

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2024

Bellevue City Council met on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Councilman, Mr. Wynbissinger. 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 March 25, 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 thanked Council President, Mr. Smith, for the time and effort he put into the Vietnam Veteran's Day memorial service. President Smith thanked Mayor Strecker for the speech he gave honoring all the Vietnam vets.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, gave a shout out to all the City workers and emergency personnel for their contributions to the Eclipse events yesterday. We didn't have quite the turn out we were expecting, but with all the planning and hard work, everything went very smoothly.

At the beginning of the year he applied for an OSS grant to go towards the City's recycling efforts. He was awarded \$7,000.00 which will be used for our recycling program.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that the Safety-Service Director's office opened up bids to sell three properties that are no longer being used by the City. There is one on Sheffield Street near Thomas Steel and the railroad, another one at 532 Gardner Street which is the property where the house was demolished, and 406 High Street. There were bids that the Safety-Service Director wants to accept. Dave has been working on three separate ordinances for the sales and the deeds to go along with them. We should have drafts going out by email this week to Mr. Brugnone, Dave Sabo and President Smith. We are hoping to schedule a brief Committee of the Whole work session before the next meeting to get the ordinances on the agenda. We will be sending copies of them out with the agenda for the next meeting. If there are any questions, let him know.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Burkhart stated that the Visitor's Bureau did a great job with the Eclipse events. They had many meetings to plan for it and they brought all the businesses together very well. The Police Department had a good presence.

Mrs. Ommert stated that the Eclipse events were very well done and enjoyable.

Mr. Baker stated that as Council is aware, there have been discussions about changing the terms of service for Council persons. Input from Council members would be welcome. It would be good to have a four-year term staggered so that not everyone will be running at the same time.

Mr. Hill requested that when some of the City streets are repaved this year, please look at repairing Monroe Street. There are numerous potholes and intersection issues. Also, if the sweeper could sweep along Monroe Street and take care of the pine cones and debris, that would be great.

Amy Palsa also applied for an OSS grant and she was awarded \$10,000.00 which she will use toward the surface around the new playground. Last week she received a check for the playground at Robert Peters Park. It will probably be late fall this year or next spring when all the equipment is installed.

Mr. Shepherd stated that he did some research and because Bellevue is a statutory City, and we don't have a charter, we are restricted on the terms for Council persons. President Smith stated that they are looking into it and Mr. Wallingford stated there is a code section that states by a vote of the electors you can move from two to four-year terms. There would have to be an ordinance drawn up. On the first election, half the Council persons would have two-year terms and the rest would have four-year terms. Then after the first election, the ones on the two-year term would go to four-year terms. There are several options for Council to consider. Perhaps the President of Council and the At Large Council persons would go on one shift and then alternate. This does have to be approved by the voters. He asked the Board of Elections for a form to start the process and they did not have a form. Fremont has their Council persons on a four-year alternating term system. Our first step is to determine what Council would like to do. There will have to be an ordinance for it and it would have to be filed with the Board of Elections. It is a complicated process, but doable. President Smith stated he touched base with a Council member in Fremont to see if we could locate some legislation that they used. He recommended that Ron get in touch with their Mayor's office. He will follow up to see if they have any legislation we can look at. Mr. Wallingford suggested that if they can't find the legislation, perhaps they have it in their codified ordinances.

Mr. Shepherd stated that he has seen some sidewalks in the City being repaired.

COOMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith scheduled a Council of the Whole work session for Monday, April 22, 2024, at 7:15 p.m., to discuss the sale of City properties.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Alicia Robles, 100 Northgate Drive, stated that she represents four organizations. She wanted to thank the Vue Total Solar Eclipse Committee including Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, Amy Palsa of the Recreation Department, Pam Verhoff of the Chamber of Commerce, Jillian Fleet, Marketing Director of the Visitor's Bureau, Jamie Garza, Communications Director of the Visitor's Bureau, and Patti Gray, volunteer, for making the events on day of the Eclipse such a success. They also had a lot of help from the Sandusky

County EMA and Sandusky County Business Bureau as well as the Huron County Chamber and Business Bureau. A lot of advertising was done. They had over 5,000 views on the website and 65,955 posts on Facebook. We had visitors from as far away as Brazil, Holland, France, Spain, Iowa, Michigan, Virginia, West Virginia, and California. She talked with a group of Mennonite teachers from Maryland who drove here for the Eclipse. They had a telescope with a board set up to watch. Cherry City Honey had 50 viewers, Gilbert's Place was busy, and Amy Palsa said they had viewers at the Recreation Center and at Robert Peter's Park. They had a T-shirt contest, and there was an art exhibit which is still available to view at the library. They had a coloring book for kids and the Historical Society had a display. **President Smith** thanked her for all her hard work and thanked all the other volunteers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

LEGISLATION: None.

CLOSING REMARKS:

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