

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 26, 2024

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 7:35 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Reverend Diane Carter, of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. 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 February 12, 2024, 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:

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, informed Council that the Mayor had a mild heart attack over the weekend. He received two stents, he has returned home, and he is recuperating well. He is taking City calls if needed but not personal calls at this time. If we have documents for him to sign, Mr. Brugnone will take them to him and get them signed.

Bellevue's Fire Chief, Thomas Maike, retired last Friday. Joe Wilhelm will be the interim fire chief.

There have been comments made on social media about the crumbling underpass. It is not falling apart. The City is working with ODOT to repair it. They are chipping away the loose concrete. There will be some restructuring.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that the Ohio State Auditor finished his 2022 audit and they had their exit meeting. As soon as they receive the go ahead from the State, they will discuss the State's findings with Council.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that following up on the retirement of Fire Chief Maike, Joe Wilhelm will be a temporary fire chief for thirty days. After thirty days he will become interim or provisional fire chief while the testing is done. As far as pay goes, we have a supervisor's ordinance for the City which includes police chief, fire chief, etc. We have another for the union contract. Last time we did the interim fire chief, Chief Maike came on board. To approve the decisions and the appointments, in conjunction with Civil Service, and to establish the pay ordinance in the meantime, the interim fire chief cannot be a union member. Dave would like Council's authorization to have an ordinance ready for interim fire chief and on the agenda for the next Council meeting. At that point we will have heard back from the Civil Service Commission. We want to make sure we can properly pay him. A motion was made by Mr. Burkhardt to add an ordinance for interim fire chief on the next agenda. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. It will be added to the agenda for March 11, 2024.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Hill inquired if the retirement of Fire Chief Maike was anticipated. Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that they were informed about his retirement at the end of January. The Chief's wife put her career on hold for several years and now she can have an opportunity to pursue her own career. Chief Maike will stay on with the City part time for training and administration. He has been doing a great job.

Mr. Shepherd stated that the old church on Southwest and Harrison Street has a hole in the roof. It is a historical building and should be preserved. Also the zoning was changed by the VFW for new development but hasn't seen any work done on it. Mr. Brugnone stated that pre-covid building prices were much cheaper. They have been discussing it and in time it can still happen. A letter was sent over a year ago regarding the church building having various issues and they have been taken care of. It does look like there is a hole in the roof. He will look into it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Baker scheduled a Public Utilities Committee meeting for Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Hill stated that a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was held tonight prior to the regular meeting tonight to discuss proposed Ordinance No. 7-24 regarding a new position of Park Operations and Maintenance Manager. It was decided to take the ordinance out of committee and place it on tonight's agenda by motion. Mr. Hill made a motion to add Ordinance 7-24 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Ordinance No. 7-24 is added to tonight's agenda.

President Smith stated that a Council of the Whole work session was held tonight to discuss proposed Ordinance No. 5-24 regarding setting the cost of fees charged by the Police Dept. for state and federal background check fingerprinting. We also discussed Ordinance No. 6-24 regarding an addendum agreement with Rumpke for recycling. It was decided to take both ordinances out of committee and added them to tonight's agenda by motion. A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to add Ordinance 5-24 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. A motion was then made by Mr. Hill to add Ordinance No. 6-24 to tonight's agenda. Mr. Wallingford stated that Ordinance No. 6-24 may not be ready for its first reading. A motion was made by Mr. Hill to add it to the agenda as soon as the information has been verified. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Mayor Strecker is excused tonight.

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

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 4-24 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE IN THE MATTER OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE'S PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 324 EAST MAIN STREET, BELLEVUE, HURON COUNTY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 4-24 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 4-24 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE IN THE MATTER OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE'S PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 324 EAST MAIN STREET, BELLEVUE, HURON COUNTY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 4-24 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. 5-24 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COST OF FEES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF BELLEVUE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR STATE AND FEDERALLY MANDATED BACKGROUND CHECK FINGERPRINTING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 5-24 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Ordinance No. 5-24 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COST OF FEES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF BELLEVUE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR STATE AND FEDERALLY MANDATED BACKGROUND CHECK FINGERPRINTING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to adopt Ordinance No. 5-24 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0, and as an emergency.

Ordinance No. 7-24 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF A FULL-TIME PARK OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE MANAGER FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND FIXING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR THIS POSITION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 7-24 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.

Ordinance No. 7-24 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF A FULL-TIME PARK OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE MANAGER FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND FIXING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR THIS POSITION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

President Smith called for a motion to amend the exhibit for Ordinance No. 3-24. A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert. It was seconded by Mr. Burkhart. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Auditor Smith discussed some of the issues that have come up. It doesn't change the total amount but a few of the line accounts will have minor changes. We could have waited but it would be nice to have them all done now to keep everything accurate.

Ordinance No. 3-24 was given its second reading by title only: 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.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Hill inquired where we stand on the acquisition of land behind the City offices. Mr. Wallingford stated that he hasn't heard anything in opposition and if Council is ready, he will get the necessary documents to bring it officially to Council. When we get everything in writing, we can bring it back in the form of an ordinance with an agreement.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Council for passing the ordinances tonight and getting permission for an ordinance regarding the acquisition of the land behind the City offices.

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