

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING February 13, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 7:35 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council President, Mr. Smith. 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 23, 2023 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Ms. Downing. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker distributed an updated list of Boards and Commissions. He asked Council to review it and at Council's pleasure, approve it at the next City Council meeting.

Norfolk Southern Railroad will have a job fair on February 23 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. It will be held here in Council Chambers.

There will be a Pizza Blast sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bellevue on Thursday, February 16, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Bellevue High School cafeteria.

Police Chief, Marc Linder, introduced two new officers, Anthony Fries and Michael Rodriguez. He gave them an opportunity to speak. He swore them in as patrolmen and welcomed them to the Bellevue City Police Department.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that one of the City's trucks recently had an accident. They were in route to fix a problem that the gas company left and when they were fixing it, the street opened up and swallowed the back end of the truck. There were no injuries. The gas company will take care of it.

The light on Miles Avenue is now up. He thanked Mr. Baker for helping with that.

There have been a couple of complaints regarding speeding on Grove Street. A couple of speed limit signs have now been installed.

The leaning pole at Central Park has been removed.

They have been trimming the trees at the new parking lot that the City bought from Frontier. They will do more in the spring.

They shored up some walls on Heter and Gardner Streets.

A concrete pad will be poured at Central Park where the new Santa House will be placed. They probably won't set the house there until spring but the concrete pad will be poured this week.

With the nice weather right now they will be working on the ditches. They will continue until the weather does not allow it and they will continue in the spring.

He and Mayor Strecker met with Barnes Nursery about composting. They negotiated and discussed a long-term plan. He received a letter with a proposition. They will be open six days a week during the peak season and after peak they will cut down to four. The exception will be Sundays when they will be closed. We will gain 60 hours of compost time and cut \$5,000.00 off the bill. The dumpsters will continue to be open Fridays and Saturdays.

There have been a lot of inquiries regarding recycling. Last week he met with a representative from Rumpke Waste & Recycling. There are a couple of options available and if it is something Council would like to look into, they can arrange a committee meeting and they will send a representative to give a presentation. They would put bins in a couple of locations and they would come and take care of them several times a week. The cost would be \$800.00 a month per site.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that he met with the Auditor of State for the informal exit meeting. There were two noncompliance issues. They recommended Council document review of budget vs. actual financial numbers and of bank account reconciliations on a regular basis. They stated they have mentioned the issues twice and now it is up to us to change or continue doing it the way we have been.

The clerk distributed the budget information through email. If anyone did not receive it or needs a copy, call the Finance Department and let Courtney know.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, reminded everyone of the upcoming Ohio Ethics Commission annual filing. It is usually due by May 15 but this year for Council members on the upcoming ballot, the due date will be April 3. You can file online at the Ohio Ethics website or download a form. If anyone needs help, we can make it available to them.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that he had a number of complaints about dogs in the neighborhoods and inquired if there is a way to remind citizens of their responsibilities as a pet owners. He stated that the complaints were mostly for dogs barking and getting loose. Mr. Wallingford stated that there are two related ordinances, a running at large ordinance and a nuisance ordinance. The police can decide if dog warden needs to be involved. He stated it is always good to speak with neighbors first.

Ms. Downing stated that she has received calls about recycling. There definitely seems to be interest.

Regarding the Shade Tree Commission, citizens want to see more trees in our community, especially because we are a Tree City. Mayor Strecker stated they will mainly be planted in the parks where we can take care of them ourselves.

Mr. Baker stated that as was brought up at our last meeting, there have been complaints about Omni workers going into yards. Some were up by a porch today. Mr. Brugnone stated that citizens can call him at the office. He can contact Omni and they usually come out within a day or so to fix any issues. They will also be back in the spring to repair any problems.

Mr. Hill stated he is grateful for the light on Miles Avenue and thanked Duane for his efforts. The citizens are very appreciative.

Mrs. Ommert stated she has heard from three families on Roger Avenue that are concerned for the safety of their children with cars flying through there. She inquired about installing some "Children at Play" signs. President Smith mentioned that perhaps it would be possible to put a cruiser there. Mr. Brugnone stated that he will talk with the police chief and take a look at purchasing some signs.

She has received several calls from citizens interested in recycling.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Hill stated that a **Parks & Recreation Committee** meeting was held tonight. The Recreation Director was in attendance to discuss purchasing equipment to replace old outdated equipment. It was voted to take Ordinance No. 3-23 out of committee and add it to tonight's agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Hill to add Ordinance No. 3-23 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and it passed by the vote 7-0.

Mr. Shepherd scheduled a **Streets & Sidewalks** Committee meeting for Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ommert scheduled a **Budget & Finance Committee** meeting for Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

President Smith stated that we have a Committee of the Whole work session following the meeting tonight. Sergeant Nick Tenore will be in attendance to discuss the possibility of reestablishing a K-9 unit.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Patricia Gray, 252 Guenther Street, stated that she is very much in favor of Bellevue having recycling services.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 3-23 was given its first reading: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE RECREATION DIRECTOR AND/OR SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT FOR THE LEASE AND/OR PURCHASE OF FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT UNDER THE STATE BIDDING PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 3-23 its second and third readings by title only, and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

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A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 3-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ordinance No. 4-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND/OR MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, FOR BIKE TRAIL SIGN INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 4-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2-23 was given its third and final reading by title only: 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. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 2-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Waldrup. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Hill thanked Amy Palsa for attending the meetings tonight and complimented her on the great job she is doing.

Mr. Baker inquired about receiving certified mail from Rotary Commons. It was suggested that he make a copy for himself and give the original to the clerk.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, distributed a revised copy of the Boards and Commissions.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council