

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 10, 2025**

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, March 10, 2025, 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 24, 2025, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. The minutes were approved as written.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:**

**Mayor Strecker** announced that he will be giving two proclamations from the Administration and City Council. The first one is to FCCLA (Family Centers and Community Leaders of America) for the regional competition they attended over the weekend. They received one gold, four silver and four bronze awards. The second proclamation is for Bellevue High School wrestlers and indoor track athletes who will be attending the Outstanding Athletic Achievement Day on March 12. He also wants to show appreciation to the cheerleaders and students promoting school spirit, the coaches, and all the parents.

There will be a fish fry luncheon at The Willows on Friday, April 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone**, stated that since the weather has been getting better, the gas company has been back at work. One of the contractors recently had a hiccup on Main Street and Sandusky Street and had to temporarily close the street. They will have signs and arrows. Then they will come back and take care of the patchwork issues on the side streets that they need to fix.

They have been in contract negotiations with AFSCME. Group 1 is finished and he should have some information for everyone by the next meeting. They will next be negotiating the fire and police contracts. He stated he really appreciates Courtney's help and all the superintendents who sat in on the negotiations. Everything is going very well.

**Auditor, Mr. Smith**, stated that Courtney has been doing a great job with all the audits going on. President Smith stated that it is great to have Courtney here tonight.

**Treasurer, Mr. Freitag**, stated that he received a report from RITA. We participate in a subpoena program that RITA does. The subpoenas are sent to non-filing citizens and they cost \$1.00 per subpoena. This year they sent 1,447 subpoenas to citizens who have not paid their taxes, for a total of \$123,372.95. They have collected \$41,684.00 so far. They have a balance remaining of \$81,687.99. They also sent out 1,802 non-filing letters with an amount of \$62,303.00 still owing in penalties, interest and liabilities, They have received \$27,433.00 so far. They are very efficient and they are doing an outstanding job.

## REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Mrs. Ommert** thanked Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, for working so hard on various contracts which the City is involved with.

**Ms. Muniz** wished the Bellevue High School girl's basketball team good luck in their competition on Friday.

**Mr. Baker** stated that several downtown merchants informed him they would like to stay open when events are going on in the City. They feel that it would be good to see a sign, an email, or a newsletter letting them know when these events will be held. Mr. Brugnone stated that the Chamber of Commerce and City officials are discussing having either an electronic board, a community calendar, or both. Mayor Strecker stated that they put an electronic sign up at the Copper Top when there are events coming. They put it up two to three weeks in advance. Any pamphlets or flyers for the Holiday House goes to the Chamber of Commerce and every Friday they are distributed to Chamber members.

He inquired if there is a plan to use the green space where the old Ben Franklin building was. Mr. Brugnone stated that it will be in use.

He inquired if Bellevue's water rates are competitive. He stated that last year it was authorized to have a study done regarding the rates. Mr. Brugnone stated there is a study going on and the surrounding communities are comparable. We fall in the middle. We are not the highest and not the lowest. Nearby cities are in the same area as far as rates go.

He inquired if additional funds for street repaving are being considered and if we are going to pass the 2025 budget and then do an amendment. President Smith stated we will pass the budget as it is and then have a committee meeting to discuss an amendment.

He stated that no meetings have been held by him or anyone else discussing rates or increases in street repaving. It was discussed in an open meeting two Council meetings ago. He is not having meetings to set something up and bring it to council. It was discussed in public.

The compost pile will be a hot topic soon. People who are from out of town are using the site. The ones who run it do a good job but he would like to see a discussion held to make sure it is used only by local tax payers.

**Mr. Wynbissinger** wished the girl's high school basketball team the best of luck in its competition on Friday.

**Mr. Hill** inquired about the traffic signal on North Sandusky Street and Main Street. The light going south from Sandusky Street turns green before the light going north does. Mr. Brugnone stated they are working on it. It works fine at times and doesn't work at other times. They will check into it.

He congratulated several of the high school boy's basketball team members who were in attendance and made it into the tournament. The wrestlers had a very good year. All the high school athletes represent Bellevue well.

**Mr. Shepherd** stated that he heard from a citizen about a house with garbage issues. When the owner receives a letter, he cleans it up and then within a short amount of time, it gets

messed up with garbage again. He would recommend that the City hire a part time code enforcement officer in the summer and maybe increase penalties for those who don't keep their yards clean.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Mr. Shepherd** stated that he will be scheduling a Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting soon to discuss increasing the amount of money for street repaving.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS:

**Patti Gray, 152 Gunther Street**, stated that she presented a program to Bellevue's Rotary Club introducing them to her Backpack Program. She received a phone call today letting her know that they are donating \$2,000.00 to her program. She is very grateful as it will fill 500 bags which will last three to four weeks. She is grateful for our supportive City. President Smith thanked her for the amazing job she is doing with the program.

**Sheila Buchanan, 125 Redwood Drive**, stated that she has had an ongoing problem since 2023 with her next-door neighbor who has had garbage sitting all around since December. She gave pictures to Mr. Brugnone. The garbage smells. She has talked with her neighbor before and he is difficult. He not only has garbage sitting around, but he also has a utility trailer and a camper. He put a brown tarp over them, a tire against them, and they are right up against her fence. He has trash everywhere. He has one lot and not enough room to move around. If it catches fire, it will take out all the trailers around it. He also has a car on the other side of his trailer with 2022 tags and it has flat tires.

There is a vacant trailer on other side of her neighbor. Rodents of all kinds are running around. She hates all of them and would like the City to get rid of them. She would appreciate any help she can get.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Smith** welcomed students who were attending from the high school's government class.

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

#### LEGISLATION:

**Ordinance No. 3-25 was given its third and final 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, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ommert to adopt Ordinance No. 3-25, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

**Ordinance No. 4-25 was given its third and final reading by title only:** AN ORDINANCE RENAMING "SENECA INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY" IN THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO, TO "BELLEVUE WAY."

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 4-25. It was seconded by Mr. Burkhart. A vote was taken and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

**Mrs. Ommert** scheduled a Budget & Finance Committee and Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting for Monday, March 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss amending the permanent appropriations

ADJOURNMENT:

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

A 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**