

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING January 23, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council Clerk, Mrs. Soper. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MS. DOWNING, MR. HILL, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, MR. WALDRUP and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of January 9, 2023 were presented for approval. It was noted that a revision was made in Auditor, Mr. Smith's comments. The year for the State Audit report is 2021 not 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Waldrup to approve the minutes as revised. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as revised.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker welcomed members of the Bellevue City Fire Department. He noted that on December 23, 2022, our City firefighters were dispatched to assist with a 45-vehicle pileup on the Turnpike. There were high winds and freezing temperatures. He read a letter of commendation to the Department and gave each individual firefighter a letter of commendation to thank them for their dedication and told them they represent the best of humanity and they are all heroes. He stated that words cannot express our admiration and gratitude.

He introduced Brendan Reese and read a letter of congratulations for achieving his Eagle Scout award. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to earn this award. He encouraged him to continue to pursue his dreams and goals. He is an inspiration to all the other Scouts. Becoming an Eagle Scout is a matter of great pride and accomplishment.

He stated that the list for this year's Boards and Commissions was distributed. There will be some changes made. He would like Council members to review it and he would like to have Council pass it on February 13 if it is Council's pleasure.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated there is a property on Gardner Road that the City has been waiting to acquire and demolish. Dave Sabo has contacted him to let him know that the City can now acquire it and they are in the process of doing that now.

They will be monitoring the anticipated storm arriving in the next few days and inform the public through Facebook when to keep their cars off the streets.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, informed everyone that the State Auditor will be filing its final report for 2021 in the next two or three weeks. He stated we have three choices when it comes to meeting with them after an audit. We can waive the meeting, we can have a formal meeting and we can have an informal meeting. Because there are no new items to discuss from last year, the City has requested an informal exit meeting with them. The State suggested either Wednesday morning or Thursday morning this week. However, the weather looks bad on both days. It was suggested that next Tuesday early in the morning would be better. He will schedule it for next Tuesday, January 31, at 8:00 a.m.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, reminded everyone of the upcoming Ohio Ethics Commission annual filing. It is usually due by May 15 but this year if a Council member is on the upcoming ballot, which most Council members are, the due date will be April 3.

He will be participating in an online seminar regarding public records this Wednesday. He stated that he has more to mention but he will wait until the Committee of the Whole work session scheduled after this meeting to talk about legislation and open meetings and public records laws.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Waldrup stated that the gas company is doing a three-phase approach to patching the streets. They will be finishing in the spring.

He thanked Bellevue's Fire Department and stated it takes special people to answer the call to help others in emergency situations.

Mr. Baker stated that he met with the Mayor, Safety-Service Director, and Superintendent, Chris Sallee, regarding the Water Plant. Mr. Sallee did a good job of explaining some of the upcoming projects for the Water Plant. He left the meeting feeling informed and feeling like the study needs to move forward with the project.

He also thanked the City's Fire Department. They definitely deserve our thanks.

Mr. Hill inquired about the Omni Fiber Company working in town. There have been some complaints about them going through yards when they should be in the boulevards only. He saw some workers walking up close to homes. Unless they have permission from homeowners, they shouldn't be up in the yards close to front porches. They have a long way to go so if we can make sure they are doing it correctly now everything should go more smoothly. He stated he had been contacted by someone who had drainage issues after Omni went through their yard. Mr. Brugnone stated if he receives complaints he can contact Vicki or him and they will assist.

Amy will be attending the next Parks & Recreation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, February 13, at 7:15 p.m. Now that Jungle Junction is paid off, they are looking at another project of purchasing some equipment to replace old outdated equipment. This has been very well thought out. She will be here to discuss the project and answer any questions.

Mrs. Ommert thanked the Fire Department for the great job they do. She welcomed Caleb Wynbissinger as the new 2nd Ward Councilman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a **Committee of the Whole** work session will be held tonight after this meeting to discussing the refinancing of The Bellevue Hospital/Firelands Regional Medical Center and a brief Council orientation regarding protocol and other matters.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith turned the time over to Mr. Wallingford for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 2-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE POTENTIAL ISSUANCE BY THE COUNTY OF ERIE, OHIO OF ITS REVENUE BONDS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 140, OHIO REVISED CODE, TO FINANCE HOSPITAL FACILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF FIRELANDS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF ERIE, OHIO AND THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PUBLIC HOSPITAL AGENCIES AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 2-23 its second reading by title only, and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Waldrup. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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CLOSING REMARKS:

Auditor, Mr. Smith, mentioned that the recently completed audit by the State of Ohio included two issues of noncompliance. They recommended Council document review of budget vs. actual financial numbers and of bank account reconciliations on a regular basis. The report from the Auditor of State would be addressed at an informal exit meeting.

Mayor Strecker welcomed new Councilman, Caleb Wynbissinger and stated he looks forward to working with him.

President Smith thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, and he requested a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council