

**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 22, 2024**

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for a Special City Council Meeting to fill the vacancy of Second Ward Councilperson. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MR. BURKHART, MR. HILL, MS. MUNIZ, MRS. OMMERT, and MR. SHEPHERD.

President Smith informed Council that there is only one applicant to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Wynbissinger gave a statement expressing that he looks forward to working with Council members.

Mr. Shepherd nominated Caleb A. Wynbissinger to fill the vacancy for the unfilled term ending December 31, 2025, as Councilperson for the Second Ward in the City of Bellevue, Ohio. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. All were in favor. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to close the nominations. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. All were in favor.

A verbal roll call was held wherein Council members voiced their vote and who their vote was for. Voting was as follows:

Mr. Baker	Yes	Mr. Wynbissinger
Mr. Burkhardt	Yes	Mr. Wynbissinger
Mr. Hill	Yes	Mr. Wynbissinger
Ms. Muniz	Yes	Mr. Wynbissinger
Mrs. Ommert	Yes	Mr. Wynbissinger
Mr. Shepherd	Yes	Mr. Wynbissinger

After the vote, the appointed candidate, Caleb A. Wynbissinger, was sworn in by Judge David J. Claus.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Baker. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert, and everyone was in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 22, 2024**

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Councilman, Mr. Burkhart. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MR. BURKHART, MR. HILL, MS. MUNIZ, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of January 8, 2024, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Burkhart to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker stated that he has been working with a committee of Bellevue veterans, the Sandusky County Commissioners, the Huron County Commissioners, various senator's offices and Jim Jordan of the House of Representatives, in honoring LTC Arthur F. Gorham, a WWII Army officer and paratrooper, from Bellevue. He made the ultimate sacrifice during his participation in Operation Husky in Sicily in July, 1943. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, but there is a resounding call to revisit the honor bestowed upon him as his actions that day merit the upgrade of his medal to the prestigious Medal of Honor.

The committee has been collecting letters of endorsement and have a packet ready to send to Senator J. D. Vance. They have been encouraged by a military attaché to collect as many letters of recommendation as they can get. He recommends that everyone who is interested write a letter. You can go online to Ohiohero.org and read the information. On the website there is a link you can go to and fill out an email to submit which will then be added to the packet of letters. He is also making available samples of letters on the back table that you can use. If you use one, put it in your own words. Bellevue High School and Middle School students are writing letters of endorsement. The committee has been working on this for several years and it is a long time coming, but it looks like he will be receiving the Medal of Honor.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that when he first started the job as Safety-Service Director, he inquired if they could reapproach the railroad about issues we have had over the years. He thanked the Mayor, Mr. Scagnetti and Mr. Sabo for working together as a fresh team. They met with the railroad team last week and they came up with several things to work on. They will finally be dealing with our underpass drainage problem. We now have a great connection and line of communication with them. He looks forward to working through various issues with them.

He thanked Jake Thomas, CEO of Thomas Steel, for their contribution of \$20,000.00 for Bellevue's new K-9 unit. Getting donations for the K-9 unit was a little slow going at first, but a couple of weeks ago the Police Chief received a \$1,000.00 donation, and now they have Mr. Thomas' donation of \$20,000.00.

He had an update on the Waste Water Treatment Department's project. It has been almost a year since it began and it is about completed. They should be done with it around the end of February and ready to run on March 1.

He and Mayor Strecker met with representatives from Barnes. They discussed issues for the coming year including paying attention to any out-of-town people coming in to use the site. Saturday hours will be increased to 4:00 p.m. They are trying to decide if they want to have a third bin for April through June or for the entire season. Last year they had an excessive amount of mattresses which take up a lot of room. The options could be for citizens to pre-pay to dump mattresses. He meets with Kate monthly. She has been there almost ten years. She waves people through but she is very well aware of who they are and where they are from, who they charge and who they don't charge. He did ask them to be very observant with out-of-town people coming in.

President Smith thanked Mr. Brugnone for the updates and for all he is accomplishing.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford stated that the Clerk received information from the Ethics Commission of the State of Ohio regarding the required financial disclosure statements for elected officials. She emailed the information to everyone last week and passed out a hard copy tonight. The disclosure form can be done online. If anyone wants a hard copy to fill out and mail, let the Clerk know and one will be provided for them. The disclosures are due May 15.

President Smith stated that you don't want to forget to fill these out because if you forget and miss the deadline, you will be fined.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Hill inquired if LTC Gorham has relatives presently living in Bellevue. Mayor Strecker stated that there are some family members here. The committee is working with LTC Gorham's son, Bruce.

Mr. Shepherd inquired if the City Street Department had any issues with vehicles being in the street when they needed to plow due to the recent snow storms. Mr. Brugnone stated that there are a couple of streets they will be putting up no parking signs for snow days. Most citizens have complied so far and it hasn't been an issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Hill stated that a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was held tonight prior to the regular meeting to discuss proposed Resolution No. R-2-24. He made a motion to take the resolution out of committee and add it to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Resolution No. R-2-24 will be added to tonight's agenda.

President Smith scheduled a Committee of the Whole work session for Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:10 p.m. to discuss committee assignments and protocol.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Patrick Fox, representing North Central EMS, stated that they did very well in 2023. They had 1,179 total responses and their collection rate was 34.4 percent for the year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, is excused tonight.

He distributed copies of this year's new committee assignments. This will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole work session on February 12.

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

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-2-24 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND AGREEING TO COOPERATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE OTTAWA, SANDUSKY, SENECA COUNTY JOINT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-2-24 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Resolution No. R-2-24 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 ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE OTTAWA, SANDUSKY, SENECA COUNTY JOINT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Resolution No. R-2-24 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-1-24 was given its second reading by title only: 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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-1-24 its third reading by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Burkhart. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Resolution No. R-1-24 was given its third reading by title only: 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Resolution No. R-1-24 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.

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

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mayor Strecker reminded everyone of the samples of letters of endorsement that were on the table in the back of the room.

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