

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 13, 2022

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Reverend Diane Carter of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MR. BRUGNONE, MS. DOWNING, MR. HILL, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WALDRUP.

Minutes of the May 23, 2022 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. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker circulated a list of the 2022 appointments for Boards and Commissions. He requested that council review it and vote to approve it at the next Council meeting.

He thanked the Bellevue Area Tourism & Visitor's Bureau and the Bellevue Hospital for sponsoring the amazing new barn mural. The mural was done by barn artist, Scott Hagen, from Jerusalem, Ohio. It is a beautiful addition to the City. He also thanked the Visitor's Bureau for the second bus trip that came through Bellevue.

Judge Aigler and Lynetta Bollinger of the Municipal Court thanks Council for their help with the ordinance to apply for a grant that they were hoping to obtain. The grant was approved and they are moving forward.

He gave a beautiful tribute to former Councilwoman, Rose Mary Nascone, who passed away last week. He has known her all his life. She was a wonderful woman and a delight to work with. She had an infectious smile and she will really be missed.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Lantz, stated that he has received a request from citizens on Gardner Road who would like to tie into the City water system. They understand they would have to be annexed into the City. In speaking with City Engineer, Mr. Scagnetti, they discussed pushing the line out Gardner Road up to Co. Rd. 302 and tie it into the water tower to make a loop. Perhaps more customers could be picked up as well. He requests scheduling a Public Utilities Committee meeting before the next City Council meeting to discuss this.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that he was notified that there was a successful bid for the Railroad Museum property which has been leased for a long time. Bidding was held and the Railroad Museum was the successful bidder. He has prepared and circulated a proposed ordinance for Council to approve and accept the bid. It will be the City's responsibility to do the deed, and all other title work will be the responsibility of the Railroad Museum. One thing to take note of, bidding was done on the condition that it will be used as a railroad museum. There is language on it that it would revert back to the City if it is no longer being used as a museum. If the ordinance is approved, it will be ready for us to have it on the agenda at our next meeting on June 27.

Recreation Director, Amy Palsa, contacted him about a Nature Works grant that she would like to apply for. We have done Nature Works grants in the past. Amy requested a

resolution to be presented and passed by Council so she can apply for this grant. He has dictated one and it will also be ready for the next Council meeting if Council wishes it to be on the agenda.

President Smith stated that he remembers when he first came on Council and Rose Mary Nascone was sitting to his right. She mentioned that she didn't like having her back to the windows. He asked her why and she stated "You never know about some of our citizens" which made him laugh. She was a delight to work with.

He then introduced Scott Williams, who is running for Sandusky County Commissioner, and invited him to speak to Council. Mr. Williams stated that he has a large vested interest in the City of Fremont in that he owns residential and commercial properties. He is a write-in candidate. He spoke about his family and his businesses. President Smith thanked him for attending the meeting and stated that Mr. Williams will be staying after the meeting to answer any questions.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ms. Downing stated that several mothers have contacted her and requested that she remind everyone not to speed while driving, especially where children are playing.

Mr. Shepherd inquired if the field behind Harkness and Sinclair Street has been transferred to the City of Bellevue from the railroad. Mr. Lantz stated that he is pretty sure it has been transferred. Mr. Shepherd stated that the grass is very tall and needs attention and inquired if they have made plans for the property. Mr. Lantz stated that he has discussed plans regarding the property with Engineer Scagnetti but nothing has been decided to date.

Regarding repairing sidewalks, he understands that the City is understaffed. He suggests that the City hire a part-time code enforcer.

Mr. Baker stated that he enjoyed serving on City Council with Rose Mary Nascone and learned a lot from her.

Regarding the temporary car lot on West Main Street and 308, there are cars right against the road which may become a hazard and a nuisance. He discussed the issues with the Police Department and they are handling it well. The car lot is in business for a few days, disappears, and in a few days opens up and does business again. This is something to keep an eye on.

Citizens have complained about trains blocking 302, 308 and Kilbourne Streets for over a half hour. Mr. Lantz stated that the Police Department has been fining the ones blocking for over 15 minutes and they are given a fine to pay which goes into the City's crossing fund. It was discussed that the Mayor worked out a deal with the railroad that that the City will fine them for every other offense. They always claim they have stopped because of an emergency. Mr. Wallingford stated that it would be a good idea to express our concerns with the railroad.

Mr. Baker inquired whose responsibility the maintenance of the overpass is, ODOT's or the City's? Mr. Lantz stated that it is the City's. The City will try to do some patching.

Mr. Brugnone stated that he received complaints over the weekend that the light on Greenwood Heights was out but it has now been fixed.

Mr. Hill stated that Rose Mary Nascone was a great lady.

Mrs. Ommert stated that Rose Mary Nascone took her under her wing and helped her when she first started as a Councilwoman. She taught her a lot and she really appreciated her help and kindness.

Citizens have contacted her regarding the underpass. Mayor Strecker stated that it is on the drawing board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight prior to this meeting. They discussed Municipal Court grant monies (Ordinance No. 9-22) and AFSCME Group 1 contract (Ordinance No. 10-22). They also discussed an ordinance to be drawn up regarding a new snow plow for the City which can be added to the next agenda. Motions were made and seconded to take Ordinance Nos. 9-22 and 10-22 out of committee and add them to tonight's agenda. Motion to add Ordinance Nos. 9-22 and 10-22 was made by Mr. Brugnone and seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. Motion passed by the vote 7-0. Both ordinances are added to tonight's agenda.

Mr. Baker scheduled a Public Utilities Committee meeting on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., to discuss adding property to the City water line.

President Smith scheduled a Committee of the Whole work session at 7:15 on the same evening to discuss the Railroad Museum property and Recreation Center grant.

Mr. Shepherd stated that the Streets & Sidewalk Committee presented the idea of doing sidewalk repair on a volunteer basis. He reached out to the public works director in Norwalk to see how they do sidewalks there. They have a sidewalk program. If a sidewalk is damaged because of roots from a City tree, the City will pay for the repairs to the sidewalk. He presented the idea of having a sidewalk program. President Smith told him when he gets the information together he could call for a Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting. He also mentioned that when Jarretts Tree Service takes care of trees, if there are any issues with roots in the sidewalks, they try to take care of the problems.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Patricia Gray, 252 Guenther Street, stated her displeasure at the big ditch being disturbed which changed the habitat so she has been getting groundhogs in her yard. Other neighbors have complained about having raccoons and skunks on their properties.

She is very excited that Guenther Street is getting new water lines but she is unhappy that it will not be getting repaved because of the water lines being repaired when they have so many potholes.

She thanked Mayor Strecker for bringing to light the predicament of the backpack program for school children. They received enough money that they can continue it for the elementary children.

Midge Covella, 119 Ridge Drive, inquired if anything has been done about the safety issues at the end of the big ditch as other neighbors have complained about it also. No one can ride bicycles there. Mayor Strecker stated he has mentioned it to Engineer Scagnetti. Ms.

Covella stated that the ditch is starting to get weeds she inquired how soon they will be taken care of.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that he has been speaking with Mr. Wallingford regarding changing the term limits of Council members from 2 to 4 years. They will be gathering more information. He inquired if everyone is still interested in doing this. The terms will have to be staggered so they don't all end at the same time. If Council is interested in moving forward with this, he will gather more information.

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

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 9-22 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2022 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 3-22, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 10-22 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LABOR CONTRACT WITH AFSCME, GROUP 1, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance 10-22 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Brugnone. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 10-22 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LABOR CONTRACT WITH AFSCME, GROUP 1, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Brugnone to adopt Ordinance 10-22, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 8-22 was given its second reading: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCUMULATING RESOURCES FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, OR IMPROVEMENT OF FIXED ASSETS OF THE CITY, AND THEREBY AMENDING THE 2022 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 3-22, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag stated that he enjoyed working with Rose Mary Nascone. They had many friendly debates and she always encouraged involvement in City affairs.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Lantz, thanked Council for passing Ordinance No. 10-22.

Mayor Strecker inquired if Council would like him to contact Chris Beamer to attend the Committee of the Whole work session on Monday, June 27. Everyone agreed it would be a good idea to have him present to answer any questions regarding the railroad property.

Mr. Baker inquired if it is possible for citizens to do a music concert on a Thursday night during the farmer's markets. He would be willing to organize a group to sponsor a concert.

President Smith thanked everyone for attending and requested a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council