

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 11, 2024**

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, March 11, 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. BAKER, MR. BURKHART, MR. HILL, MS. MUNIZ, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 26, 2024, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Burkhardt to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone**, informed Council that Norfolk Southern is working on the subway underpass, contrary to what it states on social media. At one point they will be down to one lane and we may possibly experience a total closure as the work progresses.

**Auditor, Mr. Smith**, distributed copies of the exit meeting summation. He stated that the Auditor of the State finished the 2022 audit and the financial report is now public information. Auditor Smith discussed three particular findings with Council. First, the state audit noted a noncompliance issue insofar as the accounting of the medical self-insurance program needed to be added onto the books of the City. Through the use of an internal service fund this has been accomplished. Second, the state audit cited as a material weakness the reported inventory pricing, specifically within the Distribution section of the Water Department. The administration will create a formal inventory policy based on current practice and see that it is adhered to throughout all departments. Third, the purchase of fitness equipment by the Wastewater Department was recorded as an equipment expense; per the Auditor of the State, this should have been recorded as a fringe benefit and recorded under personal services expense.

**Law Director, Mr. Wallingford**, stated that the new exhibit for Ordinance No. 3-24 was passed out at the last Council meeting and is still correct.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Mr. Wynbissinger** welcomed Brandon Good as the new superintendent at the Water Treatment Plant.

**Mr. Hill** also welcomed Superintendent Good.

**President Smith** introduced **Peggy Courtney, Executive Director of Sandusky County Travel & Tourism Bureau**, who addressed Council and gave an update. She thanked Bellevue City officials and citizens for their support. She stated they are doing everything to market Bellevue. In 2023 they offered 94 bus tours of Sandusky County. In Bellevue they have toured Cherry City Honey for a beekeepers experience where they did a hands-on craft and tasted all the different kinds of infused honey. They went to Thomas Steel for a manufacturing tour. They also take them to the barn mural at The Bellevue Hospital. The tours go to seven different barn murals. They take a tour to the Sorrowful Mother's Shrine. They go to the Copper Whale Winery. They go to Bone Boys BBQ, used now as a catering company for groups. They have 40 group tours booked so far for 2024.

They have a website calendar that organizations can schedule activities and events. On March 4 there were over 400 people on the website.

They have put up billboards in Michigan and in several magazines advertising places to visit in Bellevue.

They are preparing for the upcoming eclipse on April 8. They have been planning it for the last two and a half years. They donated hundreds of free viewing glasses to cities in the area.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Mr. Baker** stated that a Public Utilities Committee meeting was held tonight at 7:15 p.m. to discuss water meters and issues. Superintendent Brandon Good was in attendance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Smith** stated that Mayor Strecker and Mr. Freitag are excused tonight.

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

#### LEGISLATION:

**Ordinance No. 6-24 was given its first reading:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND/OR MAYOR TO SIGN AN ADDENDUM AGREEMENT WITH RUMPKE OF OHIO, INC., FOR RECYCLING DROP BOX SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 6-24 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. 6-24 was given its second and third readings by title only:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND/OR MAYOR TO SIGN AN ADDENDUM AGREEMENT WITH RUMPKE OF OHIO, INC., FOR RECYCLING DROP BOX SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to adopt Ordinance No. 6-24 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Burkhart. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 5-2, and as an emergency. Ms. Muniz and Mr. Shepherd, nay.

**Ordinance No. 8-24 was given its first reading:** AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH WILHELM AS TEMPORARY FIRE CHIEF AND THEREAFTER PROVISIONAL FIRE CHIEF (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS INTERIM FIRE CHIEF), IF CERTIFIED BY THE BELLEVUE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, MAKING THE SAME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 8-24 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. 8-24 was given its second and third readings by title only:** AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH WILHELM AS TEMPORARY FIRE CHIEF AND THEREAFTER PROVISIONAL FIRE CHIEF (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS INTERIM FIRE CHIEF), IF CERTIFIED BY THE BELLEVUE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, MAKING THE SAME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Burkhart to adopt Ordinance No. 8-24 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0, and as an emergency.

**Ordinance No. 3-24 was given its third 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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to adopt Ordinance No. 3-24 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.

CLOSING REMARKS:

**Auditor, Mr. Smith** thanked Council for passing Ordinance No. 3-24.

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone**, thanked Council for passing the 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,

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**Ronald Smith**  
President of Council

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**Rhonda R. Soper**  
City Council Clerk