

October 24, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the October 24th, 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 were Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster and Treasurer Mrs. Cassady. Absent from the October 24th, 2022 meeting was Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

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 asked that everyone turn off cellphones so they don't interfere with the recording. Mr. Martin also reminded everyone in the audience that if you are speaking before council to stand, state your name and address clearly for the council clerk to hear and what you are addressing.

He also reminded council and the administration that if you have a report, please see that the clerk gets a copy of your report.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of October 10th, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. Discussion followed around the minutes by Jackie Cassady. There was a comment in the minutes that was a question and not a statement. Due to the noise in the council room, it makes it hard for the clerk to correctly hear all that is said. Mrs. Cassady stated that she is in hopes that the city purchases a new recording system to help with the issue. No amendment was made. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported on October 17th we met with Sunday Creek Horizons to discuss opportunities for our city. So far, this group has been very successful in finding and acquiring funds for infrastructure needs and other projects for their clients.

The evening of the 17th I attended Councilman Nulls cat meeting. After listening it seems our problem is worse than I had observed. Since then, I have been in contact with the owner of Boxers, and they have offered to assist wherever needed.

October 20th The Mayor's Partnership discussed the Appalachian Community Grant Program. On your desk are copies of the material provided. As of now it is still very unclear as to how this is best handled. Even our speakers on the subject were

somewhat guessing what was best. On your desk are the handouts I received that day.

October 20th was the Chamber Annual Dinner at Grand Pointe. This was the largest and best dinner to date. If you don't know and appreciate the efforts of Karen Waller as the Executive Director, you really are not paying much attention. Mrs. Waller does a wonderful job.

Tomorrow I am travelling to Belmont County with the Commissioners to view the county wide 911 dispatch center. Even if we do not join the county 911 operation they are discussing, the mayor will still sit on this board.

I have been approached by the Commissioners asking us to donate \$5,000 toward the purchase of a bottle fill truck for the county. Belpre has their own, but they feel it a good will gesture for us to assist. The breakdown in Marietta \$5,000, Belpre \$5,000, and the commissioners \$7,000. Tonight, I am asking council opinion.

Don't forget Trick or Treat is October 31st 6pm until 7:30 pm.

The Lion's Club has asked me to schedule the Holiday Lights Parade for November 26th. This will start at 6pm at the high school.

Drug take Back Day is next Saturday at the Sr. Center from 9am until 1pm.

Last note: The Civil Service Commission informed us today we now have three candidates for patrolman. The names have been turned in and they will be scheduled for testing.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that The Emergency Response Plan for Belpre's Public Water District is complete. This was a requirement from the EPA.

Family Crisis Center has put purple bows around the city. Each bow has a different message, and it symbolizes domestic violence awareness.

Just an update on the water tank design, it should be complete by January, 2023.

The auditor and I have been working on the 2023 budget. We have completed the general fund portion and the rest should be complete within a week or so.

The police chief has ordered the server, the desks and the computer and installation will start this Wednesday.

Paul Jordan is bringing the contract for the heavy rescue tomorrow for our signature.

A citizen called me about whether a plumbing permit was required for a residence. They were told the city was supposed to require a permit and that I was not enforcing it. To clarify, the city is not allowed, by law, to issue permits for 3-family dwellings or less. We cannot enforce plumbing permits under the Ohio Plumbing Code nor building permits under the Residential Building Code of Ohio. For the city to enforce these codes, we would have to become a certified residential building department

under the Ohio Department of Commerce, Industrial Compliance Division. This would take an ordinance by city council. We are, however, a certified building department for commercial building and plumbing permitting. The definition of commercial is anything but 3-family dwellings or less. We have contracted with the Washington County Building Department for these services since approximately 1988. There are ordinances in our Codified Ordinances for plumbing but needed resented.

Mr. Webster stated that he has been researching to see if our original ordinance can be grandfathered in. If so, it will not need to be resent.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the Safety-Service Director and I have been preparing the 2023 Temporary Budget with the balances for the first three quarters from 2022. We have started the payroll portion training of our Software Solutions. A copy of the Utility Adjustment Report is on the back table and needs approval by council. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the adjustment report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council presenting voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that he talked with Mr. Null after the committee meeting with the cat folks. I have talked to the City of Williamstown in regards to what their agreement was with Save a Kitty Feral Cat Team contract or their agreement. Their legislation made a \$5,000 donation match from other grant funds. They have estimated that they are going to provide services for 50 cats, roughly \$55.00 a cat and they actually did 33. I talked to Candy Habab who is with Save a Kitty Group and was told there is already two scheduled clinics that are on the calendar for next year. They have not specifically been scheduled. They have been doing clinics in May and September. Their goal is to schedule a third clinic with the City of Belpre. She has talked to Boxers about holding a clinic at their location. At this time, it is a possibility but so specific date set. I ask her how quickly we had to make a decision and she said that the dates for next year will not be set until January. We do have sometime to create the legislation. We will have to decide how we are going to approach this from a legislative standpoint. She did say that the third clinic for Belpre would not be until the 2023 date. A question that she asked me was are the services in Belpre only going to be for Citizens of Belpre or will it include the township. Once we have all questions answered I will proceed with the legislation.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that a copy of the Treasurer's Report for September is before you tonight with copies on the back table. The report will need council approval. Discussion followed. Mr. Wallace asked about the expenses in Fund 482. City Auditor Mrs. Nolan stated that it is for the force main project. He also asked about Fund 602 expenditures and Fund 603. Mrs. Nolan stated that she would have to pull that from budgetary. Mr. Wallace asked her to email this information to him. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Ferguson's Finance/Audit Committee **A RESOLUTION**

SUPPLEMENTING 2022 APPROPRIATIONS.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting to begin discussing the 2023 Budget. Mr. Ferguson called for a committee meeting on November 1st at 6:30pm to further the discussion.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis recognized Citizens of Belpre for their accomplishments to our city.

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. McClead asked Mrs. Hoblitzell when the rest of the tree was going to be cut out of the park. She will check with Chris about this and will let Mr. McClead know.

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 met on October 17th, 2022 at 7pm at the Belpre Senior Center. Mr. Null reported that on July 25th, 2022 cat problems in the City of Belpre was assigned to the Rules Committee. The initial issue was the cruel abandonment of 12 pet cats and kittens by a Belpre resident at 613 Elm Street. These cats were left on the doorstep and soon became a nuisance to the neighbors.

With the help of the Save a Kitty Feral Cat Team, 10 of these abandoned cats have been trapped, neutered and found homes for.

In Belpre we have 3 categories of cats, house cats, free roaming cats and feral cats. Folks who own cats and allow them to roam can be a nuisance especially if they are not neutered! The large feral cat population is in part from these roaming cats. Feral cats are wild without owners and can be aggressive and can spread diseases like rabies.

In Belpre we are over run with outside cats and it is estimated we have well over 200 feral and roaming cats of which few are neutered. By spring there could be 100 more kittens added to the huge cat colonies.

Since 2007 Save a Kitty Feral Cat Program, Inc has trapped, neutered and returned 80% of the problem cats on Blennerhassett Avenue and Civitan Park.

On April 6th, 2021 the Williamstown City Council and Mayor voted unanimously to support the Save a Kitty Foundation with a donation in the amount of \$5,000. Great progress is being made in Williamstown.

Enclosing it is the unanimous decision of the Rules Committee to bring forth legislation to authorize the mayor to support the Save a Kitty Foundation with a donation in the amount of \$10,000.

Norman Allen PO Box 745 Belpre Ohio discussed the cat problem in Belpre.

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 second reading **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Null brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Null moved this be **Ordinance #6, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Tim Gant 1426 Boulevard Drive Belpre appeared before council with discussion relating to his opposition to the school levy and the cost after county auditor's reassessment.

Jeff Greenly Superintendent of Belpre City Schools appeared with discussion related to the school levy and making himself available to answer questions. He stated that

the current amount was 42.6 million was our levy and the state share was 22.3 million. The increase is related to material cost.

Norman Allen PO Box 745 Belpre appeared before council in regards to thefts occurring on Barclay Street and the drug deals that are being ignored when the police are called.

Miriam Allen 1429 Poplar Street Belpre addressed questions related to her driveway issues. Discussion on topic by Mayor, City Law Director and Ms. Allen. No resolution was made at this time. The Law Director stated that this issue is not the cities responsibility.

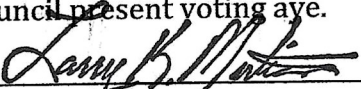
Mr. Millhone stated that he had several calls on the old water tank wall on Putnam Howe Drive and the way it has been recently painted. The painter's work was approved by Mayor Lorentz and was told this by two different painters.

Mr. Millhone stated that city funds should not be used to paint over the wall which includes paint, labor and trucks. It is my understanding that Chris from the street department will be there tomorrow to repaint the wall.

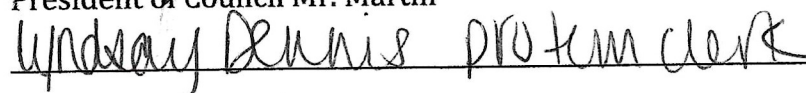
Mr. Webster reported back to Mr. Millhone regarding a question about sewer gas deaths. Mr. Webster stated that the insurance company will pay for any sewer gas deaths from non-inspection of residential dwellings.

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Protem Mrs. Dennis