

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING July 28, 2025

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Councilwoman, Mrs. Ommert. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MR. BURKHART, MR. HILL, MS. MUNIZ, MRS. OMMERT, and MR. SHEPHERD. Mr. Wynbissinger was excused.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of July 14, 2025 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Burkhardt to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

President Smith welcomed Mr. Wallingford back to Council.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked everyone who donated products, money, and time to the summer festival last weekend. He also thanked the Holiday House Committee, the Recreation Center, and all who attended. The weather was great and they had a big crowd.

He updated everyone on Rumpke's recycling. Last month they recycled 11.29 tons which gives the City 62.62 tons to date this year that has not been added to the landfill. They are doing a great job.

Everyone may have noticed that there are fewer construction workers and equipment working on the U.S. 20 project. The waterline on the project is completed. Work is going on now at Gardner Road and 302.

The police officer that was killed in the line of duty last week, Phillip C. Wagner of the Lorain Police Department, is from our area and will be buried in York Township this Wednesday. The funeral will be at Rocket Arena in Cleveland at 11:00 a.m. Following the funeral service, the procession will travel from Cleveland to the York Chapel Cemetery in York Township, where Officer Wagner will be interred. It is hard to pinpoint the exact time, but he anticipates that the funeral procession will arrive in our area between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The procession will travel on the Ohio Turnpike westbound from Lorain County to St. Rt. 4, then north to Portland Road, south on Sandusky Co. Rd. 308, west on US Route 20, and south on York Twp Road 292 to the cemetery. There will be officers and firefighters in Bellevue to help facilitate this and the railroad will be contacted for possible stoppages at crossings.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford stated that it is great to be back. He appreciates everything that was done to pick up the slack while he was out. This gave him needed time to rest and recuperate. He stated that he missed everyone.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Burkhardt mentioned the fun summer festival. He stated that it went very smoothly and there were tons of people attending. He thanked everyone involved with planning and orchestrating the festival.

Mrs. Ommert thanked the festival crew for all they did. It was superb. She stated that she was able to be in one of the booths and met a lot of people. She talked with a lady that got second place in her age group at the 5K race and she was so happy they added the race to the festivities.

Ms. Muniz welcomed Mr. Wallingford back. She reiterated what others have said about the summer festival. Her family has been using the walking path at Robert Peters Park and she stated that they did a fantastic job with it. She inquired if Mr. Baker was available for birthday parties.

Mr. Baker stated that he and everyone in Bellevue enjoyed the festival. The band was great and the weather was good. He thanked all the sponsors who helped pay for the festival. He thanked the committee who put in hours of work planning and preparing for the festival. It reflects very well on Bellevue. He would like to see more advertising if possible next year. He thanked everyone who donated money for the train cookies. Norfolk Southern provided the train rides. So many businesses and citizens stepped up to help. People conducted themselves very well.

Mr. Hill gave kudos to Mr. Baker for handing out cookies to all the children at the festival. He thanked Seven Limers and Steve Staley for the work they did on the walking trail. They went way over and above what they needed to do and made it wider and better. Hats off to Steve. They took a lot off Amy's plate and they did a great job.

Mr. Shepherd stated that the festival was amazing and the walking track is great. He noticed that K-9 Suki and Sergeant Tenore made more arrests lately. He thinks Bellevue should look into getting another K-9. Mr. Brugnone stated that there is a plan they are working on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith scheduled a Committee of the Whole work session for Monday, August 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Peggy Courtney and Jill VanFleet of the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau will be in attendance to discuss future plans.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Marianne Daniels, 129 Country View Drive, for the Bellevue Holiday House, thanked all the sponsors for their hard work in making the festival such a success. Norfolk Southern was a great help. The financial institutions in Bellevue were supportive. It was amazing. There were approximately 85 runners participating in our first 5K race. She gave kudos to the firemen who ran in full gear in the heat. She thanked Mr. Baker and Council for donating the train cookies. Mr. Baker was a great train conductor and did an outstanding job passing out cookies. Mrs. Ommert donated her time at a baby changing station. Councilman, Mr. Burkhart, donated a dumpster. Everyone had an amazing time and we should be proud of the City we live in. President Smith thanked Marianne and her committee for all they do.

Chuck Daniels, 129 Country View Drive, for the Bellevue Holiday House, thanked the many wonderful citizens of Bellevue for their help with the festival and their love for Bellevue's children. There is never a penny collected from citizens enjoying the festivities. It was hard work but when you look at kids flying out of a bounce house you realize it is all worth it. He thanked the railroad for the fireworks. Plus, he has not seen one mean thing posted on Facebook about the festival.

Patti Gray, 252 Gunther Street, stated "Plan it well and they will come." She gave kudos to all the planners and workers at the festival. She walked the 5K. She was amazed when she returned to Central Park that it was full of people. It is awesome what Bellevue does for the children.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Mayor Strecker, Mr. Freitag, and Mr. Wynbissinger are excused tonight.

He announced that there will be an Executive Session after closing remarks to discuss a proposed land acquisition. It is only for Council members and closed to the public and press. Council members will return to the regular meeting with no further business and only to adjourn the meeting.

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

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-7-25 was given its third reading by title only: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE ADOPTING THE FEDERALLY APPROVED SANDUSKY COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Resolution No. R-7-25, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and the motion passed by the vote 6-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Baker stated that a number of people asked him how much the cost was for various things at the festival and it felt so good to tell them everything was free. Not many festivals are free and he knows it was very much appreciated. Kudos to Bellevue.

President Smith thanked everyone for attending and requested a motion to go into executive session to discuss the City's proposed land acquisition, and to return to the regular meeting afterward only to adjourn with no further business. A motion was made by Mr. Hill to go into executive session. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and passed by the vote 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk