

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING March 24, 2025

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Doug Gildenmeister, Director, Touch the Heart Youth Ministries. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MR. BURKHART, MS. MUNIZ, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER. Mr. Hill was excused.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of March 10, 2025, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. The minutes were approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker stated that he distributed the 2025 Boards and Commissions to Council members and asked them to review it before the next Council meeting.

He stated that last Thursday he attended the Huron County Public Health District Advisory annual meeting. He delivered a copy of their annual report to Mr. Wallingford and has extra copies if anyone would like to have one.

In working with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Council, he will be giving a proclamation from the City Administration and from City Council, designating March "Disability Awareness Month."

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, turned the time over to Bellevue Fire Chief, Mr. Wilhelm, who stated that their department received a call for a medical emergency on February 27 for an unresponsive person. High school student, James Henderson, found the person, made the 911 call, and then performed CPR on him until medical help arrived. They noted that James has had training and was doing perfect CPR. Chief Wilhelm awarded James a civilian service award and thanked him for his services. President Smith thanked James for his quick response. He also thanked first responders who are in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that the pension audit is nearing its conclusion and he received a draft today. When he receives the final report, he will share it with Council.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that we have received a new liquor license request from the Division of Liquor Control. VFW Post 1238 is applying for an additional D-5 license, which is carry-out and on-site consumption, for the west side portion of their building at 2001 East Main Street. He checked briefly with the Mayor and Safety-Service Director and they have no issues with approving the liquor license request. The deadline to respond is April 7. Our next meeting will be on April 14, so he is suggesting that we have a motion to **not** request a hearing during our meeting tonight.

President Smith will be talking about two new ordinances that we do every year or two. One is concerning the Huron County EMS that we do every year. He has dictation prepared so we can be ready to have it added to the agenda for April 14. Also, we did an agreement with CHIP (Community Housing Impact and Preservation) for Sandusky County in 2023. We received an agreement for this year from Dave Sabo for consideration. We don't necessarily need a committee meeting, but we will need sponsors to add it to the next agenda. It is concerning a project to assist a citizen with limited income who needs help with home improvements.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to NOT request a hearing for the new liquor license request by VFW. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 6-

0. The Clerk will notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control that we approve the license and will **not** request a hearing.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Burkett stated that the road crews are doing a great job fixing the potholes.

He inquired if the EV station is up and running. Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that it started running in January. As the weather warms up there will be more use of it, but right now we are having a pretty good response. There is still a little work to be done, but it is going well. Recently a person that doesn't live in the area stated that they plugged their vehicle into it, went to the Amsden House for breakfast, and afterward picked up their vehicle. That is what the City wants to have happen, an increase of tourism.

Mrs. Ommert stated that with the good weather lately, she has noticed citizens outside picking up and cleaning up their properties. It is great to live in a city where the citizens take pride in their homes and yards.

Mr. Baker stated that since this is the first meeting we have had since Lady Red won the State championship, he wanted to say kudos to them for a remarkable feat and it shows Bellevue in a very good light. We are proud of them.

Mr. Shepherd stated that he has been in communication with a citizen from the last Council meeting complaining of her neighbor's garbage. She has been speaking with members of the Administration. He wanted to again recommend shortening the time frame for people cleaning up their property and possibly increasing the penalties for repeat offenders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the possibility of amending the 2025 permanent appropriations regarding street repaving and other budget issues, proposed Resolution No. R-3-25, and proposed Ordinance No. 5-25. It was voted to bring the resolution and ordinance out of Committee and add them to tonight's agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to add Resolution No. R-3-25 and Ordinance No. 5-25 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 6-0. Resolution No. R-3-25 and Ordinance No. 5-25 will both be added to tonight's agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Karen Meyers, 10483 East Twp. Rd. 124, Republic, Ohio, stated that she owns six rental properties in Bellevue. She received notices in 2023 and 2024 regarding problems at her rentals. She took care of the problems immediately. She is fine about receiving notices of issues at her rentals, but she inquired how the Safety-Service Director picks and chooses issues that need to be remedied. There is a problem with property at 121 Redwood. She brought pictures. Worse problems than the issues at her rentals. He is on her property. They have asked him numerous times to get off her property but he won't. President Smith told her that the Safety-Service Director will stay after the meeting and discuss it with her.

Patti Gray, 152 Gunther Street, gave a shout out to the Holiday House for the recent event held there. There was a great turn out. She really enjoyed the festivities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Mr. Hill is excused tonight.

He thanked Mr. Brugnone for the quick response to the water main break on Sunday.

He received a letter and minutes regarding the Enterprise Zone and Community Reinvestment Area Housing Program annual meeting and report. He asked for a motion to approve their recommendations at Council's pleasure. Mr. Wynbissinger made a motion to approve their recommendations and minutes. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 6-0.

He turned the time over to Mr. Wallingford to speak about the CHIP renewal and annual EMS renewal. Mr. Wallingford stated that these agreements have been good for the City. There is no rush because the current EMS contract runs out at the end of June. He has dictated legislation for this. A committee meeting could be held regarding this or it can be sponsored and added to our next agenda. The CHIP ordinance is done every two years. It is a good deal for Sandusky County. It helps families with limited income fix up their homes. Mr. Sabo stated that there was \$300,000.00 allocated in the 2023 agreement. There were no takers so the money would have gone back for the other towns to use. It is a good selling point for Bellevue to have the money available. Mr. Wallingford dictated an ordinance for the agreement which can be ready for the April 14 City Council meeting. Mr. Wynbissinger, Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Baker will sponsor the ordinance and it will be put on the next agenda. It was discussed that there does not need to be a committee meeting. Also, a committee meeting will not be needed for the EMS renewal legislation. Mr. Burkhart and Mrs. Ommert will sponsor the EMS renewal resolution and it will be put on the next agenda.

Mr. Wallingford thanked Mayor Strecker for the information he presented from the Huron County Health Department for the contract that we renew from year to year. The Health Department passes a resolution and forwards it to us. The Mayor will be signing it and he makes sure Council is aware of it. We don't have to do an ordinance or resolution. We have an ongoing contract with them. The Mayor handles everything for us and then keeps us advised.

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

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-3-25 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND AGREEING TO COOPERATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND SIGNING NECESSARY DOCUMENTS UNDER THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION/CONSERVATION PROJECT PASS-THROUGH GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-3-25 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 6-0.

Resolution No. R-3-25 was given its second and third readings by title only: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND AGREEING TO COOPERATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND SIGNING NECESSARY DOCUMENTS UNDER THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION/CONSERVATION PROJECT PASS-THROUGH GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Resolution No. R-3-25, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 6-0, and as an emergency.

Ordinance No. 5-25 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE INTERMITTENT RECREATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 5-25 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5-25 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE INTERMITTENT RECREATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Ordinance No. 5-25, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 6-0, and as an emergency.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that he has a new appreciation for the Safety-Service Director for all the City business and complex issues he attends to.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Council for passing tonight's legislation. He thanked Chief Wilhelm and the fire fighters for being in attendance tonight and presenting an award to James Henderson. He thanked Amy Palsa for doing a presentation and answering questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Muniz. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk