

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING May 27, 2025

Bellevue City Council met on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Councilman, Mr. Burkhart. 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 May 12, 2025 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Burkhart to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mrs. Ommert. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker thanked the veterans committee for their work and dedication in planning and presenting the Memorial Day parade and ceremony. They did a fantastic job. The weather was great.

The first summer concert will be on Friday, June 13, 2025, at Central Park. The band will be "Freedom Highway" out of Cleveland. The Bellevue Eagles will sponsor this concert. There will be food trucks and vendors.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that the orange barrels and cones are up and construction is in full force on US 20, Gardner Road, and 302. They are moving right along.

He turned some time over to Keagan Lilly, Bellevue's Water Pollution Control Superintendent.

Water Pollution Control Superintendent, Mr. Lilly, stated that he enjoyed having Council at his facility and invited everyone to visit at any time. He stated that because this spring has been incredibly rainy, the first two weeks of April we were at high flow which gave the City problems with power outages. One day near Country View, the lift station lost power. Mr. Baker noticed some gas company trucks and stopped by to help. He thanked him for that.

His department has a lot of projects going on. They are working on cleaning up the walking trail behind the plant. They will have pictures soon to put on the board of some of the projects they are working on.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that he wouldn't divulge to Council during his comments the same information President Smith will be discussing during his summation of the Committee of the Whole work session. This is regarding the resolution to agree with the alternative method of distribution of county funds to the subservient entities as proposed by Sandusky County.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, distributed a communication he received from RITA. RITA charges us 3% for income tax collection as a retainer. After the tax season is over and the year is finalized, they will give us a refund of the cost of collection. Total costs of collections for 2024 was .99 percent. Ninety-nine cents out of every one hundred dollars is what it costs the City, which is amazing. In 2024 they collected \$8,198,825.00 for an allocated cost of \$81,255.00. Our retainer was \$245,881.00. 2024 total agency collections were \$2,402,479,956.00. Our refund amount was \$164,626.00. RITA is very efficient and they do a great job.

Next month he will be attending the annual meeting of the Regional Council of Governments.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Burkhart stated that the Memorial Day parade was great and he thanked everyone who was involved with that.

Ms. Muniz gave kudos to everyone who was involved with the Memorial Day ceremony. They took their family and it was great to have their children see the impact veterans have made.

Mr. Baker had a couple of citizens inquire why the Memorial Day parade route was changed. Mr. Brugnone stated that it was because of safety concerns with the construction going on.

Mr. Hill stated he saw the gas company is moving right along and inquired about the time frame for construction. Mr. Brugnone stated it is being done as quickly as possible.

He stated that the Memorial Day decorations were great, particularly around Mr. Burkhardt's facility. There were so many flags and he appreciated the patriotic effort.

Mr. Shepherd agreed with others that the Memorial Day parade and ceremony were great. He noted that Sgt. Nick Tenore and K-9 Suki recently made two more arrests and he wanted to congratulate them.

A couple of citizens mentioned to him that the traffic light at Sandusky Street and Main Street is still not operating correctly.

The resident on Redwood continues to be unhappy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight at 7:15 p.m., to discuss proposed Resolution No. R-6-25 and proposed Ordinance No. 11-25. It was voted to bring both the resolution and the ordinance out of Committee and add them to tonight's agenda by motion during the regular City Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to add Resolution No. R-6-25 and Ordinance No. 11-25 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0. Resolution No. R-6-25 and Ordinance No. 11-25 are both added to tonight's agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Patti Gray, 152 Gunther Street, stated that she recently attended a graduation party in Tiffin. She talked with some citizens who recently moved from Maumee to Bellevue and they really love living in Bellevue.

Regarding the Backpack program for the school year 2024-25, they filled 2,703 backpacks for elementary students and 455 backpacks for middle school students for a total of 3,158 bags. There were over 235 volunteer hours. She thanked Mayor Strecker and Mrs. Ommert for their support and help filling in when they were needed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith thanked everyone that participated in the Memorial Day parade and ceremony. He thanked Mayor Strecker and Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, for their support.

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

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-6-25 was given its first reading: APPROVAL OF THE SANDUSKY COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION'S ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR APPOINTMENT OF UNDIVIDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO BE CALLED "LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALTERNATIVE METHOD."

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-6-25 its second and third readings by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 7-0.

Resolution No. R-6-25 was given its second and third readings by title only: APPROVAL OF THE SANDUSKY COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION'S ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR APPOINTMENT OF UNDIVIDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO BE CALLED "LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALTERNATIVE METHOD."

A motion was made by Mr. Burkhart to adopt Resolution No. R-6-25. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 7-0.

Mr. Wallingford explained the emergency clause and the differences between an emergency clause and a real and present emergency.

Ordinance No. 11-25 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH BUCKEYE PUMPS INC., FOR THE ELM STREET LIFT STATION PROJECT FOR THE BELLEVUE WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT, WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 11-25 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. 11-25 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH BUCKEYE PUMPS INC., FOR THE ELM STREET LIFT STATION PROJECT FOR THE BELLEVUE WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT, WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 11-25, 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:

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Council for passing the resolution and ordinance tonight.

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 Ms. Muniz. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk