

April 10, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the April 10, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:47 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, 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 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.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 27, 2023 as presented. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of March 27, 2023 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 due to weather the Easter Parade was cancelled for the 1st of April. A new date of April 15th is now planned in Parkersburg.

The Chamber of Commerce is planning a Belpre Area Business Expo on April 24th from 4-pm until 6:30 pm. This will be held at Boxers Bed and Biscuits.

On Thursday I got the confirmation that Relay for Life is May 20th from 4-pm until 9-pm. Opening ceremony is at 6-pm.

On May 4th we are holding a Town Hall style meeting to discuss the possibility of the MOVTA running a route in Belpre. This will be in council chambers at 7-pm.

Interviews were conducted for Water Department and Street Garage. One person hired at water but still reviewing street. We were fortunate in hiring an experienced Dispatcher.

The tree commission will celebrate Arbor Day at the Elementary School by planting a tree on the grounds. We also will be attending the Tree City awards to receive our plaque for 26 years as a tree city U.S.A.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzel announced that she had a request from Tony Cronin to purchase a car for him. I am asking President of Council to assign this request to Dave Ferguson, Financial Committee Chairman.

The few weeks have been full of interviews for the vacancies in the water department and the street department. We have hired Jerry Klintworth for the water department and are still interviewing for the street department.

Kathy Davis finished our annual stormwater report, and it will be posted to the website this week.

Greg Brewster has been tasked with trying to fix our internal internet and hardware problems. Chief Stump and Greg Brewster are here to talk about their findings.

Chief Stump addressed council regarding the IT problem. While I was away for training our entire system crashed. Greg was here for over 24 hours trying to get our system back up and running. We had updated some things prior to him coming on the scene but once he started looking at everything, we realized that our infrastructure for the internet, computers and servers had not been updated since the building was built. As we are trying to fix problems, we are discovering other problems. As we start looking on the police department side the next generation of the 911 system which will be state mandated, we do not have all the requirements needed for the 911 operation. We have no back up right now for our reporting system and if it crashes, we will lose everything. Greg has identified a lot of vulnerabilities, the age of the hardware and the age of the wiring. It will not carry the speed of the internet. I would ask the President of Council to assign to Mr. Ferguson's committee and to reappropriate the money that you assigned for the cruiser for this year to be used for the infrastructure and I would like to ask council for \$100,000 of the ARPA Funds because we are at a critical juncture right now of losing all of our reports, all our open cases, all the information we need and everything we have on file. This also affects the city side that has not been updated either. I ask Greg to come and help me with a vision going forward as far as our infrastructure goes. We are looking for a comprehensive approach to tackling the needs we have for not only the internet, computers, servers, security, phones, etc. Greg spoke about the over all vision as to where the city needs to be. Wiring in the walls will not allow us to get any additional internet speed. I'm looking at a Centralized System for the city that is most cost effective.

I received a call from the Belpre Townships Trustees asking questions about the EMS services. I requested that they come to council and talk to the council members about their concerns. Mr. Curt Welch spoke before council regarding the strain that is being put on their volunteers upon squad runs. I don't know what your plans are but since this has happened, we have had about 80 runs which normally we have 25 per week. We are looking at a paid service and once that happens, we won't be able to do as a volunteer service.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan had no report

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that everyone should have a copy of the proposed EMS contract. Changes have been shown within the document.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report but thanked Mrs. Nolan for filling in for her in her absence.

Communication and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to the Finance/Audit Committee the request to reappropriate monies for the cruiser to the infrastructure and a request of \$100,000 from the ARPA funds. Also assigned was a vehicle for the fire chief.

Mr. Ferguson called a committee meeting for April 24 at 6:30pm to discuss the reappropriation monies for the cruiser to the infrastructure, \$100,000 from the ARPA funds and the request for a vehicle for the fire chief.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson had no report for the Finance/Audit Committee

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to remove from the table and back to council **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CITY OF BELPRE, EMS, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to add to the agenda **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CITY OF BELPRE, EMS, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee was absent at the last meeting and yielded her time to Mr. Ferguson who held a committee meeting in her absence on the salt contract. With the consensus of the committee, it was requested that we purchase 200 tons instead of 400 tons because we are unable to store that amount of salt. We agreed to have this be placed on the agenda however the legislation was not ready therefore it will be placed on the April 24th, 2023 agenda. Ms. Abdella requested that her committee meet on April 24, 2023 at 6:15pm to discuss railroad safety and weight limit on city streets.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee had no report. Mr. Millhone stated that he is still awaiting feedback on the back flow valves.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. McClead called a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for April 24, 2023 at 7:15pm for the purpose of discussing things needing done in our city parks.

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 April 10, 2023 at 7PM for an informational meeting regarding feral cats. At this time there has been no agreement with Save the Kitty.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only ((President of 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 **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023.** Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye, this will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CITY OF BELPRE, EMS, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** Discussion followed regarding changes to the exhibit.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CITY OF BELPRE, EMS, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CITY OF BELPRE, EMS, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CITY OF BELPRE, EMS, INC. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Resolution 26, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Dr. Brian Eaton 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue addressed council regarding the backflow pressure release valve. It doesn't seem right to me that this backflow valve wasn't put into code some 30 to 40 years ago and now they are asking that the property owners absorb the cost to have them brought up to code. This doesn't seem right to me. I would like to ask the law director if what you are asking is what you are wanting. Per Mr. Webster the answer is yes. Dr. Eaton asked if he would like to elaborate and he said no.

Curt Welch, Belpre Township asked for clarification on the EMS operations and the hours they would be working. So, if I understand correctly, you will start the first 60 days, 8 hours a day, paid service and the next 60 days, 12 hours a day. So, for those 120 days what are you going to do to cover the rest of the day. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that they put this into the contract in case they were not able to meet the 24 hours a day right off the bat. This is in the event that there are not enough people hired.

Chief Stump recognized all the dispatchers. This week is National 911 Telecommunicators Week. None of us can do our job in the police department without our dispatchers. I would like to encourage you all if you are in the city building this week to thank them for the amazing job they do.

Ms. Abdella reported that Barbara Bradley would be present at the next meeting to give a quarterly update on the health department. Also, just an FYI, there is only two ballots this time for the election. One is an issues ballot and the other one is a contested race and is a Republican ballot. This is an important election.

Ms. Abdella announced that myself and Bob Rauch is on a committee with the county doing a Strategic Plan. We were invited to do the tourism for the county. It is being broken down on all of the local areas. We want to hold a meeting about tourism in Belpre and the collaboration with the mayor on how tourism looks. We will probably have a public meeting in hopes that you all will attend and give us ideas as to how we can make our community better.

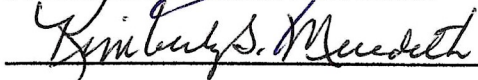
Mr. Ferguson asked for an update on the backflow program. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that you will have to get with Eddy or Denzil on this. I would like to request that one of them be here at the next meeting to give us an update on the backflow pressure release valve. Discussion followed.

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