

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 9, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council President, Ronald Smith. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MS. DOWNING, MR. HILL, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD and MR. WALDRUP.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of December 12, 2022 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

President Smith called for nominations for President Pro Tempore for 2023. Mr. Hill nominated Mr. Baker. A vote was taken. All were in favor of Mr. Baker serving as President Pro Tempore for 2023.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker welcomed Mr. Brugnone as the new Safety-Service Director.

He stated he would like to invite Bellevue's firemen to the next City Council meeting on January 23 to present letters of commendation.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Eric MacMichael, retired at the end of 2022. He thanked him for his many years of dedication and hard work. He welcomed Chris Hamilton as the new Superintendent and gave him the floor to speak. He introduced himself and stated that he is looking forward to serving the citizens of Bellevue as Superintendent.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, informed Council that the Auditor of State is getting close to completing the City's audit for 2022. He is hopeful to have a report by the next City Council meeting.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag stated that he received year-end statements on the City's star accounts and the rates are up to a 4% payout. The unofficial number is \$354,000.00. He will have the official total soon.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, wished everyone a happy 2023 and stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone in 2023.

He welcomed Mr. Hamilton as the new Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent and Mr. Brugnone in his new capacity as Safety Service Director. He stated that Mr. Brugnone has always been a very valuable Council person and we are lucky to have him serving the City now as Safety-Service Director.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired if the City could get some pedestrian crossing signs at the traffic lights.

He received an email from a citizen inquiring if it would be possible to have a crosswalk placed near the middle school and if it would be possible to have crossing guards again. It was discussed that there is a lot of liability having crossing guards. For the most part, they are not in favor of having them as they tend to be unreliable. Mayor Strecker stated it is something we can discuss with school resource officers.

Mr. Shepherd stated that the parking ban regarding vehicles on the streets during snowstorms was enacted many years ago and the fine is only \$20.00 which isn't very much for citizens who park their cars on the street. He is wondering if it is something that can be looked into. Mr. Brugnone stated that Facebook postings regarding this seem to be working well and the Street Department has mentioned there are only a couple of areas with parking issues.

He stated that inasmuch as we contract yearly with Barnes Nursery, he would like to have the City open up bids and see if there are other companies that would like to take care of Bellevue's compost and dumpster services.

Ms. Downing inquired if recycling services have been looked into. Mr. Brugnone stated that a couple of companies have been approached and they are not interested in doing it in Bellevue. A gentleman that works for a recycling company in Lima reached out to him and stated they may be interested. We can discuss it in Council and see what the interest would be in the community and possibly have this gentleman come and speak with Council. It was discussed that recycling can create issues with citizens abusing it by leaving large appliances and other things that are not recyclable. Mayor Strecker stated that we can have the gentleman come to speak with Council in the next few weeks if it is Council's pleasure.

Mr. Baker received a couple of phone calls from citizens inquiring if the City is going to run water lines down State Route 191 to State Route 302. He thought the matter had been dropped. Mayor Strecker stated the last time it was discussed the City was not in favor of doing it. He stated he would look into it and get back with Council.

He inquired about water rate increases. Mr. Brugnone stated that it is being discussed but he wants to be fair to the citizens.

He inquired what needs to be done to get an ordinance or survey for the Water Plant. Mr. Wallingford stated that City Engineer, Mr. Scagnetti, has been talking about doing a proposal. Funds need to be appropriated and then an ordinance can be prepared.

Mr. Hill thanked everyone who put time and effort into the Santa Drive-Through at the Recreation Center. They started preparing for it weeks in advance and it was a lot of work for them. It was a great event. In talking with Amy Palsa, she mentioned it was great to have the holiday lights during the event. They had generators with cords everywhere but for the few days it was workable. She would like to start a project of adding some outlets around the trees and tie it into lighting the parking lot for next year. He thanked Amy and stated they did a great job this year.

He thanked Mr. Brugnone for stepping up and being the Safety-Service Director to move us forward and he knows he will do a great job.

Mrs. Ommert stated that she received three calls from citizens who are interested in recycling.

She welcomed Mr. Hamilton.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Ommert stated that a **Budget & Finance Committee** meeting was held tonight at 7:15 p.m. to discuss amending the 2023 temporary appropriations ordinance, and proposed Ordinance No. 1-23. It was voted to take Ordinance No. 1-23 out of committee and add it to tonight's agenda by motion during the regular meeting. Mrs. Ommert made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 6-0. Ordinance No. 1-23 is added to tonight's agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Becky Grimm, 408 Brinker Street, stated that there are five streetlights out on U.S. Route 20 going east from the subway, and five streetlights out on Brinker Street. For the safety of children going to and from school, the lights need to be fixed.

She inquired if the companies that are digging up City streets will be repairing them. Mayor Strecker stated that they will be repaired.

She congratulated Mr. Brugnone for his new position as Safety-Service Director. She also welcomed Chris as Superintendent of Bellevue's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith read a Press Release regarding candidates who wish to apply for Council person in Bellevue's Second Ward. Letters of interest will be accepted through Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Each applicant must be a registered voter in the 2nd Ward of Bellevue, Ohio. Each applicant shall appear before Council on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., to be interviewed. When the interviews have concluded, there will be an immediate vote. Judge Aigler will be in attendance to swear in the new Council member.

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

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 1-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 23-22, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 1-23 its second and third readings by title only, and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 1-23 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 23-22, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to adopt Ordinance No. 1-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Baker stated that Bellevue's Fire Department did a great job helping out with the recent accident on the Turnpike. President Smith thanked them for their services.

Mayor Strecker stated that the Fire Department went over and beyond with their help.

He thanked everyone who supported the new Santa House. Citizens made donations for decorations and dedicated time and efforts to make it a wonderful new addition. He wants it to have a permanent place at Central Park.

President Smith thanked Mayor Strecker for all he does for the City. He thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, and he requested a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council