

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2014

The regular City Council meeting of February 24, 2014, was called to order by President Smith. Council persons present: MR. BAKER, MR. FEUERSTEIN, MRS. HENRY, MR. HILL, MR. MILLER, MRS. MISSLER, and MISS NASCONE.

The minutes from the February 10, 2013 regular Council meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Feuerstein noted that in one of the citizen comments, the phrase “water rates keep going up” should be “water bills keep going up.” Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mrs. Missler seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as amended.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

City Auditor, Mr. Smith passed out a 4-page report outlining the City’s general fund. He pointed out that on the first page the general fund balance at the end of 2013 was \$1,345,903.00. Page two is the revenue page. In 2008 the total was \$3,500,000.00. With the economic decline in 2009 and 2010, the balances were much lower. With the numbers in 2011, 2012 and 2013, we are seeing a positive upward trend. In comparison to 2009 there is a substantial increase. In relation to the general fund balance of \$1,345,903.00 at the end of 2013, we need to realize that the storm event last summer cost the City just under \$700,000.00. The City has received back a little over \$500,000.00. We are starting 2014 at almost \$2,000,000.00.

Tonight we will have the first readings of four new ordinances. Ordinances 4-14 and 5-14 amend two existing ordinances that were recently presented to council. There are just a couple of flaws to correct. Ordinances 6-14 and 7-14 have been in the works for some time. There are presently numerous ordinances on the books relating to salary and benefits for non-union employees. They are now being consolidated into one ordinance and one exhibit for part-time, non-union employees; and one ordinance and one exhibit for full-time, non-union employees. In the future, any time there is a change it will be much easier to change one ordinance and one exhibit rather than changing multiple ordinances. Also, Ordinance 7-14 is clearly in accordance with Obamacare.

Mr. Smith also requested Council to have both the second and third readings of Ordinance 3-14 read and passed tonight. This ordinance is regarding the second and final phase of the Wilbert Plastics project.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford stated that every year at this time the updated codification of the City Code is done. The Clerk sends copies of all the 2013 ordinances and resolutions to the Walter Drane Company. They subsequently send out supplements that traditionally have been added to our hard copy books. The Code is now available online on the City website. Some of us still have the hard copy books. He asked how many have them. Four members raised their hands. Because they are now available online, we are limiting the number of supplements we order this year to the minimum. We have had extra copies lying around for the past several years and it doesn’t appear that we need as many as

we used to. Within a couple of months an ordinance will be presented to Council that incorporates the changes the State has made that impacts our laws and automatically incorporates them into our Code.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Miller stated that the Mayor and he sat down with members of the Bellevue Area Tourism and Visitors Bureau and discussed a couple of topics. He suggested that the City take a look at the Board of Regulations for the Bureau and at the City's ordinance for tourism.

Mr. Baker noted that in our minutes from the last meeting it states that the City has to be careful how it utilizes City workers with street upkeep. He asked if any other City employees have CDL's that can be utilized. Mr. Crosby stated that the City uses three workers from the water crew and two workers from the wastewater crew. Mr. Baker stated that some citizens have suggested to him that perhaps the City workers could do some plowing on the side roads on Sundays so that it would help people to get to work easier on Monday. Mr. Baker explained to the citizens that the City is limited with personnel, but he would inquire at City Council meeting. Mr. Crosby stated that Sunday requires double-time pay and it gets very expensive to have the workers plow on Sundays.

Mr. Hill thanked Recreation Director, Marc Weisenberger, for attending the Council of the Whole meeting tonight and giving his report. He did a great job with his power point presentation. He thanked Mr. Smith for inviting him and added that it would be a great idea to continue that trend and have all department heads meet with Council to go over their goals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Miss Nascone scheduled a Budget & Finance Committee meeting for March 10, 2014, directly following the regular City Council meeting.

Mrs. Missler reminded everyone that a Public Utilities Committee meeting would be held directly following the meeting tonight.

Mrs. Kerr of the Committee to Grow Bellevue announced that they are moving forward with their projects and in order to fund those projects, there will be some fund raising events. They have scheduled a fun ladies night for Thursday, March 20, 2014, at the Bellevue Society for the Arts. It is called "The Power of the Purse." Tickets can be purchased at the Copper Top Bake Shop, the Golden Acorn, and Art at 106. Proceeds will benefit "Beautify Bellevue."

Charlotte Waskielis, Co-Treasurer of the Bellevue Fish and Loaves food pantry, announced to Council that they are participating in an "Alan Shawn Feinstein Challenge" during the months of March and April. The schools are helping kick off the project on March 1. Every can of food that is donated will be logged in and will be matched by Mr. Feinstein with a dollar for every can of food and each dollar pledged or donated. They have made a goal of raising \$5,000.00. She said she is very proud of the community and how generous and caring the citizens are. She reported that in 2013, 4,610 households were helped, serving approximately 384 families per month and the total served was 13,224. In January,

2014, 952 households were served. All information is carefully documented and when government personnel have looked at their books, they have received very good scores. She said the pantry is run by a diverse and unique set of people spearheaded by pastors. Mr. Smith stated that the City appreciates the hard work that the Pantry does in serving our community.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Dana England, 792 Kilbourne Street, stated that she and her husband, Mark, attended a City Council meeting last November wherein Mark reported that during the storms that occurred in July, the first responders that showed up tied a utility line to the top of a tree next to their home. It was a low hanging wire. In November, it was only about nine feet over the top of their driveway and they were concerned that it was a safety hazard. She reported that the very next day Mr. Baker was there finding out what he could do to help and in six days it was fixed. She wanted everyone to know how much she and her husband appreciated the prompt attention and assistance.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith read a statement made by President Herbert Hoover at his inauguration on March 4, 1929. President Hoover stated that only through the guidance of God could there be administered such a sacred oath, and he humbly asked for God's help in his service.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 4-14 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE CITY ENGINEER AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 29-12 REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SICK LEAVE AND VACATION PAY AND RELATED PROVISIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE 5-14 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE CITY SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 28-12 REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SICK LEAVE AND VACATION PAY AND RELATED PROVISIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE 6-14 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF FULL-TIME NON-UNION EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE 21-05, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE 7-14 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF PART-TIME NON-UNION EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF

BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion was made by Mrs. Missler to suspend the rules and give Ordinance 3-14 its third reading by title only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. All were in favor.

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

Motion was made by Mrs. Missler to adopt Ordinance 3-14 and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed by the vote 7-0 and as an emergency.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Helen Milkie, 521 Northwest Street, stated that she had intended to speak during the Citizen Comments. She inquired if the City had found the missing money from the Utility Department and if not, has anyone been reprimanded for the loss.

Mayor Berkey stated that the money has not been found. He said that immediately upon discovering the money was missing, they called in the Sandusky County Sheriff's Office to investigate. A full investigation ensued. It was concluded that the money was lost, but with no willful wrong-doing by any employee. They are making corrective measures in that department so it will not happen again.

He also thanked the Street Department once again for the great job they are doing. The City will be challenged with fixing pot holes when the weather permits.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Missler.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council