

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 23, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:50 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Mayor Kevin Strecker. Council Members present: MR. BAKER, MR. DANIEL, MR. HILL, MR. MORRISON, MS. MUNIZ, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 9, 2026, were presented for approval. Mr. Morrison stated that he made a comment regarding discussing the ordinances in a committee meeting. He stated that the previous committee meeting was for Budget & Finance Committee matters and not specifically for discussing the ordinances. A motion was made by Mr. Daniel to approve the minutes as revised. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and the minutes are approved as revised.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker stated that he would like his list of the Boards & Commissions to be reviewed so Council can approve it at the next meeting.

He discussed why he decided to veto Ordinance No. 21-25. He previously sent a letter regarding this and copies were sent to all Council members. He wanted all five ordinances to be looked at together and not pass one without the rest. That way everything will be uniform. He gave heartfelt gratitude to everyone who serves in the City Administration and all City employees, and he thanked Council members for their work on these ordinances.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that the City put up wind screens at the recycling area. They help with the wind, and they also help with shade around the bins so they look much nicer. One citizen already called the Mayor and expressed her gratitude and stated that it looks much better.

The lights on Rt. 20 at Greenwood Heights are very close to being up and working.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that he appreciates everyone who attended the Committee of the whole work session prior to Council discussing the pay ordinances.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that he appreciates the Mayor's comments about why he vetoed Ordinance No. 21-25. This one ordinance is part of the process of all five ordinances. The fact that it passed when all four of the rest did not, is the reason the Mayor vetoed it. The Mayor has ten days or the next time Council is in session to veto an ordinance which was done correctly in this matter. There is a procedure for Council to override a veto, but they have to wait ten days. That is unlikely in this case as the ordinance is part of five ordinances as a whole and it was discussed at the meeting tonight. If there are any questions, please let him know.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired if the City is going to develop the property by the VFW. Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that the City cannot find a contractor that wants to take on the infrastructure before developing the property. If someone came in and took that over, he would have contractors that would want to begin. Dave Sabo is in contact with multiple groups in the community and developers and there is a lot of interest in this area and property by the hospital, and various other areas in town but until we can get help from the State with programs for infrastructure, there is nothing the City can do. They have it all written up, platted, and ready to go. Mr. Shepherd inquired how much the City's responsibility

is as far as utilities and private streets. Mr. Wallingford stated that the subdivider is responsible for having the streets and utilities put in and bonded and then a plat drawn up and accepted by the City. When it is paid for, the City will accept the future maintenance.

Mr. Morrison stated that an article in The HUB paraphrased the Mayor stating that Mr. Morrison contacted Norwalk regarding their salary cap and said we are in the right ballpark. He said he shared a document at the Budget & Finance Committee meeting comparing Bellevue's proposed salary caps to Norwalk and Fremont and he did say some of them are in the ballpark, but many put Bellevue well above. He and Mr. Brugnone had a good dialog, realizing that the figures can be off because all municipalities have a different number of people in the offices and support staff

Mr. Baker reminded Council that the City used to have a Committee to Grow Bellevue. Two members who were very instrumental in that committee were Dave and Virginia Robinson. They devoted many hours of their time to keep Bellevue surrounded in flowers and various holiday decorations. Dave passed away recently and he wanted to bring recognition to them as they did so much to beautify the City.

Mr. Hill gave a shout out to the City street crew who have been out plowing and moving snow. He knows they team up with other departments and do a great job. The last few years they have taken such good care of our streets.

He inquired where we stand with fixing potholes and paving streets. Many streets are torn up. One in particular is the street in front of the Catholic Church. The whole section of road there is in need of repair. Mr. Brugnone stated that they have been working on several lists of streets. With the weather warming up there will be a lot of potholes.

Ms. Muniz stated the wind barrier around the recycling bins looks very nice.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight at 7:00 p.m. to discuss possible revisions to the proposed pay ordinances that did not pass at the last meeting. We will have another meeting soon to discuss them. He will let everyone know when that meeting will be.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Robert Steel, 5886 C.R. 277, Vickery, Ohio, stated that he is Treasurer and acting President of the Animal House Sober Club, which is an addiction resource center. He stated that funding has been cut and they will be moving and doing major reorganization. They have been operating seven days a week at 206 ½ West Main Street. Beginning March 1, they will be holding meetings at St Paul's Episcopal Church.

They will be having a "Sober St. Paddy's Day" meeting on March 14 at 7:00 p.m. with a special guest speaker. It is a fundraiser, and they will have tickets available soon. President Smith thanked him for all they do for the community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith informed Council that a representative of the Bellevue Area Tourism & Visitors Bureau will be in attendance at our next Council meeting on March 9, 2026, and will give Council an update.

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

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 2-26 was given its second 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, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to suspend the rules and give Ordinance 2-26 its third reading by title only and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and it passed by the vote of 7-0.

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A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 2-26 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 7-0.

CLOSING REMARKS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk