

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

The regular City Council meeting of February 10, 2014, was called to order by President Smith. Council persons present: MR. FEUERSTEIN, MR. HILL, MR. MILLER, MRS. MISSLER, and MISS NASCONE.

The minutes from the January 27, 2013 regular Council meeting were presented for approval. It was brought to the Clerk's attention that Officer McCarley's first name was misspelled in the fifth paragraph. Mrs. Missler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Berkey thanked the Street Department's snow removal team. This winter we have had record amounts of snow and they have done an amazing job. He stated that the City has received Lasso, the German Shepherd dog, who is being trained for the new canine unit of the Bellevue City Police Department. He also stated that he attended the chili cook-off at the Green Emerald which was presented by the Downtown Committee on Thursday, February 6. He was asked to be a judge. He stated there was a good turnout and it was a fun event.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Crosby stated that when we get snowfall on Saturday and Sunday, the snow crews plow only the main streets. If they utilized the crew for the main streets and the side streets and it snows again on Monday or Tuesday, there are not enough people to do the plowing. The City has to be careful how it utilizes the street crew.

City Auditor, Mr. Smith stated that Ordinance 3-14 is on the agenda tonight regarding the Wilbert Plastics project. We are now entering Phase 2 which is the installation of the equipment. This is the final phase. The City will get 50% of the money back.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford added that the Street Department has done a wonderful job. The snow has been relentless. He has been amazed with how normal things have been because of their hard work.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Miller scheduled an Industrial Development Committee meeting directly following the regular City Council meeting on February 24, 2014. He is trying to get a guest visitor to attend the meeting and the meeting will be cancelled if the visitor is unable to attend. He thanked the Downtown Committee for the nice job they did with the chili cook-off. It was a very cold night and it was nice to see so many in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Miller stated they had their first Industrial Development Committee meeting just prior to the meeting tonight regarding coming up with a vacant property ordinance.

Mrs. Robinson of the Committee to Grow Bellevue announced that there will be a fun ladies night on Thursday, March 20 at the Society for the Arts. Invitations have been sent out and there will be many flyers passed out. President Smith stated he was also asked to be a judge for the chili cook-off. There was a great turnout for this fun event.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Patricia Staples, 109 Huffman Street, stated that her water bill lately has had a huge increase for no apparent reason. She is conservative with water usage. She is wondering if others are having the same problems. Mr. Crosby asked if her usage has been the same and she stated it has. She called the City office and asked how much she needed to pay to keep her water turned on. She then went over and paid in cash. The next day her landlord came and told her that her water is going to be turned off. She said there is miscommunication with the personnel at the water department. She was hoping that the administration would look into it. Mr. Miller told her he could look at her bills after the meeting.

Ruthann Manders, 619 Dewey Street, stated that her water bill is also high. Another problem is that some of the landlords that live out of state aren't sending the bills to the tenants so they can get them paid. When they call complaining about a high bill, they are told there must be a leak. Their water rates keep going up. Mr. Crosby stated that Kevin can make a visit to see if there is a leak and there is no charge. President Smith stated that Mr. Strecker is present at the meeting and afterward he will be happy to talk with them about the water issues.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith scheduled a Council of the Whole work session for 6:30 p.m. on February 24, 2014, just prior to the regular City Council meeting. At that time he will be distributing the yearly goals for all the Council committees. Also, Recreation Director, Marc Wysenberger, will be in attendance and will present his annual report. He reminded all Council members to fill out their Ohio Ethics Commission forms and return them. He announced that Mr. Baker and Mrs. Henry are excused from the meeting tonight.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 3-14 was given its first reading: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 19-13, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Miller stated that they had their Coffee with Council last Saturday and it turned out well. There were five participants. One topic was water issues. The next one will be held on Saturday, March 1 at 9:30 a.m. at a location still to be determined.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Crosby stated that several weeks ago Auditor Smith brought to his attention that a deposit bag of \$4,700.00 was missing from the Utility

Department. They notified the State auditors, he then called in an outside source, the Sandusky County Sheriff's Office, to investigate. He received a report from the Sheriff's office and the report states that it was determined, after interviewing everyone who had access to deposit bags, that there was no wrong-doing. The bag was lost. Checks and balances have been put into place so it won't happen again. Accidents do happen, but there was no wrong-doing by any employee of the City.

President Smith stated that it is necessary tonight to meet in an executive session. He entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session regarding personnel. Motion to move into an executive session was made by Mrs. Missler and seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. Motion passed by the vote 5-0. An executive session will be held, after which everyone will meet back in Council chambers for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council