

## MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING January 8, 2024

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor and Council President, Ronald Smith. Council members present: MR. BURKHART, MR. HILL, MS. MUNIZ, MRS. OMMERT, and MR. SHEPHERD.

**President Smith** welcomed new members of Council. He then called for nominations for President Pro Tempore for 2024. Mr. Hill nominated Mr. Baker. A vote was taken. All were in favor of Mr. Baker serving as President Pro Tempore for 2024.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of December 11, 2023, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. The minutes are approved as written.

### REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone**, updated Council on the status of Bellevue's K-9 unit. Last week a donation of \$1,000.00 came in and the Chief received a verbal commitment of a donation in a significant amount that will be coming in the near future. We are still taking donations for the dog.

During the holidays the recycling bins were very busy. We learned we will need to add an additional dump day where they pick up the recycling bins twice a week instead of once a week. We don't need to add any more bins. We know that some citizens are putting trash in with the recyclables. He talked with an official from Rumke who stated that Bellevue is not a concern to them as we are well below average. Amcor reached out to him. They are wanting to come onboard with our recycling service and show their support. They like what we are doing. The next contract we sign, they will be covering 25% of the bill for the contract. We have a new camera being installed there which will monitor it better.

New cameras have been going up at State Route 269 and U.S. 20, and U.S. 18 and U.S. 20. They aren't quite how we want them yet, to help with the problems of the crosswalks, but we have a plan and those two crosswalks will be monitored better with the new cameras. It is about \$20,000.00-\$20,000.00 per camera so those will be the only ones this year. Others are being planned for next year.

Last year we signed a three-year contract with Barnes with the stipulation that we can meet with them yearly. We will meet with them this Thursday to talk about concerns we both have. One item is to decide whether to stop taking mattresses altogether, or increase the amount charged. We'll talk about outside residents using the site. Kate has been there for ten years and she knows most of the people who come in and use the dumpsters. There were churches last year who called in people to help and they were paying to have trees removed. They got permission ahead of time. Kate goes over the list with him of citizens coming and going monthly. Sometimes when out of the area workers come, Barnes bills them and it doesn't go to the City. Mr. Hill inquired if the site could be open on Saturday for more hours. Mr. Brugnone stated he will look into it.

**Auditor, Mr. Smith**, distributed his year-to-date report through December 31, 2023. The numbers look good. They are still working on closing out the year.

## REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Mr. Hill** stated that Amy will be making an announcement soon. She got a substantial donation for Robert Peters Park. This will allow them to purchase the equipment right now so they can put it up in the spring. She will have a presentation and update. That project is moving quickly. Many citizens are supporting what she is doing.

**Mr. Shepherd** inquired if the City could increase the penalty for using the dumpsters by out-of-town people and perhaps offer a reward for citizens who report violators.

There is an abandoned house on south Buckeye Street that has been empty for about seven to eight months. The ordinances state that after 180 days the City has the option to demolish it after mailing a certified letter to the owner and publishing it in the newspaper for three weeks.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**President Smith** stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight at 7:10 p.m. to discuss proposed **Resolution No. R-1-24: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH GOVDEALS, INC., FOR THE SALE OF UNNEEDED PERSONAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 721.15, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, and Ordinance No. 1-24: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 741 OF THE BELLEVUE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS TO TAXICABS.**

## CITIZEN COMMENTS:

**Patti Gray, 252 Gunther Street,** gave a report on the Backpack program from September through December. They distributed 1028 bags, they had 120 volunteer hours, and the cost per week was \$400.00-\$500.00 depending if they gave them extra for when school was out for an extended period of time.

She welcomed back returning Council members and welcomed two new Council members.

**Terri Fields, 220 North Sandusky Street,** stated that the recycling bins are not in the right area. They are a good idea, but they shouldn't be by citizen's homes. They have had to deal with garbage including pizza boxes which bring in animals. The noise is terrible. It isn't just at Christmas time, the cars are non-stop. There has to be a better place to put the bins. She stated it is very loud when they drop the bins and they come very early in the morning. It isn't getting any better, it is getting worse.

**Philip Wheeler, The Hub Reporter,** stated that he and his wife often drive through Bellevue and it is one of the prettiest cities around. The Administration does a fantastic job.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Smith** stated that Mr. Baker is excused tonight.

Everyone was sent the press release for the Ward 2 vacancy.

He opened the floor to add Resolution No. R-1-24 and Ordinance No. 1-24 to tonight's agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to add the resolution and ordinance to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 5-0.

He will be assigning committee chairmen and members with their assignments when he finds out who will fill the Second Ward seat.

He mentioned the 2024 new council member seminars. Everyone was given a copy conducted by the Ohio Municipal League. If anyone is interested in going, let him know. If there is a cost, you will be reimbursed. They have very informative meetings.

He will make sure everyone has a list of the agenda for the special meeting on January 22. The press release states that letters need to be received by him by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. He has received three but one withdrew. He gave everyone a copy for their review.

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

LEGISLATION:

**Resolution No. R-1-24 was given its first reading:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH GOVDEALS, INC., FOR THE SALE OF UNNEEDED PERSONAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 721.15, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Ordinance No. 1-24 was given its first reading:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 741 OF THE BELLEVUE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS TO TAXICABS.

CLOSING REMARKS:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Burkhart. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Ronald Smith**  
**President of Council**

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**Rhonda R. Soper**  
**City Council Clerk**