

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 24, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor Beth Westphal of St. John's Lutheran Church. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MS. DOWNING, MR. HILL, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, MR. WALDRUP, and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the Public Hearing of July 10, 2023, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Waldrup. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of July 10, 2023, were presented for approval. Mr. Shepherd noted that in his report it states that the Oddo brothers all served in World War II. They all served in the Navy, not in the same war. A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to approve the minutes as revised. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. The minutes are approved as revised.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker thanked all the volunteers, vendors, and citizens for their help to make the concert at Central Park last Friday so successful. The weather was good and it was a great event for the families in the area.

There will be a community pep rally and snake dance on Thursday, August 10, at Central Park with student athletes, cheerleaders, and the Bellevue High School band. They will have food trucks.

The third and final concert will be on August 12 at Central Park. There will also be a car show in the afternoon.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that he attended the concert last Friday at Central Park and it was very impressive. He thanked everyone involved. He was encouraged by the number of attendees taking advantage of DORA. He initially had reservations about allowing drinking at the public park but it appears to be working out well.

He read an email that he received from Julie Smith voicing her concerns about the recycling bins. She is not a resident but she is from Bellevue. She stated she understands how the residents who live near them feel. They need to be moved so they aren't out in the open.

He attended the Planning Commission meeting that was held on Wednesday regarding rezoning for chickens. The proposed amendment was rejected which he expected. He disagrees with the Commission's decision and can refute every argument that was brought up.

Ms. Downing stated that she also attended the concert at Central Park. She thanked everyone who helped make it happen.

She has had many citizens reach out to her regarding allowing chickens within City limits and they are against it.

Mr. Baker stated that he also attended the concert at Central Park. It was well attended and people were respectful of each other. The entertainment was great. The same band will be performing on August 12.

Mr. Hill stated that the safety on crosswalks has been a hot topic that he has brought up many times. His wife was almost hit on Kilbourne as she was crossing from the south to north. Luckily she saw the car before the driver saw her. It was a close encounter for her and she returned home quite shaken. There needs to be a safety zone or safety perimeter for the crosswalks. There has already been one death of a prominent citizen which should never have happened. There will be more accidents if something doesn't isn't done. There seems to be a lack of responsibility and understanding on how to make the downtown area safer. With DORA opening up, there will be additional problems. We need to make all the crossings safer. Mayor Strecker stated that he has been in contact with City Engineer, Kevin Scagnetti, about hopefully stopping traffic both ways to make it safer. A lot of police reports state it is the big trucks with their mirrors. The only safe way is to stop traffic going both ways. He is looking into it and when he hears from the Engineer he will inform Council.

Mrs. Ommert stated she is out and about many times a day and she has almost been hit on North Sandusky and Main Street by semis going through the light. She watched an accident happen where a semi truck hit a car and another almost accident on St. Rt. 20 in front of Subway. The semis are going too fast.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Teri Fields, 220 North Sandusky Street, stated she walks every day. She wears bright colors and yet she has come very close to being hit and agrees that the crosswalks are not safe.

She again stated her displeasure of the placement of the recycling bins in her neighborhood. There is constant noise of the lids slamming, traffic, and trucks picking it up at all hours of the night. It is an eyesore. She said the bins need to be placed in a public area and not in a residential area. The City looks so nice as you drive through. The yards are well taken care of. Then you run into the recycling bins. If they are not going to be moved, they need to be monitored and kept sound proof, animal proof, and have certain hours of operation.

Lori McCauley, 131 Green Street, stated that it is annoying to hear the recycle bin lids constantly slamming. Many people leave the lids open and that is a problem when it rains. Too many cars are coming in and out. She estimates that about four cars come through each hour and many more on weekends. She worries about rodents, smells, and contamination with people recycling wrong materials. Her neighbor owns a day care. Many of the children arrive early and are trying to sleep and the noise from the recycling bins wakes them up and causes issues.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, Auditor, Mr. Smith, Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, and Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, were all excused tonight. There is no legislation tonight.

LEGISLATION: None.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mayor Strecker, stated that in response to some questions from a resident last meeting regarding non-citizens using our compost site, he has spoken with Barnes and they do keep track. Some non-citizens pay on site and if they have a contract, they are billed. During the storm some people could have gotten through. There was a tree service who cleaned up a church after the storm. They previously contacted Barnes and requested using the site and they were given permission. They have never closed early at the site because of weather. This is only a transition site for Barnes. The money they make from non-citizens does not get credited to the City.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baker. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council