

November 28, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the November 28th, 2022 meeting to order at 7:46 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and 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. Mayor Lorentz 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.

If you address council this evening, please state your name and address clearly so that the clerk can hear.

If council or the administration has a report, please be sure and get a copy of your report to the clerk.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 14, 2022. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of November 14th, 2022 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 reported that much of the past few weeks has been spent in negotiations with our two unions. Tonight, in executive session we can discuss the Police Contract being presented for approval. AFSCME negotiations are in the beginning stages.

The Commissioners are still interested in Belpre joining the county wide 9-1-1 venture. Commissioner Schilling met with me on Tuesday to discuss the Next Generation version of 9-1-1. He believes that there may be a good bit of funding toward the project. Our department and administration aren't as of yet sold.

The Commissioners are holding a strategic planning meeting at the Sr. Center on Wednesday at 4:30 pm. All are invited. If more than three (3) council members attend it must be advertised. Mayor Lorentz was informed by President of Council Mr. Martin that if its more than (2) attend it must be advertised. The third person that shows up would be in violation of the Sunshine Law. Mayor Lorentz asked the clerk of council to advertise the meeting.

Friday night we joined the woman's club for the city tree lighting and on Saturday enjoyed the Holiday Lights Parade. So many wonderful volunteers make this happen every year.

We met in Marietta today with Buckeye Hills to learn more about the Governor's Appalachian Community Grant Program. We are in the planning stage as of now.

Wednesday from 5-pm until 7-pm will be an open house at Belpre Elementary gymnasium for all to learn of the progress and timeline for the Memorial Bridge.

Thanks to Interim Chief Stump we were able to re-hire a former officer for our department. Our new recruit will still need to pass the Civil Service test but is already certified in Ohio and ready for the road. If I could have a moment, we can swear him in now.

Please remember I am asking for a quick executive session after regular business tonight to discuss union contracts.

At this time Mayor Lorentz along with Interim Chief Stump swore in our new recruit to the Police Department. Seth Cook is our new recruit. Mayor Lorentz also commented on what a great job Acting Chief Stump is doing.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that she attended the SOPEC meeting about the Electric Aggregation. She informed council that they are now doing Gas Aggregation.

Chief Stump talked about the thieves that were stealing. Chief Stump stated that the city got hit by a rash of vehicle entering's. We had computers, guns, jewelry, everything stolen out of people's vehicles that were left unlocked. Through the hard work from the department and the Washington County Sheriff's Department we put our heads together, got video's together, interviewed suspects and witnesses and were able to develop some leads which led to the arrest of (6) people to jail. We worked very hard as we are short-handed, we put in the hours. Officer Smith and Deputy Nichols worked a lot of these cases but everyone in the department put a lot of hard work into it. I would like to thank the Washington County Sheriff's Department as they helped us to uncover about 6-8 break-ins that they had at residents and also vehicles. They were quick to jump on board. We had our search warrants and was able to take them to jail.

Mrs. Hoblitzell also announced that we did receive the Lead Service line Grant in the amount of \$100,000.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan announced that the Safety Service Director and I have been preparing the 2023 Temporary Budget with the balances thru the first 3rd quarter of 2022.

The October Utility adjustment report is on the back table and needs Council approval.

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

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that a copy of the October Treasurer's Report is before you tonight and needs council approval. Copies are on the back table. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the October Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Ferguson for filling in for him at the last meeting. I appreciate that. I hope you don't have to fill in for me the rest of the night.

President of Council Mr. Martin announced that we will be going into Executive Session this evening for the purpose of discussing the police contract. I will entertain a motion at the end of the public forum.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met on November 21st at 6pm to discuss the 2023 Budget. Mrs. Nolan did an excellent job explaining water questions that council had concerning the budget. We also met this evening at 6:30 pm with Denzel and Eddy to discuss the water department. I would like to call a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for December 5th at 6PM to continue our discussion on the sewer department. I would like to have Eddy and Denzel present for the meeting.

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson chairman the police contract. He also stated that he would like the Chairman of Police and Fire Mrs. Dennis to also be involved.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading A **RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS**. The \$65,409.29 is for the Water Storage Facility and the \$32,653.99 for the Water Supply Systems Improvement which totaled \$98,063.26. The total of the Sewer Line Maintenance was \$100,000 making the grand total \$198,063.28. President of Council Mr. Martin informed Mr. Ferguson that this already appears on this evening's agenda. Mr. Ferguson withdrew his motion.

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

Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning had no report.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee had no report. Mr. Null stated that he is waiting on legislation for writing a grant for Save the Kitty problem.

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

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked if \$100,000 would be used to pay off the force main? He was informed that it would be used for that. He asked about the \$205,000 received from the Commissioners. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that we received \$200,000.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ((President of City Council will recognize that there is or is not any Unfinished Business this evening)). None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2022 APPROPRIATIONS**. Mr. Ferguson stated that \$100,000 of that was for sewer maintenance and the other was the \$65,409.29 for the Water Storage Facility and the \$32,653.99 for the Water Supply Systems Improvement. This is the \$4.00 and \$2.00 money for the tank and the water lines. Discussion followed. Mrs. Nolan stated that this was presented on October 10th, 2022. This is revenue being transferred to the water account. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Mr. Ferguson would like for this to lay over until the last council meeting of the year.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street stated that since we paid \$100,000 of the Washington County money, we should still have \$100,000 ARPA money left. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated we do but it was coming out of the sewer fund with the same ARPA restrictions. Mrs. Wonycott asked if the \$200,000 had the same ARPA restrictions and if the \$108,000 was encumbered. Mrs. Nolan stated that she doesn't feel it is encumbered however before she says for sure she wanted to check it and be able to present it at the next meeting. Mrs. Wonycott said we have \$200,000 to spend under ARPA restrictions and perhaps another \$108,000 under the ARPA restrictions. Mrs. Wonycott was informed that she was correct.

Mr. Null addressed the Community Clinic at Fruth Pharmacy sponsored by Athens County. At the last committee meeting we discussed paying \$75,000 to the Washington County Health Department. This clinic helps provide people who are under insured or who have no health insurance. This clinic is done by a grant.

Mayor Lorentz stated that this clinic does do a good job but it doesn't do inspections on restaurants, or food inspections at other events such as our homecoming or Apple Butter Stir Off etc. held within the City of Belpre. This can not be done without using the Washington County Health Department.

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street informed council that the Community Clinic at Fruth Pharmacy is from Ohio University. They are grant funded and they are mainly here for those without insurance. This clinic is also used for those not wanting to go to the hospital. They can take clients and bill.

Chief Mike Stump, Vincent, Ohio thanked Councilman Null and the Boy Scouts from Little Hocking for providing Thanksgiving Dinner to our officers. Councilman Null appreciated his comments and informed those present that they have been doing this for 28 years. This is the first time the administration has publicly thanked them.

Mr. Ferguson requested that in addition to the committee meeting already called for December 5th, 2022 regarding the sewer budget he would like to add the police contract as well.

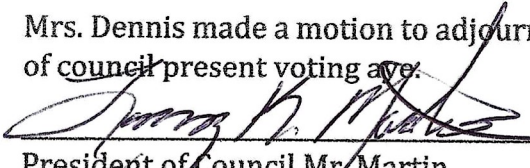
At this time, Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the police contract

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the police contract. Council President Mr. Martin stated that there would be no additional discussion once they returned. Mayor Lorentz asked Mrs. Dennis to add the Union Contract. Mrs. Dennis amended her motion to discuss the police contract and the Union Contract. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Time of Executive Session was 8:26pm.

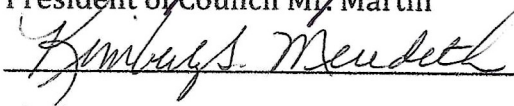
The Executive Session was adjourned at 9:02pm

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 9:04pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith