

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MAY 11, 2015

The regular City Council meeting of May 11, 2015, was called to order by Council President, Ronald Smith. A prayer was offered by Pastor Dan Howard of First Baptist Church.

Council persons present: Duane Baker, Dennis Feuerstein, Steve Hill, John Miller, Peggy Missler and Rise Henry.

The minutes from the April 27, 2015, regular Council meeting were presented for approval. Mrs. Henry made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Missler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Berkey introduced Katherine Withrow of Hartland Hospice. He invited her to talk about Hartland Hospice. Ms. Withrow said people have a fear of hospice. Hospice is a benefit that everyone is entitled to receive. People are losing out. It is not about giving up. Hartland is just one of the options; there are others, such as, Stein Hospice. Hartland is a national company and her office is located in Fremont.

Mayor Berkey said the 1/2% renewal income tax levy passed last Tuesday. He thanked those that took the time to vote to support this City.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Safety-Service Director Jeffrey Crosby said Mike Klingler, Lead Operator, Class II, at the Wastewater Plant represents the City of Bellevue on the Sandusky County Safety Council. The City received a Certificate for its effort in preventing accidents and injuries in the workplace for 2014. Mr. Crosby said Mike has to attend over three-fourths of the meetings and, if Mr. Crosby also attends the management meetings, they receive a 2 percent discount on Workers' Comp costs. Mike Klingler has been going to monthly meetings. He brings back safety films, etc. If the City has a claim, we discuss what can be done to prevent it from happening again. We have only had medical claims from police officers getting spit on while arresting someone; they are tested for HIV. Those claims do not go against the City's group rating. The last claim the City had was when a detective was driving under the subway and was hit by someone, head on, driving left of center.

Mayor Berkey read a letter from the Ohio Water Environment Association, Columbus, Ohio, stating that Wastewater Superintendent, Eric MacMichael, will be receiving a Facilities Images Award on Tuesday, June 23rd, at Kalahari in Sandusky. Mr. Crosby will be attending the ceremony. Mr. Crosby said the State is divided up into 5 sections. Members from the EPA and Chief Operators from various cities nominate a facility for this award, and Bellevue was chosen as the best in the State of Ohio. Eric MacMichael worked very hard for this. You can see what he has done thru in-house work, not hired out. There is a great group of operators working there and we are very fortunate to have them. Also, Bridget Shiets, Lab Tech, has the highest-ranking lab certification available.

Council President Ronald Smith said Eric takes pride in his work. Eric welcomes everyone to take a walk through. He encourages everyone to go out there.

Law Director David Wallingford said that on June 22nd he will be attending HB9 public records training in Ottawa, which is required for each public office. He is permitted to attend as an authorized representative for any office or others may attend on their own. Laws are reviewed and any changes in the law, which is updated every couple years.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Miller said he has several items to discuss:

Ohio's Online Checkbook. He has a letter from Josh Mandel about putting the City's financial information on ohiocheckbook.com. He brought this up at the last council meeting. Mayor Berkey said he requested some additional information.

Compost Site. Mr. Miller said he has heard from citizens about taking compost to the site and not being able to get free compost, as in the past. He was assured the City would have free compost again. Mr. Crosby said he has not received any phone calls from citizens asking him about the compost. The composting bins have not been operated in the last 4-5 years. It is far cheaper, right now, for the wastewater plant sludge, that is pressed out of the filters, to be hauled to the landfill. In the future, it will be done, if it makes economic sense to do so. Right now, Barnes Nursery produces their own compost and brings it here to sell. It would cost us money to do it like we used to do.

Subway. Mr. Miller said he, and Bryan Hardy, have cleaned sidewalks under the subway. They hauled away 5 pickup trucks of dirt off of the sidewalks and put it in Carl Mira's parking lot. Someone keeps stealing it and he is glad they are taking it. Mr. Miller said he would like the fence raised up about 6 inches from the sidewalk. Mr. Crosby said it is not going to happen. The dirt and trash will go right into the catch basin and into the pump which goes into the sewer. Street Department employee Adam Gerhardstein said, if US 20 is shut down because of flooding, it causes traffic backup in a matter of minutes. Eric MacMichael took over the care of the pump house and the Street Department takes care of the street. Mr. Miller said he would like to suggest the City clean the sidewalk on a yearly basis, at least, if not bi-annually.

Streetlight Outages. He and Bryan Hardy have reported over 60 streetlight outages. Ohio Edison is working on them and we appreciate that and have another 60 to report. Mr. Crosby said the police are doing the same thing, and he also reports them. Council President Smith thanked Mr. Miller and Bryan Hardy for all their hard work.

Mr. Baker said he met a couple customers who had some very favorable comments about doing business with Bellevue in working with Jeff Crosby, Kevin Scagnetti and Vicki Meyers. This is about the third company having nothing but nice things to say about doing business with Bellevue.

Stormwater drains. On both sides of Goldenrod, Fairfield and Euclid there are damaged stormwater drains. Mr. Crosby said it is an age problem. Years ago, catch basins and sinkholes were made with brick and they are being damaged by vehicles driving over them. A vac truck will be purchased to clean those out and make repairs as they are being cleaned. In the past, Darr's Cleaning was called to clean them, but it will now be done by the

City workers.

Mr. Baker asked if the City was fully staffed. Mr. Crosby said the City's staffing level has not changed much in the last 5-6 years. The Street Department is understaffed. There are only three employees and a mechanic, who works for all the departments. If they are filling potholes, one person has to drive while the other shovels. It is a matter of having the revenue. Mr. Baker asked what it would take for another employee. Mr. Crosby said \$75-100,000. Mr. Baker said it might be conducive to add another person. Mr. Crosby commended the Street Department on installing the water line at Central Park.

Mr. Hill asked if the stormwater drain repair is a biddable project. Mr. Crosby said he does not know of any contractors that would really want to bid on cleaning catch basins and then, it has to be cleared by the union. We take care of what is a safety issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Missler said she has noticed that people are putting their grass clippings in the street and it was mentioned in the utility bills not to do this.

Mr. Hill said, while he was circulating his petition, someone mentioned the Big Ditch that runs near Mill Pond to Madden Street. Is that part of the County? Mr. Crosby said the City plows some of Bauer Road and, in exchange, Huron County gives us so many man hours toward the cleaning of the Big Ditch. The City hired a contractor to cut down trees. Mr. Hill said there are trees coming up from the bottom of the ditch. Mr. Crosby said he and City Engineer Kevin Scagnetti recently looked at it to see how many hours are needed.

Fire hydrant. Mr. Hill said, in front of Bob Haffey's house at 265 Madden Street, the dirt is starting to wash away into the creek from around the fire hydrant.

David Robinson of the Committee to Grow Bellevue reported the parking lot at Main and Sandusky Streets has been cleaned. They are paying Perry's Plantation to put in new gravel. In the next 2-3 weeks, they will be constructing a planter, with their funding, at Exchange and North West Streets; similar to what is on the square downtown. It was brought up with Poggemeyer Design Group that this area is a focal point as people drive into downtown. The Street Department is really doing the job and we are helping at Central Park. Adam Gerhardstein is a great guy to work with. That is why we are moving the Open-air Markets to Central Park. This Saturday, all the downtown flower pots, benches, trash containers and hanging baskets will be out. This is funded by private donations. Mr. Robinson commented that it was nice not to hear the constant banging from the recreation area upstairs.

President Smith said they are very appreciative of everything that that the committee does and he will talk to Recreation Director Marc Weisenberger about the noise problem during City Council meetings.

Mr. Baker said, when he was having his petition signed, people asked about having bicycle racks downtown. Dave Robinson said they may put up a couple, this year, but were holding off until the bike trail gets going.

Mayor Berkey said the bike trail is in the drawing phase with the federal government regarding curbs and distance to the roads. The time frame is late summer or early fall of 2016.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Council President Smith said Council Clerk Mrs. Soper and Councilperson Miss Nascone are excused from tonight's meeting.

LEGISLATION:

None.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Council President Smith thanked everyone for attending this evening.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Missler. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Terri L. Sanders
Administrative Assistant/Acting Clerk