

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2024**

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:45 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor Jeff Durrow of Bellevue Alliance Church. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MR. BURKHART, MR. HILL, MS. MUNIZ, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the special City Council meeting of January 22, 2024, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. The minutes are approved as written.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of January 22, 2024, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker informed Council that they are completing the endorsement letter project for Ltd. Colonel Arthur Gorham. If anyone wishes to write a letter of endorsement, they need to send them as soon as possible because they will be sending all the letters out within the next week.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that Huron County Land Bank contacted him to let him know the City will be receiving some property at 324 East Main Street. This property is on top of the hill by the Subway Lounge. The City already owns one property near it and this property will also be given to the City. This is property the City wants to keep. Mr. Wallingford explained the process for the City obtaining the property. Council will need to pass an ordinance allowing the sale of City properties. He can prepare an ordinance that can be added to the next agenda by motion. A motion to add an ordinance allowing the sale of City properties to the next agenda was made by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that the audit for 2022 is nearing completion. It will be sent to all members for their review prior to the exit interview.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mrs. Ommert stated that she spoke with Auditor, Mr. Smith, and Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, about an issue concerning her church. The problem was handled within two days and she wanted them to know how much she and her church appreciated their quick action.

Ms. Muniz stated that this morning she received a spam email that looked like it came from Mayor Strecker. She called the Mayor's office and was told it did not come from them. Be on the lookout for spam messages.

Mr. Burkhardt stated that he had received the same spam email that looked like it came from the Mayor. Be careful and screen your emails.

He mentioned that the City workers who have been helping with the park are doing a great job.

Mr. Baker stated that several citizens have brought to his attention the downtown lights that are flickering and out. He inquired if they can be disconnected as it is irritating to have them flicker. They are doing it during daylight as well as when it is dark. He instructed the citizens to contact Vicki at the Mayor's office regarding issues with the lights. Mr. Brugnone stated that citizens can also go to the City's website to inform them about issues with lights.

Mr. Hill also thanked the City workers for all they have been doing to prepare the park. In the past there hasn't been as much support from City workers and he wanted them to know how much they are appreciated.

Mr. Shepherd stated that tonight we will have the third and final reading of Ordinance 1-24 regarding taxicabs. He feels the updates are helpful but one day in the future when the time is right he would like to see some other things changed within the code.

COOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Ommert stated that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held tonight prior to the regular meeting to discuss proposed Ordinances No. 2-24 and 3-24. It was decided to take both ordinances out of committee and add them to tonight's agenda. She made that motion and it was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Both ordinances will be added to tonight's agenda.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that we were expecting just a first reading of the budget ordinance tonight as it isn't due until the end of March. Auditor Smith stated that it is ready and the exhibit is final. It will be Council's pleasure if they want to give it a first reading or suspend the rules and give it all three readings.

President Smith stated that a Council of the Whole work session was held tonight to discuss committee assignments and protocol and the sale of City properties.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Diana Spoerr, 600 North Sandusky Street, stated that there is a property on North Sandusky Street that has been vacant for ten years or more and it is getting more and more run down. Shrubbery is growing everywhere and a side door is falling off. The inside is gutted and the owner hasn't done anything with it for years. She inquired if anything can be done. Mr. Wallingford inquired if the owner lives in the area. President Smith stated that he knows the

owner. Mr. Wallingford said she came to the right place and the Mayor and Safety-Service Director can look into it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, is excused tonight. He then turned the time over to Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 2-24 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH BARNES NURSERY, INC., FOR COMPOST SERVICES AND DUMPSTER SERVICES WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 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 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 2-24 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH BARNES NURSERY, INC., FOR COMPOST SERVICES AND DUMPSTER SERVICES WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 2-24 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 6-1, and as an emergency. Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 3-24 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Ordinance No. 1-24. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mrs. Ommert thanked Auditor Smith for his diligence in getting the budget ready in such a timely manner.

Mr. Baker gave kudos to Mrs. Ommert and Auditor Smith. Many times in years past the budget has taken much longer to get ready and this year they have been very diligent.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, gave kudos to the Finance Department for their hard work and help with getting the budget ready.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Council for passing Ordinance No. 2-24.

Mayor Strecker inquired if it would help if he sent letters to the various county commissioners and officials who are up for re-election and wanting to address Council instructing them to contact President Smith. It was discussed and decided that it would be a good idea to send letters.

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
City Council Clerk