

## MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING August 14, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council Clerk, Mrs. Soper. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MS. DOWNING, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, MR. WALDRUP, and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of July 24, 2023, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. The minutes are approved as written.

### REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

**Mayor Strecker** introduced Sergeant Nicholas Tenore who in turn introduced Bellevue Police Department's new K-9, Suki. She is a 19-month old from France. All commands are in French. She has been trained in narcotics, handler protection, and tracking. Last week she uncovered 37 grams of meth and narcotics. Recertification is once a year. They serve together 16 hours a month.

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone**, stated that the mill pond fountain was shut down last week. It was not broken, just shut off for maintenance.

There is no date yet for the demolition of the property on Gardner Street but they would like to get it started by the end of the month.

The school crossings have all been painted in time for schools to start.

The bike trail and streets will be painted after the Route 20 project is done. They are going to use the remaining 2022 money to pave part of Route 20. Then they will paint extra striping in front of businesses so people can know it is a bike trail there and watch out for bicyclists.

Regarding the downtown crosswalks, Mr. Scagnetti is working on some ideas. Particularly the crosswalks by CVS.

They are working on the Lyme Street service line project where they go through and find lines that need to be replaced. It is a huge job. Instead of bidding out the project, the City has the needed equipment and manpower, and it will be taken care of inhouse.

He talked with a representative of Rumpke. When we first set up the recycling service, it was for a one-year trial. Last month recycling has picked up and the bins are getting very full. If it continues, we might need to think about adding a few new bins. If that happens, we may need to look at another site for the recycling bins. It is already tight in there. He worries about the winter months when it would need to be plowed. We are two months away from the six month point. If we are looking for a bigger area or more bins, we need to talk about next year's budget. The Street Superintendent is considering putting up a sign to limit the time when people can go in and use it.

The City is planning to do some ditch work.

Street resurfacing bids will open on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The streets that we are looking at are Redwood which needs catch basins rebuilt. Then Sherman, Sheridan, and Green. Then five more streets will be done: Yorkshire, Brandon, Megan, Parkview and Hilltop.

**Auditor, Mr. Smith**, distributed a year-to-date report

The State Auditor is finishing up this year's audit. The questionnaire is new this year and they need a response from everyone. If you haven't completed it, please fill it out and send it back. The State Auditor has done the audit for the last 3 years. We put out a bid and accepted Zupka & Associates who will be doing the audits for the next four years.

**Law Director, Mr. Wallingford**, stated we don't have any legislation tonight but we have some coming up: one resolution and three ordinances. The resolution is the normal one we do every summer for the rates and levies. We receive a draft from the Sandusky County Auditor. After working out any issues, we get a draft of the ordinance which we would like to have on the agenda for the next meeting. It isn't due until October 1. President Smith will be the sponsor. It will be Resolution No. R-8-23.

We have the ordinance regarding blanket purchase orders which the City has used for things that are recurring in the City. We have drafted an ordinance which isn't changing anything, but approving the custom that we have and written policy we have for blanket purchase orders. If there are any questions, check with the Auditor.

We have prepared a no-bid ordinance for some Rhino Shield coating at the Water Treatment Plant. Normally we are required to bid if it is over \$50,000.00. The amount is in the process of going up to \$75,000.00, effective in October. This project will cost \$60,000.00. We have an ordinance that the Safety-Service Director is ready to place on the agenda. We need Council to approve placing that on the next agenda.

Finally, we recently made a change in the non-union pay ordinance to raise the ceiling for certain reasons. We have heard from the Recreation Department that they have some non-union pay ordinances for full-time and part-time employees and they would like to make some changes to those ordinances. They also want to change the way overtime is calculated so it will benefit the department and benefit the City and makes it more flexible for them. They submitted some drafts of what they need. It would be good to have a committee meeting to discuss this. There is a more flexible time frame as they would like to have it in place for January, 2024. Then it can come out of committee to add to the agenda. It could be the Parks & Recreation Committee, the Budget & Finance Committee, or Council of the Whole as all will be involved.

#### REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Mr. Shepherd** thanked the Safety-Service Director for updating Council in the matters he is concerned about.

**Ms. Downing** stated that there is a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting this week. She received a call inquiring what was being planned for changing the zoning for Hartland. Mr. Wallingford stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission will meet this Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. regarding some land that has been platted for that subdivision and the part of the land that fronts between Flat Rock Road and the railroad tracks is subdivided but not improved, where they are proposing to build a new dollar store. The south part of that parcel is currently zoned R-1, Single Family Residence and it would be rezoned to B-2, General Commercial. At one time it was going to be a subdivision so there was a right of way there that is being proposed to be vacated and then the property is being split so the south part will be sold off and changed to B-2, and the north part will remain R-1. The Planning Commission will be doing three things: reviewing the zoning, vacating the roadway within the area, and approving the split. They will then make a recommendation on the zoning and vacating the roadway, which will be sent to City Council for action. Details of that are at the Safety-Service Director's office. The Planning Commission meeting is open to the public. If it is recommended, it will come through Council. The entrance will be on St Rt. 18. There will be no entrance directly on Flat Rock Road.

**Mr. Waldrup** stated that he attended the community pep rally and they did a great job with it.

**Mr. Baker** thanked everyone for contributing to the concert that wasn't (as it was rained out). It has been rescheduled to next Saturday. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

It was brought to his attention that we have garbage trucks coming through at 3:00 in the morning. We need to do something about it.

**Mrs. Ommert** stated that she also went to the pep rally. She was very impressed. She wasn't aware there were that many students involved in sports and band. The students are also very intelligent. It was a great pep rally.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

**Scott Miller, Sandusky County Commissioner**, stated it is good to hear there is so much activity in Bellevue. Sandusky County is doing very well. We are heading into the budget season already. Last year we split the budget around 600 people on payroll. They gave an across the board raise to the employees and then worked on the budget. They are doing their best to bring the employees up to the level that is substantial and equal to our neighboring counties so we don't lose our good employees. We have a great staff.

He talked about the brown fields throughout our county which are properties with buildings on land that have been contaminated. Brown fields seem to transfer ownership over and over until a current owner buys it in good faith only to find out there are problems with the EPA and the land is not sellable. There is a program now that lets the county fix the properties. The current owner can keep the property or sell it. It is a great program that has already helped with several big properties that were contaminated and now doing well.

**Teri Fields, 220 North Sandusky Street**, stated that she appreciates the efforts of the Administration posting hours for using the recycling site. It is very noisy at night. She does not want them where they are. They smell, there are weeds, and people are putting regular garbage there. If there is anything that can be done to relocate them, she would appreciate it.

**Lori McCauley, 131 Green Street**, stated there is a dumpster diver going in and out of the recycling bins. There is a lot of traffic and a lot of noise.

**Lauri Strayer, 306 North Sandusky Street**, stated that the noise is getting worse at the recycling bins. More and more people are going in and out. She likes the idea of posting hours but would like to see them limit the time in the morning when the kids are going to school. When they empty the dumpsters, garbage blows out into yards. The recycling service is needed in Bellevue, but it is not in the right place.

**Doug Gildenmeister, 126 Meadowlark Drive**, stated that since the City set up the text message system, organizations in Bellevue have been able to announce positive events coming to the community. He recently asked Vicki to announce the Touch the Heart Youth Ministries' upcoming third movie night. She said she would have to check with Mr. Brugnone as he has determined that the texts should only be related to what the City is doing. He would like to know the criteria for the text messages. Two organizations recently had messages posted and he wonders why some organizations are able to use it and some are not.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Smith** stated that Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, and Councilman, Mr. Hill, are excused tonight.

He received a letter from the Planning Commission regarding a request to amend the City's codified ordinance regarding zoning for citizens to own chickens. Mr. Wallingford stated that the letter from the Planning Commission denied the request to change the zoning. He reviewed the code for this

situation and it appears that even though it is the recommendation to deny it, there is an option for Council to schedule a public hearing. There wouldn't be an ordinance because nothing has been approved by the Planning Commission. To go against what the Planning Commission recommends would require 6 or 7 votes. It is Council's decision. Council can vote at this point whether there should be a public hearing considering the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny the proposed amendment. If Council wishes to do that, we could have it in the HUB by Friday, 8/18/23, published by the next Thursday, 8/24/23, and the hearing could be held before Council on September 25. If there are questions let him know. If Council does not want to schedule a public hearing, he recommends that they pass a motion to respond to the Planning Commission letter.

President Smith inquired if Council would want more time to look it over or make a motion to have a public hearing. No one made the motion. President Smith then asked for a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation. Mr. Baker made the motion to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Ommert seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion passed by the vote 5-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

LEGISLATION: None.

CLOSING REMARKS:

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone**, thanked Council for moving forward with the Rhino Shield ordinance.

**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**