

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING April 24, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held for the passing of Lorraine Robinson. A prayer was then offered by Councilwoman, Mrs. Ommert. 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 April 10, 2023 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

Pastor and State Representative, Gary Click, from Ohio's House of Representatives District 88, was in attendance. He spoke about some of the things he is working on. He mentioned the "benefits cliff" where workers lose benefits if they earn more and how it takes away the incentive for them to advance or achieve more. He is working on a "hand up" bipartisan bill, a Terra State housing project, support for law enforcement retirement plans, and a green indemnity plan. He mentioned the eclipse next year. He proposed an amendment for public safety during the event.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker introduced Boy Scout, Evan Snyder, who just completed his Eagle Scout Project by building three small libraries at Central Park, Fish and Loaves and Jungle Junction. Some children were picking up magazines and books already from the one at Central Park at the Easter egg celebration. Some retired teachers have been replenishing the books and magazines. He gave Evan a moment to speak. Evan mentioned how much he learned working on his project and how he can focus on benefiting the community in the future. He thanked the Mayor and local government personnel for their help with his project.

Mayor Strecker welcomed Peggy Missler and stated it is great to have her back in Council chambers.

He distributed a handout regarding Lieutenant Colonel Arthur F. Gorham from Bellevue, Ohio (January 11, 1915 – July 12, 1943) who was a United States Army officer and paratrooper. He was the first commander of the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division. He led the unit from its inception until Operation Husky, the July 1943 Allied Invasion of Sicily, where he was killed in action. He stated he would appreciate Council members writing letters thanking him for his service which they will take with them to Washington in August, where they hope to have him awarded a medal of honor.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked President Smith for informing everyone of Lorraine Robinson's passing and having a moment of silence in her honor. She worked as an administrative secretary with GTE, First National Bank, and for the City of Bellevue. She was involved in various civic and social organizations, notably the Committee to Grow Bellevue as well as Habitat for Humanity. She was loved and will be missed.

He stated that they are wanting to update the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Solid Waste Management District. Mr. Wallingford stated that he will dictate a resolution this week and have it ready for the next meeting. The deadline is June 3.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to add Resolution No. R-4-23 to our next agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Resolution R-4-23 will be added to our agenda for May 8, 2023.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd mentioned the crosswalks downtown, specifically 308 and 302 where accidents have occurred. Something needs to be done so they aren't so dangerous. There are programs available to make the streets safe for everyone through ODOT.

Mr. Baker mentioned the accident on 302 and US 20 in York Township, and the blocked railroad crossings. There are times when the railroads are blocked for hours and sometimes for several days. Mr. Brugnone recently had a Zoom meeting with railroad personnel covering these things. He will stay on them. They have ten days to respond when they have a complaint. Mayor Strecker stated they have had some good discussions and he is optimistic that something good will come from them.

Mr. Hill agreed with Mr. Shepherd about something needing to be done with the crossing on 302 and 20. It will be good to look at programs for grants and perhaps more warning signs could be installed.

Amy Palsa wants to thank the Bellevue Ministerial Association for serving Bellevue. They helped Amy paint a building. Pastor Justin Jump was there. The street crews transported mulch for her. She is grateful for all the help she has received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a **Committee of the Whole** workshop was held tonight prior to the regular meeting. They discussed a new clarifier for the Water Treatment Plant and proposed no bid Ordinance No. 13-23, and proposed Ordinance No. 14-23 for a recycling contract with Rumpke. It was voted to take both ordinances out of committee and add them by motion to our agenda tonight.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to add Ordinances 13-23 and 14-23 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Both ordinances are added to tonight's agenda.

Mr. Shepherd reiterated that he would like to see if Council members and citizens are interested in fixing sidewalks. Norwalk has a program to repair sidewalks that is working well. Mayor Strecker and Mr. Brugnone stated that a new position would have to be created to take care of this. Mr. Brugnone stated if anyone sees a sidewalk needing repair to call his office with the address and he will personally look at it.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Becky Grimm, 408 Brinker Street, stated that she is upset with people using Brinker Street as a raceway. Vehicles race through paying no attention to children playing. Brinker has a "No Trucks" sign but they would like to have a "Children at Play" sign also. There are no speed limit signs. Mr. Brugnone stated he will look into it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Auditor, Mr. Smith, and Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, are both excused tonight. He then turned the time over to Mr. Wallingford for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-2-23 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.03 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE REQUESTING THE SANDUSKY COUNTY AUDITOR AND HURON COUNTY AUDITOR AND ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THE CURRENT TAXABLE VALUE OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, IN SANDUSKY COUNTY AND HURON COUNTY AND ERIE COUNTY AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A RENEWAL TWO (2) MILL TAX LEVY FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 5705.19 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Resolution No. R-3-23 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR THE RENEWAL OF A TWO (2) MILL TAX LEVY FOR PROVIDING AMBULANCE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 13-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH WESTECH FOR THE REHABILITATION AND SERVICE FOR AN EXISTING CLARIFIER FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.041, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 13-23 its second and third readings by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 13-23 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH WESTECH FOR THE REHABILITATION AND SERVICE FOR AN EXISTING CLARIFIER FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.041, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 13-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0, and as an emergency.

Ordinance No. 14-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND/OR MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH RUMPKE OF OHIO, INC, FOR RECYCLING DROP BOX SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 14-23 its second and third readings by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Waldrup. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 14-23 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND/OR MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH RUMPKE OF OHIO, INC, FOR RECYCLING DROP BOX SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Ordinance No. 14-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Waldrup. A vote was taken. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0, and as an emergency.

Ordinance No. 8-23 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT PROVIDED FOR IN ORDINANCE NO. 16-15 FOR THE ELECTED POSITIONS OF BELLEVUE CITY MAYOR, BELLEVUE CITY AUDITOR, AND BELLEVUE CITY LAW DIRECTOR.

Ordinance No. 9-23 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT PROVIDED FOR IN ORDINANCE NO. 15-15 FOR THE APPOINTED POSITION OF BELLEVUE ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR (CITY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY).

Ordinance No. 11-23 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE REGULATING METAL SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND TEMPORARY STORAGE CONTAINERS, AND PROHIBITING THEIR USE AS ACCESSORY BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, THEREBY AMENDING THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Mr. Wallingford for working on an ordinance to update the Solid Waste Management Plan and he thanked Council for passing Ordinance Nos. 13-23 and 14-23.

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