrs. Locke also asked in the absence of the Safety-Service Director who do we talk to if there is an issue. She was informed to talk to the mayor. Mrs. Locke's concern was the swings at Depot Park and Civitan Park having water under the swings. She asked if some mulch or that rubber mulch could be placed under the swings to help with the problem. Mrs. Locke stated the water was green.

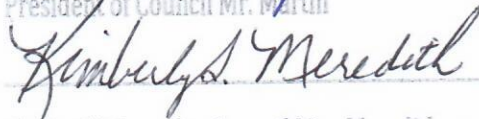
Mr. Null stated that there has been some discussion on residency that may need to be revisited.

ADJOURN:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith