

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 27, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor Justin Jump of Bellevue's First United Methodist Church. 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 March 13, 2023 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker thanked Mr. Hill and everyone in attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Goodwill.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Administration and Council presented several proclamations.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. There will be a proclamation given from the Administration and Council.

There will be summer concerts at Central Park again this year. They will start with Thursday, June 16, then they will have one in July and another one in August. There will be a car show at the one in August.

The Easter Bunny will be at the Holiday House in Central Park on April 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. It will be sponsored by the Eagles. The Easter Bunny will have special gifts for the children.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that when representatives from Rumpke were giving a presentation a few weeks back they discussed a three-year contract. We asked them about the possibility of a one-year contract. They said they would inquire about it and get back with us. He spoke with him the other day and a three-year contract based on a \$30 tip per dumpster, one a one year contract would go up to \$33. If we are doing two sites with four containers each, it would be \$1,140.00 per site per month. Everything is negotiable regarding how many sites and how many containers. If it is something would like to pursue, he will have them come back, locate sites, and go from there. They would do the container dump two times a week but that is also negotiable. Mr. Wallingford stated that we need to look at their proposal. It will not need to be bid. We will prepare an ordinance for the contract.

City Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, stated that he received a report from RITA regarding their subpoena program. There were 1,536 subpoenas issued at \$1.00 each. The total amount of taxes owed was \$104,045.46 plus interest. They have received \$27,000.00 so far. They are doing well with this program.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that he received a recommendation from the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) with recommendations for Council to consider and approve. We received the minutes and the Clerk mailed a copy to everyone on March 15.

Tonight would be the night to consider a motion to approve their minutes and recommendations. It will be taken up during the President's report.

We received a new liquor license transfer request from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. We emailed a copy of it to everyone. The request is to transfer a liquor license from the former Bierkeller to The Vue. He contacted the Safety-Service Director and the City's Chief of Police to make sure there are no issues. They stated they have no issues with this transfer. It is up to Council to decide whether to request a hearing or not. During the President's report a motion can be made to request or NOT request a hearing.

The Planning Commission has been taking up the issue of pods or metal containers. It has not been a big problem but there is a potential for problems. The Planning and Zoning Commission is recommending establishing a chapter concerning temporary storage containers and basically that they cannot be used as a permanent accessory in residential areas. The Mayor, Safety-Service Director, and three other members of the community serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission. They sent a letter to President Smith to get the process started which he will read during the President's report.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Baker stated that he had someone in another ward contact him inquiring if the City has a noise ordinance. One of the trash removal services has been operating at 4:00 a.m. They are noisy dumping the dumpsters and when they back up, they make even more loud noises. He was wondering if anything could be done. Mr. Wallingford stated that we do have a noise ordinance. Perhaps the best way to approach it is to have the Safety-Service Director call them and inform them there have been complaints and perhaps they can do it at a later time.

Last year Council sponsored one of the summer concerts. If everyone would like to do it again, he would be happy to take the lead. Perhaps the one with the car show.

He inquired if the City's sirens are up and working. Mr. Brugnone stated that they are.

Last year the Water Department had about a million dollars in carry-over funds. Half of it was in-combured so they have about \$550,000.00 available which is inadequate for any emergency. Mr. Brugnone stated he will speak with Mr. Scagnetti and get back with Council about it.

Mr. Hill stated that his business works with Goodwill. He thanked them for being a great partner and for doing such a great job for the community and with their open house.

He inquired if we have someone who works specifically on traffic lights. We need more signage in the downtown crosswalks.

Mrs. Ommert stated she was asked if the light on east Main Street is turned off on the weekends. Last Saturday and Sunday it was just a blinking yellow light.

She noticed that there is a light on the telephone pole at Ridge Street and it looks like a siren will be there soon. She is grateful for that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

Mrs. Ommert stated that a **Budget & Finance Committee** meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. tonight to discuss 1) the cost of living change for the Mayor, Auditor, Law Director and Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor, (2) finalizing the permanent budget, and (3) acquiring 532 Gardner Street for demolition. We have three new ordinances, Ordinances No. 8-23, 9-23 and 10-23, to bring out of committee and add them to the next Council meeting agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Hill to take Ordinances No. 8-23, 9-23, and 10-23 out of committee and place them on the agenda for April 8, 2023. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Mr. Shepherd stated that he plans to have a series of sidewalk replacements done this summer. Mr. Brugnone invited members who find sidewalks in bad shape to forward the addresses to him and they will send letters.

Mr. Waldrup reminded Council that there will be a Public Safety Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m., just prior to our next meeting on April 10, 2023, to discuss the EMS levy and proposed contract.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that in response to Mr. Wallingford's announcement of the liquor license renewal of The Vue, he would entertain a motion to not request a hearing. A motion was made by Mr. Hill to NOT request a hearing. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. The Clerk will notify the Division of Liquor Control that no hearing will be requested.

He read the letter from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding metal shipping containers. Mr. Wallingford explained that when a recommendation for a zoning change comes from the Planning and Zoning Commission, it is Council's responsibility to add an ordinance to the agenda for consideration and set up a public hearing. There needs to be a 30-day published notice of a public hearing in The Hub. He has an ordinance ready. It will need three separate readings. He is proposing that the first reading be at our next City Council meeting on April 10. The second reading would be on April 24, 2023. The public hearing will be on May 8, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. Then the third and final reading of the ordinance will take place during the regular City Council meeting the same night. He is looking for approval tonight for the proposal by the Planning and Zoning Commission and schedule for publication and hearing. A motion was made to approve the schedule by Ms. Downing. It was seconded by Mr. Wymbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Council received a letter requesting confirmation of the minutes and recommendations of the Tax Incentive Review Committee (TIRC) which met on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, to conduct the annual compliance review of the City. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes and recommendations of the TIRC. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

There will be a Vietnam Veterans ceremony tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at the Fallen Soldiers Memorial.

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

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 5-23 was given its third and final reading by title only: 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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to adopt Ordinance No. 5-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ordinance No. 7-23 was given its third and final reading by title only: 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.

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

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that he recommends an ordinance be prepared to move forward with street resurfacing be done as soon as possible. Mr. Wallingford stated that one can be ready on Wednesday.

Mr. Baker stated that a while back a gentleman suggested we do a bed tax on air B & B's to help fund the Chamber of Commerce. He inquired if that is being looked into. Mayor Strecker stated that we have a new director of the Bellevue Area Tourism & Visitors Bureau, Jill VanFleet, and she has been compiling information and will have some information ready in the near future.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council