

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 27, 2025

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council Clerk, Mrs. Soper. 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 13, 2025, 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.

President Smith introduced **Lynn Kochheiser, Director of North Central EMS & Emergency Management**, who distributed a handout regarding 2024 ambulance runs by type, billable claims, and response times. They had a total of 1,130 runs in 2024. Billable claims totaled 976 for the year. They get most of their claims paid by Medicare and Medicaid and their response times for 2024 were below seven minutes. She stated she will return in six months for an update of 2025.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

President Smith wished **Mayor Strecker** a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Strecker stated that he will be attending the Eric County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 5, the Seneca County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 6, and the Sandusky County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 13. If there is anything Council would like for him to ask during one of these meetings, please let him know. He previously attended the Erie County Board of Commissioners meeting.

He stated that he is working on updating the list of boards and commissions. He will have it finished by February for Council's review.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, distributed the year-to-date revenue report through December 31, 2024. They will be adding to the expenses in 2025 for the US Route 20 project.

He suggested that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting be scheduled before the next City Council meeting. He will send a copy of the 2025 budget prior to the committee meeting so Council can review it.

A City audit for 2024 has begun. This one is not being done by the Auditor of State and will hopefully be done around May. When the Auditor of State performs the audit it takes much longer.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, informed Council that a new liquor license transfer has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. This is a transfer from Benchwarmers Restaurant & Delivery LLC to Gigi's Tacos & Margaritas LLC. The deadline for requesting a hearing or stating that we will NOT request a hearing is February 14. Our next meeting is February 10. In the meantime, he will contact the Safety-Service Director and Police

Chief to make sure there have not been any issues regarding this restaurant and we will vote regarding a hearing at the next meeting.

The Clerk sent out notices to Council members regarding the filing requirements for the 2024 financial disclosure statement. The filing deadline for individuals who served in a city elective office in 2024 or serve in 2025, and are NOT candidates in 2025, is Thursday, May 15, 2025. If they are a candidate in 2025 for the same office or any other elected office, they are required to file 30 days before the first primary election when their name will appear on a ballot. The deadline for filing as a candidate is Monday, April 7, 2025. The filing can be done online. If you would like to have a hard copy to fill out and mail in, please see the Clerk.

President Smith encouraged candidates who have not turned in their petitions, to get extra signatures as they may need them.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Hill stated that he was approached by a citizen regarding a large number of cars that were parked on Reservoir 4 and inquired if that many people could be walking around the reservoir. What are the legalities of residents getting on the reservoir to ice fish? Mr. Wallingford stated Mr. Brugnone may know the answer or we can look into it. No boats are allowed and no one should be on the water at all. Mr. Baker inquired if there are signs stating that and Mayor Strecker stated that there used to be but he doesn't know if they are still there. Regular fishing is allowed on the reservoirs but no boats. Fishing in the millpond is allowed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight at 7:15 p.m. to discuss proposed Ordinance No. 2-25 regarding granting a one-year waiver in the sewer rate increase for calendar year 2025. It was voted to take the ordinance out of committee and put on tonight's agenda by vote. Mr. Wynbissinger made a motion to add Ordinance No. 2-25 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Ordinance No. 2-25 is added to tonight's agenda.

Mrs. Ommert scheduled a Budget & Finance Committee meeting for Monday, February 10, 2025, at 7:15 p.m., prior to the regular City Council meeting, to review the budget for 2025.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Jason Weider, 403 Lyme Street, stated that he appreciates how Council starts its meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Patti Gray, 252 Gunther Street, gave an update on her Backpack program from September through December, 2024. They spent \$5,035.00 during that time. There were 1,226 bags packed for children in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. The bags cost approximately \$4.11 per bag. She has a wonderful and efficient crew that can bag over 100 bags in 45 minutes. She has received donations from the Bellevue Lions Club and Fisher Titus

Hospital and the Fisher Titus employees. She will be talking with the Rotary Club next month to discuss what they do and how things work.

She thanked the City Street Department on doing a very good job.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, is excused tonight.

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

LEGISLATION:

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to give Ordinance No. 2-25 its first, second, and third readings by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, gave a brief synopsis of Ordinance No. 2-25 and proceeded to read it by title only.

Ordinance No. 2-25 was given its first, second, and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A ONE YEAR WAIVER IN THE SCHEDULED INCREASE OF SEWER RATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 UNDER BELLEVUE CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 925.02, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Ordinance No. 2-25, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that Council should receive an email with the 2025 budget before the next meeting.

Mayor Strecker thanked Council for passing Ordinance No. 2-25.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Smith thanked everyone for attending and requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shepherd. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk