

## MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING August 23, 2021

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, August 23, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Doug Gildenmeister, Director, Touch the Heart Youth Ministries. Council persons present: MR. BAKER, MR. BRUGNONE, MS. DOWNING, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WALDRUP.

The minutes of the **Public Hearing** on August 9, 2021 were presented for approval. Mr. Waldrup made a motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. All were in favor.

The minutes of the regular **City Council meeting** on August 9, 2021 were presented for approval. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Waldrup. All were in favor.

### REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

**President Smith stated that Mayor Strecker** was excused from Council tonight as he is attending to matters of our area veterans and the Order of the Purple Heart. He left a note for President Smith to read. **Mayor Strecker** wishes to thank everyone on Council who made the Purple Heart ceremony special. There have been over 240 Purple Heart recipients within the City of Bellevue since the Civil War. He will be ordering signs for the entrances to the City denoting that we are a Purple Heart City. There will also be three designated parking spots in the downtown area for Purple Heart parking.

He is looking forward to renaming the first block of Lyme Street "Memorial Way." Our veterans groups hope to have it renamed by November 11, which is Veterans Day. A dedication at Fallen Soldiers Memorial will be held.

There will be a 9/11 ceremony at the Fallen Soldiers Memorial on September 11 for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that tragedy. More information will follow.

He thanked Amy Palsa and her staff for the great job they did this past Saturday at the Back to School Bash at the Rec Center. They sold over 625 wristbands and the food vendors ran out of food. The swimming pool and Jungle Junction were packed. They have decided to make this a yearly event. He thanked Councilmen Steve Hill and Bill Brugnone for all their help with the festival.

He thanked Chief Tom Maike, the BFD, and the Northern Ohio FOOLS (Fraternal Order of Leatherheads) Chapter for the Celebration of Life held for former Fire Chief, Larry Gregory, last Saturday in Fremont. It was a wonderful tribute to our local Fire Chief and former State Fire Marshall. Bellevue was represented well by current and former firefighters.

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Lantz**, stated that bids for street resurfacing went out. Only one bid was received which was from Seven Limers Inc. They were awarded the bid for \$468,725.00. Hopefully the street resurfacing will begin within the next thirty days.

**Auditor, Mr. Smith**, thanked the Budget & Finance Committee for meeting earlier tonight to discuss the budget and the changes needed. He also received the most recent RITA distribution report through the end of July and stated we are 6.3% ahead of where we were in 2019.

### REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Ms. Downing** thanked Safety-Service Director, Mr. Lantz, and Councilman, Mr. Baker, for the lights on Hartland. She thanked everyone who was involved in making Bellevue a Purple Heart City. She attended the Purple Heart ceremony and said it was very well done.

**Mr. Waldrup** stated that he attended the Back to School Bash with his family and they enjoyed it very much. He had the privilege of speaking at the Purple Heart ceremony. It was a nice ceremony and was very well attended.

**Mr. Shepherd** noticed that on Route 4 driving toward Sandusky they have installed many new traffic lights to the right at intersections so drivers behind large trucks and semis who cannot see above the vehicles in front of them can now see the traffic signals on the right. Because of the amount of semis going through Bellevue it may be something we could look into.

The intersection at 302 and 308 could use some tweaking.

He is still receiving complaints regarding citizens parking in the streets. One vehicle had expired plates and two flat tires. He inquired if others were receiving similar complaints. Perhaps bus drivers could be asked if they are having any issues trying to navigate around parked cars.

He inquired if an incentive could be given to citizens for them to fix their sidewalks.

**Mr. Baker** mentioned that the Attorney General crafted a bill for legalizing recreational marijuana. He noted that nothing in our ordinance discusses recreational marijuana. He inquired if State law would supersede City law. Mr. Wallingford stated that the Attorney General has approved some ballot language, not a bill. He isn't sure if or when it may be on the ballot. Our ordinance is only about medicinal marijuana. What the Attorney General is working on shouldn't change what we are doing with our ordinance.

He stated he has some questions regarding the opioid settlement. Mr. Wallingford stated that 162 of 163 litigating entities have approved going forward with the litigation. Bellevue has not. They still have issues to deal with. We don't have enough information yet. As soon as we receive more information we can make an informed choice.

**Mr. Brugnone** stated that Amy Palsa and her staff did a great job with the Back to School Bash. He has heard very positive feedback. Also a shout out to Lee Waldrup and everyone who helped with the Purple Heart ceremony. They did a great job. It is a wonderful honor for Bellevue.

**Mrs. Ommert** received many positive comments regarding the Back to School Bash. Amy and her staff did an excellent job.

She attended the Purple Heart ceremony and stated she is impressed with how well the citizens of Bellevue plan and present these special events.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Mr. Shepherd** scheduled a Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting for Monday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss renaming the first block of Lyme Street "Memorial Way."

**Mrs. Ommert** stated that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held tonight where they discussed Ordinance 25-21. It was voted to take the ordinance out of Committee and add it by motion to tonight's agenda. Mrs. Ommert made a motion to add Ordinance No. 25-21 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 6-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Smith** stated that Mayor Strecker, Mr. Freitag and Mr. Hill were all excused tonight. He reminded everyone that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the zoning change that will allow a medical marijuana dispensary, and Ordinance No. 23-21.

He thanked everyone that helped with the Purple Heart ceremony tonight. It was a great success. He thanked everyone who received a Purple Heart for their service.

LEGISLATION:

**Ordinance No. 25-21 was given its first reading:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 4-21, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules give Ordinance No. 25-21 its second and third readings by title only, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Brugnone. Motion passed by the vote 6-0.

**Ordinance No. 25-21 was given its second and third readings by title only:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 4-21, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to adopt Ordinance No. 25-21, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. Motion passed by the vote 6-0.

**Ordinance No. 23-21 was given its second reading by title only:** AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THAT A MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY IS A PERMITTED USE IN THE CITY AS LONG AS IT IS LOCATED WITHIN A B-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE ZONING CODE SECTION 1207.05 AS A RETAIL BUSINESS OR SERVICE SIMILAR TO THOSE LISTED IN THE SAME ZONING DISTRICT AS DETERMINED BY THE ZONING ADMINSTRATOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

CLOSING REMARKS:

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Lantz,** requested that an Executive Session be held on Monday, September 13, 2021, following closing comments, to discuss ongoing contract negotiations.

**President Smith** thanked everyone for attending.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

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**Ronald Smith**  
**President of Council**

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**Rhonda R. Soper**  
**Clerk of Council**