

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 24, 2015

The regular City Council meeting of Monday, August 10, 2015, began at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor Justin Jump of Bellevue's First United Methodist Church. President Smith stated that Pastor Jump also serves as the Vice President of the Bellevue Ministerial Association and they had another very successful year with the back to school project to help with children who are in need of school supplies. Council persons present: MR. BAKER, MR. FEUERSTEIN, MRS. HENRY, MR. HILL, MR. MILLER, MRS. MISSLER, and MISS NASCONE.

The minutes of the August 10, 2015 regular Council meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Fuerstein made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Missler seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Berkey pointed out that the City made the front page news a few times this past week. He commended the Police Chief and several members of the Administration for volunteering to help on their days off in the community. The Open Air Markets are coming to an end. The final one will be held this Thursday. He encouraged everyone to come out and support it. He announced that several companies in town are growing, and if anyone knows of others who are in need of a job, there are many businesses in Bellevue needing help.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Crosby, stated that Mr. Scagnetti and he have been working with ODOT and Huron County. If you have a chance to drive behind the City Office building you will see that the new salt bin is up and ready to accept salt. Since the new salt bin has been put in, the City would like to sign an agreement with ODOT to use our old salt bin at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They will use all their own equipment and they will maintain it. They will be working up an agreement for that.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, stated that the City received a rebate from RITA this year of \$31,000.00. RITA continues to improve with modernizing their e-filing system and having a secured new email system. He stated that he has been reviewing our current income tax ordinance and the changes that have to be made before the end of the year.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that he and Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, have been working on the required income tax ordinance and exhibit and they have come up with a working draft. They are revising it. It would be helpful at this point to have a Budget & Finance Committee meeting or Council of the Whole meeting after next Council meeting to bring everyone up to speed, to look at the working draft, and answer questions. Another brief meeting could be held on September 28 with the hope of having the first reading of the ordinance during the first Council meeting in October.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Miller reminded everyone that the Bellevue Historical Society is having their Wine and Cheese Festival on September 5. There will be lots of food, wine, beer and cheese. There will be children's activities. They will open up Tremont House for tours. Earlier this year they were approached by the Sandusky County Community Foundation who gave them a challenge grant that they have to match. Their goal is \$50,000.00. The Wine and Cheese Festival will cost \$10 per person and with that comes a free tour of the Tremont House.

Mr. Hill thanked everyone for coming tonight and taking part. The Recreation Department broke ground for the new Jungle Junction. He thanked everyone who pledged money to get it going. It is really great for the City. Also, the former Sir Fredericks Apartments, now Nickle Plate Complex, is amazing. They have really gone above and beyond to make it a great place. The landscaping is beautiful and they have all new concrete. They have new updated facilities. He also wanted to thank the Committee to Grow Bellevue for all they have done with the open air markets and concerts. There have been great comments from everyone he has talked with.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Crosby, stated that manager for Nickle Plate Plaza came into his office today. Over the next week or so they will be repaving the parking lot. It will take three to five days to complete. People will be parking across the street and at the church. They will also be shuttling people to help. It will be congested for a week or so but it will be very nice when it is done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Miss Nascone reminded everyone that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting will be held directly following the Council meeting tonight.

Rise Henry stated that the Public Works Committee had a committee meeting tonight just prior to the regular meeting where they discussed building code enforcement.

Jean Ryan of the Committee to Grow Bellevue stated that the last open air market will take place this Thursday. The open air markets have been very successful. This Thursday they will also have a mini car show.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Stewart Vetter, 167 Walnut Street, inquired about Ordinance 12-15 that was passed on July 13. He is wondering why it is taking six weeks to get started. Mr. Crosby stated that when citizens come up to the podium they are supposed to make a statement. It is not a question and answer session. If they need answers, they can call his office at any time or come in and discuss their issues. Mr. Vetter stated that the ordinance was passed as an emergency and yet nothing is happening. Mr. Crosby explained what emergency language means in an ordinance. When an ordinance passes, it takes thirty days to go into effect. If the emergency language is used, the ordinance immediately goes into effect after the Mayor signs it. In addition to Walnut Street, the City is working on 302. Mr. Vetter stated that he is concerned about suspension systems and bikes going over the rough street.

John Miller, 151 Walnut Street, stated that he wishes there were better communication between City government and the majority of people. Citizens aren't asked if they want what the City is in the progress of doing. They are not kept informed. No one asks citizens what they want. Mr. Crosby stated that letters are going out in the water bills, there are articles in the newspaper, the City has a website, and text messaging is done every day. Council members were elected by the citizens and they are always available to contact with any questions or issues. The City office is always open for anyone to come in and talk.

Becky Grimm, 408 Brinker Street, inquired when the streets are going to be lined. Mr. Crosby stated that it will be done soon. They don't want to do the lining before doing crack repair.

Bryan Hardy, 212 Kilbourne Street, stated that renters no longer get water bills as they go to the landlords so renters are not receiving City letters that are sent in the water bills.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Jeff Cook will be coming to Council on September 14 and updating everyone on the progress of the dog park.

LEGISLATION: None.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Crosby, invited everyone to come out and look at the salt bin. The next thing will be putting gas tanks next to the salt bin so both salt and gas will be done here instead of at the treatment plant. One set of gas tanks will remain at the treatment plant, but all police and fire trucks will get their gas here. They will have a pin number so it will be recorded how much gas is used and by whom.

Mayor Berkey talked with Eric Kochendoerfer, the CEO of Bellevue's Goodwill Industries, and he will have an open house for Council either the first or second meeting in September. Council members can meet 45 minutes before the Council meeting and take a tour of the building. He will also give an update on job expansion as well.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
Clerk of Council