

April 24, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the April 24, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:31 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Ms. Abdella and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the April 24th, 2023 meeting was Mrs. Hoblitzell.

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 asked that everyone turn off cellphones or turn them to vibrate so they don't interfere with the recording.

If you address council this evening, please state your name and address clearly so that the clerk can record it for the minutes.

At this time, Mayor Lorentz asked Greg Price to come forward for the swearing in of the position of assistant fire chief. Bill Matheny and David Starcher were sworn in as Captains of the Belpre Volunteer Fire Department. Mason Matheny, Matthew Lamp and Daniel Price were sworn in as lieutenants of the department.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 3rd, 2023 Special Meeting as presented. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of April 3rd Special Meeting as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 5th, 2023 Special Meeting as presented. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of April 5th, 2023 Special Meeting as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 10th, 2023 as presented. Ms. Abdella made a motion to accept the minutes of April 10th, 2023 regular meeting as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz announced that IDATP is still working on our server, phone lines and wiring throughout the building.

On April 12th we received a 911 call about one of our residents falling and breaking a hip. Our Police Chief, Officer Smith and Leonard Wiggins responded due to a long wait for the ambulance. Upon arriving they found out that the gentlemen running the trash routes from Rumpke made the call. They waited with our folks and assisted with making her comfortable by using their spill kit for cushioning. Should you see Adam McKnight or Chad Eisnaugle on their route please thank them. This is just a reminder to all that good people are everywhere, we just need to sometimes stop and take note.

The Safety Service Director and I met with the MOVTA, WWW and Burgess and Niple to discuss the bus line possibility in our city. As of now we have planned a town hall meeting for the public's input. This is scheduled for May 4th at 7-PM in the council chambers.

On April 20th we attended the Muskingum Valley Chamber awards ceremony in Beverly. Our recipient this year for outstanding employee and emergency responder is Donny Myers. Donny is our most senior Dispatcher and very efficient in his role. For the most part Donny is involved in all training within the department.

Hopefully some of you attended the Business Expo today at Boxers. Karen and the Chamber folks did a very good job getting this together.

On Thursday the Tree Commission will travel to Cambridge to accept our tree City Award. Belpre has been a Tree City for over 30 years now.

Friday April 28th at 10-am we will celebrate Arbor Day with the help of the Elementary School students. We will plant a tree with their help and then explain the importance of trees in our city.

Council, as of May 31st I will have an opening on the Health Board representing Belpre. Desiree Kerns, term ends but, she is willing to stay on for another year. I will need a voice vote to make this happen.

On Sunday morning I received a call from our State Rep Jay Edwards. Jay is trying to get us in the budget for this session. He asked if we had a need for anything downtown in the way of improvements. The parameters quoted were narrow so off the cuff I stated we needed technology upgrades throughout our departments. As I hear more, I'll keep you notified.

This morning I had the pleasure of interviewing some very impressive High School Seniors. Hopefully the scholarships awarded will give them the boost needed. Quite a few voiced their desire to return to Belpre to start their new careers.

Tonight, we have Barb Bradley with us from the Health Board. Barb is currently the Administrator as well as helping where needed as the Sanitarian. Barb has a report for you.

Barb Bradley, BD, REHS, Administrator came before council this evening to give a Quarterly Update for Belpre Council.

The Marietta/Belpre Board of Health is pleased to provide you with this update on Health Department services provided to Belpre residents and businesses during the first quarter of 2023.

She spoke on Environmental Health Services, Public Health Nursing Services and Infectious Diseases that were reported for Belpre and Marietta Residents.

Barb stated that their top priority is customer service. She addressed incidents that have happened in our city food truck with no water that had to be shut down, removal of children on Florence Street from a home, humane society removing animals from homes. Some barriers we are facing is lack of communication between Belpre City and the Health Department. I have examples that I can discuss with you after the meeting. Another topic is complaint calls. Mobile Home Parks is another topic that keeps coming up. The Health Department has a contract with the Department of Commerce. Barclay area has the most complaints. Those complaints are forwarded to the Department of Commerce. I would like to see better communication.

She also stated that if there is anything not on the report that you think should be please let me know so that she can gather the information. Discussion followed on septic tanks in the Frame area of Belpre. Barb informed Mr. Null that this was inspected approximately every 5 years ago.

Jesse Wynecott 805 Main Street wanted to know if there is anything we can do to help get the State to move on the inspections. Barb informed Jesse that you could send her a letter that she can forward on.

Ms. Abdella made a motion for a voice vote to appoint Desiree Kerns to remain on for another year. Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzel was absent. No report was given in her absence.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the Safety Service Director and I compiled and completed the ARPA reporting on Tuesday April 18 which is due April 30.

The state Auditors began their work this morning for the 2022 Audit. They will be working on site this week and next. There is a new State Requirement, each of you were

given a Fraud Questionnaire, the State Auditors request these be completed and returned as soon as possible. Any questions please contact me by email or call. If you want to take home, you can scan and email directly to Lisa Weisend.

The Tax Budget for 2024 will be completed for the Finance Committee's review May 8th meeting. Request for Legislation for the 2024 budget will be requested.

January, February, March bank reconciliations were given to Mr. President for review and signature. President of Council Mr. Martin has reviewed and signed.

The March Utility Report copies are on the back table and needs Councils approval.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the March Utility Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that everyone should have received a couple of rough drafts. One is an agreement in regard to feral cat program. Mr. Null and I met with folks from Save the Kitty. Please note this is just a proposal because they have to go back to their board that meets May 6th, 2023 to make a decision. The other draft is a lease agreement for vehicles at fire station I and II. This is in regards to the EMS System. This is just a rough document. Any comments or observations can be referred to me or Mrs. Dennis. We will try to get them into the agreement.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that the March 2023 Treasurers Report is before you tonight with copies at the back table. I would like to have council's approval on the report. Ms. Abdella made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions: none

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson reported that Finance/Audit Committee met prior to this evening's meeting to discuss a request of \$100,000 of ARPA monies, and to turn in \$64,000 for a cruiser for the police department to be turned in infrastructure. I would like to thank Greg for being here to discuss networking and infrastructure. We will meet sometime this week with Greg to further discuss. The item for the vehicle for the fire chief didn't take place this evening due to time. I would like to apologize to the fire chief for that and will be calling another committee meeting to discuss that.

Mr. Ferguson called a committee meeting for May 8, 2023 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the fire chief's vehicle and the police department software/infrastructure.

Mr. Ferguson asked when the first quarter numbers would be finalized? Mr. Ferguson stated that this is the numbers for the expenditures for the first quarter. Mr. Ferguson

asked if they had been finalized? According to City Auditor Mrs. Nolan they have been finalized. Mr. Ferguson asked about getting a copy of them and asked to forward to all members of council.

The expense side is what I'm interested in as well as the revenue side.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee stated that other than the lease agreement that has been passed around by the law director I have no further report.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that her committee met prior to this evening's meeting to discuss potential railroad safety legislation that I printed from the safety-service director and gave everyone a copy to review. Ms. Abdella asked Mr. Webster if he has reviewed the legislation and if not, would he do so. We also discussed street signs that are being put up relating to no truck traffic on specific city streets that are not meant for use by semis and large trucks. We discussed Lee Street and Putnam Howe Drive and the usage of large trucks on those streets are appropriate or if they need infrastructure repair.

The Senior Center is having a pie in the face contest. I made my \$20 contribution to have the mayor get the pie in the face and I challenge all of you to join me. The pie in the face is either the mayor or Chief Stump.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee had no report. Mr. Millhone stated that he has Mike Chambers here with us this evening to discuss the Service Line Warranty Program. This is a Savings Solutions for Aging Infrastructure. This aging infrastructure is problematic for cities and homeowners. He spoke regarding the benefits of this program and what all it covers. He also discussed solutions for municipalities and their homeowners. Revenue share and other benefits to the city are non-tax revenue and can be estimated at \$.50 per product, per month. Cities utilize funds for important initiatives including: Infrastructure improvements, Low-income assistance/community charities and partially offset rate increases. This program saves money for residents that can be re-invested in local economy. Reduces calls to the city and timely repairs reduce water loss from line breaks. For information on the topic please contact Mike Chambers, mike.chambers@homeserveusa.com, or by phone at 724-678-6075.

Mr. McClelland 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 congratulated the fire department for their promotions. Always good to have a good volunteer fire service. Mr. Null also thanked Barb for coming to give a report on the health department. I would like to thank Tom for the

very productive meeting we had regarding Save the Kitty. It will be after May 6th before we do anything. The committee already approved to reimburse Save the Kitty up to \$10,000 over a year period. It will be probably the last meeting in May before we do anything with it.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only ((President of items.))

President of Council Mr. Martin asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to address council on the agenda items only. The two items this evening is **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023** and **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SALT CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT).**

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street addressed council in regards to the Safety-Service Directors salary and also the City Prosecutors salary. At the last meeting they said the salaries for the Safety-Service Director and the City Prosecutors salary would actually be listed on the Manpower Ordinance.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there has been a request by the chair to table the legislation until the next meeting and until he gets the information requested. Mr. Ferguson was able to give Mrs. Wonycott the salaries of the mayor, senior citizen contract, law director, and I do have the Safety-Service Director. Mr. Ferguson stated that the law director and city prosecutors' salary are all one amount.

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

Mr. Ferguson stated that he would like to table **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023** until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SALT CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT).** Discussion regarding our surplus salt in our bins from last year. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson stated that letter G of the legislation it stated that the Safety-Service Director acknowledges that should we wish to rescind this participation agreement we will need to do so by written emailed request no later than Friday, April 30th by

5:00 p.m. Mr. Ferguson brought this to the mayor's attention since the Safety-Service Director was out of the office.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SALT CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT)**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second and third readings **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SALT CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT)**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution 27, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Lois Radcliff 220 O'Neill Street addressed council regarding the third reading of **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(B) 1, 2, AND 3**. inoperable vehicles. Mrs. Radcliff said that Mr. Webster stated that commercial properties were never added to this ordinance and that it was residential only. The very next day it was written up and signed by the mayor, clerk of council, and president of council stating residential or commercial was not allowed. Mrs. Radcliff asked if they had been lied to. It should have been read before signing into law that the ordinance was correct. Mrs. Radcliff had copies of the minutes from October 25, 2021.

Also appearing on the topic were the following:

Jeremy Radcliff 216 O'Neill Street, Belpre, Ohio

Carl LaFatch, Belpre, Ohio asked if it was a mistake, would it be corrected? He was informed by President of Council Mr. Martin that it should be.

Linda Copeland, 1400 Washington Boulevard, Belpre received a letter that came to her trust.

Jerry Radcliff 220 O'Neill Street, Belpre, Ohio

Penne Riffle, 763 Ann Street, Belpre, Ohio

Judy Drake, 713 Oak Tree Lane, Belpre, Ohio

Jackie Cassady ~~224 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio~~ 824 Belrock Ave., Belpre, Ohio

Steve Null, 4th Ward Councilman

Mario Coon 1111 Blennerhassett Avenue, Belpre, Ohio asked if we do find out this was a mistake what is the process for fixing it. Is this a new motion? It would be reassigned to committee chair for that committee and go back through the process of three readings.

President of Council Mr. Martin informed those appearing that they would take a look and see if a mistake had been made. If a mistake was made it would be addressed.

Mr. Null made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Null withdrew his motion.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion at 9:06 to go into Executive Session for the purpose of purchasing property. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there would be no further discussion conducted when council returned from Executive Session. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mr. Null who voted nay.

Council resumed from Executive Session at 9:50pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

ADJOURN:

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

President of Council Mr. Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith