

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 27, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council President, Mr. Smith. Council members present: MS. DOWNING, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, MR. WALDRUP and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the special City Council meeting of January 23, 2023 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Waldrup to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 13, 2023 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Ms. Downing to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker distributed the Sandusky County Visitor's Bureau Guide for 2023. It is put together every year. Page 28 starts the history of Bellevue and ads. We appreciate everything the Visitor's Bureau does for our community. Mayor Strecker serves as a board member.

They received a call today from the Huron County Commissioners. As long as Council agrees, we need to appoint Mr. Brugnone to the Huron County Planning Commission. A vote was taken and everyone was in favor.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that the last couple of weeks they upgraded some of the programs in the billing department. When they reset things, the parameters were not set correctly. Many citizens received their water bill and in it the due date incorrectly stated March 10. They sent emails out stating that the bills are still due on the 15th.

With the recent news regarding the train derailment in Ohio, the Administration thought it was a good time to look at Bellevue's disaster plan. It has been a few years since it has been updated. They have been in contact with Norfolk Southern and some of the industries in the community to see what plans they have. He will be having meetings with some of the superintendents of the fire and emergency departments to come up with new ideas to update the master plan.

President Smith inquired if North Buckeye Street is a through street for trucks. It was discussed that many trucks and semis are using their GPS programs and going through streets they are not supposed to go through. Mr. Brugnone stated he will go out and look at the roads tomorrow and see if signs need to be installed.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, thanked Council for reviewing the details in the permanent budget.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag stated that he hopes Mr. Brugnone enjoys his time serving in the Huron Co. Planning Commission. He served on it for the last 18 years.

He reminded everyone that tax filings are due by April 15.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Waldrup stated that he is looking forward to a new K-9 unit in our police department. Everyone he has talked with is very supportive of it.

Mrs. Ommert stated she received several very positive comments regarding the City adding a K-9 unit. They hope it will help with drug issues in the City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Ommert stated that a **Budget & Finance Committee** meeting was held prior to this Council meeting. They discussed proposed Ordinances 5-23, 6-23, and 7-23. Everyone was in favor of taking the ordinances out of committee and make a motion during the regular Council meeting to add them to tonight's agenda. She made a motion to add the three ordinances to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and it passed by the vote 5-0. Ordinances 5-23, 6-23, and 7-23 are added to tonight's agenda.

Mr. Shepherd stated that a Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting was held at 7:00 tonight. They discussed the possibility of implementing a sidewalk replacement program. They adjourned without any formal action.

President Smith scheduled a Committee of the Whole work session for Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss possible recycling services for Bellevue.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Wilber Wade, 123 Shumaker Drive, stated that there are some exciting things coming to Bellevue. He introduced his daughter, Whitney Collins, and turned the time over to her. Whitney stated that she is the Director for LifeWise Academy. The Academy, which was started in 2018, is gaining momentum in Ohio. It is a released time religious instruction program which provides Bible education to students. It is a local, church-driven program and all the community churches work together. There are three stipulations for students to be able to attend: first they have to go off school property, second they have to have parent permission, and third it has to be privately funded. Most of the surrounding communities will have students in this program by next fall. Right now they are promoting the program and seeing if the citizens in Bellevue are interested. It takes 50 signatures to get the program started. They will stay after this meeting to answer any questions and they have a petition available for anyone interested in signing it. Also, citizens can go to lifewise.org to learn more about it.

President Smith thanked Wilber and his daughter, Whitney, for their efforts in serving the community and giving the City the opportunity to implement this new program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Mr. Baker and Mr. Hill are excused from the meeting tonight.

He requested a vote to approve the City's Boards and Commissions assignments. A motion was made by Mr. Waldrup to approve the assignments. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 5-0.

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

LEGISLATION:

Mr. Wallingford reminded Council that there are not enough Council members present tonight to suspend the rules and give the ordinances second and third readings by title only.

Ordinance No. 5-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 6-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH BARNES NURSERY, INC., FOR COMPOST SERVICES AND DUMPSTER SERVICES WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 7-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND/OR MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BELLEVUE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES NO. 490, FOR THE CONDUCTING OF INSTANT BINGO FOR FUNDRAISING FOR THE CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mayor Strecker thanked Council for their support for the Boards and Commissions assignments. He thanked our new Safety-Service Director for working with Barnes Nursery in drawing up the new contract for this year. Instead of being closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays as they were last year, this year they will be open Monday through Saturday. It increases the hours and costs less than it did last year.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council