

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING October 23, 2023

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Justin Jump, Pastor of First Church of Bellevue, Ohio. 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 October 10, 2023, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Council President, Mr. Smith, introduced **Mircea Handru, Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties**, who spoke to Council members. He wanted to make everyone aware that there will be a four-year levy renewal on the ballot November 7. The levy passed four years ago and it is up again for renewal. All the fees will be 100% utilized in Sandusky County. He is asking for everyone's support. If there are any questions, let him know.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that sidewalks have been repaired on Bellaire, Kilbourne, and Buckeye Streets. Catch basins are being worked on. They finished up the Greenwood project last weekend. The catch basin on Ashford and Route 18 will be taken care of this week. He is hoping the line painting on Route 20 happens this week.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that an ordinance amending the 2023 budget is on for a second reading tonight. An ordinance will be prepared for the 2024 temporary budget and placed on the agenda for the next meeting on November 13.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford stated that he has been working with Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, on some updates that are going to be needed for our upcoming income tax ordinance. It used to be that each city did its own legislative thing, but now the State wants the legislation to be uniform throughout. There were a couple of updates done in 2018 and some recent action by the State legislature requires changes by the first of 2024. He will get an ordinance ready with the changes that are needed. He would like Council's approval to put the ordinance on when it is ready, and he is hoping to have it on the agenda for the first meeting in November.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd thanked Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, for the update on the sidewalks. He previously emailed Mr. Brugnone about increasing the amount in the budget for street repair for 2024. Mr. Brugnone met with the Street Superintendent and agreed that they are going to keep the same amount in the budget as 2023.

Mr. Baker stated noted that the house on Gardner Street that is going to be demolished has had all the trees and bushes cleared out. He inquired if the demolition on the house will happen soon. Mr. Brugnone stated that there isn't a set schedule but he was promised that it would happen before the end of the year.

He inquired if there was an update on the Opioid settlement. Huron County received money from the settlement. Will we receive money? Ms. Downing mentioned that we opted out of that settlement. Mr. Wallingford agreed that the City opted out and chose not to participate.

Mr. Hill thanked our Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, for his ambition and willingness to take on big projects to move the City forward. He stated that Mr. Brugnone has been a breath of fresh air.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Ommert stated that a **Budget & Finance Committee** meeting was held tonight at 7:00 p.m. they voted to take Ordinance No. 27-23 out of Committee and add it to the next agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mircea Handru, Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, stated that the opioid settlement had nothing to do with the public health department. Our county received two payments. Sandusky County received \$60,000.00 in one payment. The City of Fremont received \$20,000.00. More money will go out next year there and there will be a bidding process. The funds have to be used to fight the drug epidemic or mental health issues.

Joe Burkhart, former President of The Animal House—Sober Club, which is a non-profit organization to help recovering addicts, located at 206 ½ West Main Street in Bellevue, stated that In the three years since its opening, hundreds of people have attended. They have regular meetings, and have long-term fellowship partners to help with relapse issues. They received a grant for Narcan and merchandise. If anyone wants more information, let him know. A buyer recently purchased the building and they have to relocate. They are not going to quit. They would love to have support and they do take private donations. President Smith thanked him for all he and his team are doing for the City.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Mayor Strecker and Mr. Freitag are both excused tonight. He called for a motion to add the RITA income tax ordinance to the next agenda. A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert and seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0.

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

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-10-23 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND AGREEING TO COOPERATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PARK IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT 2023 LOCAL PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-10-23 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Ms. Downing. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Resolution No. R-10-23 was given its second and third readings by title only: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND AGREEING TO COOPERATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PARK IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE SANDUSKY COUNTY

PARK DISTRICT 2023 LOCAL PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Resolution No. R-10-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Ms. Downing. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0, and as an emergency.

Ordinance No. 26-23 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 5-23, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 26-23 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 26-23 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 5-23, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 26-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0, and as an emergency.

Resolution No. R-9-23 was given its second reading by title only: A PRELIMINARY NON-BINDING RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT ROBERT PETERS PARK IN THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-9-23 its third reading by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

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A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Resolution No. R-9-23. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 25-23 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY AGREEMENTS AND TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY WITH RESPECT TO A PROPOSED GRANT TO OR ON BEHALF OF BELLEVUE ROTARY SENIOR HOUSING CORPORATION, FROM THE REVIVING LOAN FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 25-23 its third reading by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 25-23 was given its third reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY AGREEMENTS AND TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY WITH RESPECT TO A PROPOSED GRANT TO OR ON BEHALF OF BELLEVUE

ROTARY SENIOR HOUSING CORPORATION, FROM THE REVIVING LOAN FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 25-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 24-23 was given its third reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING REPLACEMENT PAGES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Waldrup to adopt Ordinance No. 24-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Ms. Downing. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that he has talked with the Auditor of State regarding the audit that they did for the City. The Auditor told him that they are finalizing the report and he will hopefully have a report to share with Council at the next meeting.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Council for passing the various ordinances tonight.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk