

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 28, 2021

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, June 28, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council Clerk, Mrs. Soper. Council persons present: MR. BAKER, MR. BRUGNONE, MS. DOWNING, MR. HILL, MS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WALDRUP.

The minutes of the June 14, 2021 City Council meeting were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Brugnone to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Baker and all were in favor.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker distributed copies of the new Hometown Hero banners that will be put up next spring. He thanked Mr. Baker, Mr. Lantz, and Mr. Scagnetti for all their help with this project. The banners are \$65.00 each. There will be approximately 32 on the overpasses and some also placed on Cherry Street. This project is still in the planning stage. After the banners are displayed for a year, the families who purchased them will receive them. If anyone is interested in purchasing a banner, contact him.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, distributed copies of his updated report as of May 31, 2021. There is a significant increase in revenues and expenses over last year during the pandemic. There is also over a four percent increase in municipal tax collections from where we were two years ago in May of 2019.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, stated that RITA previously mailed letters to citizens that didn't file their income taxes. They were able to collect over \$37,000.00. Out of the \$75,000.00 outstanding overdue taxes and penalties, it leaves a balance of \$36,857.00 to be collected. The City received a check in the amount of \$33,996.00.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that the City received a letter from the Sandusky County Planning Commission regarding the former Family Video property. It had been discovered that although the City had planned to zone the property B-2, the issue was never put before the Planning Commission. They have now approved the zoning of the property as B-2. He is asking that Council approve publication of the Notice of Public Hearing to be published on July 8. The Public Hearing will be August 9, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. The first reading of the ordinance can be done on July 12. The second reading can be done on July 26. The third and final reading can be done on August 9, 2021, after the public hearing.

He suggested that a Public Safety Committee meeting be scheduled to discuss the Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan and proposed ordinance that he has prepared for the City to participate. The ordinance can be considered and added to the agenda at the regular Council meeting.

Regarding the property at 206-208 Center Street, it is coming along well. Some details still need to be negotiated.

Regarding a medical marijuana dispensary, he looked at Fremont's version and it is good. We need to consider the issues. We will be typing a draft of an ordinance for review.

Usually during this time of year we pass a resolution regarding rates and levies. We have not received information yet but when information is available, the Auditor can place a resolution on the agenda.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ms. Downing inquired about the status of the old Ben Franklin building. Mr. Lantz stated that a bid for \$95,000.00 was accepted and the demolition will be done by Garza. The work should be started this fall.

She inquired about the streetlights for Hartland Drive which has a new development going in. Ridge Drive also needs a light because a building that previously had a light was taken down and there is a playground there and a curve in the street. Mr. Baker stated that when a new development is being built, the developer should approach the City with a proposal and then meet with Ohio Edison and make an application for streetlights.

Mr. Shepherd inquired about the City hiring an electrician and hiring a detective for the Police Department. Mr. Lantz stated that the City would probably not hire an electrician, but when one is needed they will contract with someone. Part time positions with the Police Department seem to work out better.

Regarding Bellevue getting a medical marijuana dispensary, he did some research online regarding how to get a license for medical marijuana and it seems simple. You can fill out the forms online, receive a phone call, get approved and receive a card two days later. He visited a medical marijuana dispensary recently and stated it was conducted very professionally and it was a favorable experience.

Mr. Baker stated that he spoke with several doctors at the Bellevue Hospital who are in favor of a medical marijuana dispensary. Supreme Court Judge Clarence Thomas mentioned a 1978 case decriminalizing medical marijuana. Eighteen states have legalized it and it appears to be a thing of the future.

Several owners of downtown businesses contacted him regarding the spotty wifi and cable downtown. Bellevue has an outdated cable system. A little competition with other companies could be good.

He spoke with several doctors from the Bellevue Hospital regarding the ambulance system in Bellevue and the lag time patients have waiting for ambulances. It was discussed that the ambulance drivers do not take patients to the Bellevue Hospital when a patient requests it. They usually take them to Fisher Titus. Perhaps it is because that is a trauma hospital and the Bellevue Hospital is not. He inquired if he could speak with North Central EMS. Mr. Lantz stated that he could contact Ashley there with his concerns.

Mr. Brugnone inquired who should be contacted when a citizen discovers a broken streetlight. Mr. Lantz stated that they can call Vicki at the City Office and she will contact Ohio Edison. Mr. Baker added that they can also go to the Ohio Edison website and give them the address and information.

Mr. Hill reported that City Council documents which are mailed on the Wednesday before the next Monday City Council meeting are not being received in time. He also inquired about the City possibly providing laptops or tablets which would solve many issues of not

conducting official business on private home computers. President Smith stated that this can be researched and discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Waldrup scheduled a Public Safety Committee meeting for Monday, July 22, 2021, at 7:15 p.m., to discuss the Erie County Hazard Mitigation Program and Resolution No. R-7-21.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Kenneth E. Carroll, 1309 West Main Street, stated that he is concerned with Bellevue passing medical marijuana legislation. It is a gateway drug and can be misused. With all the drug problems in town, more children could be exposed to drugs with a medical marijuana dispensary in town. Mr. Wallingford stated that after going through the zoning process, there will be a public hearing where citizens can voice their concerns. President Smith thanked him for his comments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith called for a motion to add Ordinance 22-21 regarding zoning a parcel of land located at 798 West Main Street (the former Family Video property) to the next agenda. Motion was made by Mr. Shepherd. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken and passed 7-0. Ordinance No. 22-21 will be added to the agenda for July 12. He called for a motion to publish a Notice of Public Hearing for the same property. Motion was made by Mrs. Ommert. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and passed 7-0 in favor.

He then turned the time over to Mr. Wallingford for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 18-21 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE RE-ZONING PARCELS OF LAND INVOLVED IN THE PLAT OF INLOT NO. 2293 OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO, THEREBY AMENDING THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE.

Ordinance No. 21-21 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING REPLACEMENT PAGES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Baker moved to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 21-21 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Brugnone. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

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Mr. Hill moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-21, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ordinance No. 19-21 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ORDC) AND NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY (NS) FOR THE CLOSURE OF A PUBLIC GRADE CROSSING ON McKIM STREET.

CLOSING REMARKS:

President Smith thanked everyone for attending.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brugnone and seconded by Mr. Waldrup. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council