

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2015

The regular City Council meeting of Monday, December 14, 2015, began at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Juli Lejman-Guy, Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. Council persons present: MR. BAKER, MR. FEUERSTEIN, MRS. HENRY, MR. HILL, MR. MILLER, MRS. MISSLER, and MISS NASCONE.

The minutes of the November 23, 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. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Crosby, stated that contrary to a rumor going around, he is not coming back to work in the Finance Department. He stated he is retiring and enjoying his grandchildren and Lake Erie. He does not plan to come back and work for the City.

City employees will be issued new medical cards for Medical Mutual.

The City will be receiving a grant for 50% off a new radio system which will connect all Huron County on same radio system.

The City received a check in the amount of \$1,187.44 from Worker's Compensation. He attends two meetings a year and the City has done well with workers comp, so it received a 2% rebate.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, passed out a small section of Ohio Revised Code in relation to Ordinance 19-15. He stated that the ordinance is simply formalizing the relationships in the City in coordination with the Code.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, gave an update from RITA with regards to HB5 final rules with changes for tax collections. The changes don't affect us. Our ordinance is fine.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that inasmuch as this may or may not be last meeting of the year, he wanted to mention that several will be leaving at the end of the year (Mrs. Henry, Mayor Berkey and Mr. Crosby). He stated that they have served well and he wanted to thank them for their services.

President Mr. Smith thanked Mayer Berkey and Mr. Crosby for the great working relationship he has had with them and in particular, the countless hours he has spent working with Mr. Crosby. He really appreciates his time, services, and his numerous contributions to the City.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Feuerstein stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mrs. Henry and Mr. Crosby. He is glad he had the chance to work with them and wishes them well.

Mr. Miller stated ditto to all that was said before regarding Mrs. Henry and Mr. Crosby. They are always invited to come back and visit.

Miss Nascone stated that she has talked with the ones who are leaving and has expressed how much she appreciates them. She thanked everyone who was understanding and considerate during her time in the hospital. She thanked everyone who called and sent cards.

Mr. Hill thanked everyone for coming tonight and looks forward to what they have to say. He stated that it isn't Council's job to micromanage or hire and fire. Council's responsibility is to legislate and appropriate what is in the best interests of the City. Council and the Administration have worked together very well and for that he thanks Mayor Berkey and Mr. Crosby. He is looking forward to working with the new members of the administration and hopes the same good working relationship will exist. He thanked Mr. Crosby for all his help.

Mrs. Henry thanked everyone for their well wishes. She stated it has been a pleasure serving on Council. Mr. Crosby will be missed and she hopes he enjoys his retirement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Miller stated that an Economic Development Committee meeting was held tonight regarding the Community Reinvestment Area ordinance. He made a motion to put Ordinance 22-15 on tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. All were in favor. Ordinance 22-15 will be added to tonight's agenda.

Mr. Baker stated that a Public Safety Committee meeting was held tonight to discuss recent negotiations with police unions. An ordinance has been drawn up and he would like to make a motion to take it out of committee and added to the agenda tonight. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Missler. A vote was taken. All were in favor. Ordinance 21-15 will be added to tonight's agenda.

Mr. Robinson of the **Committee to Grow Bellevue** stated that ornamental street lights have been fixed in front of Mr. Wallingford's office. More materials have been purchased and they are waiting for contractors to fix more of them. The Committee bears the full cost of all materials and labor. It doesn't cost the City anything.

Mrs. Ryan, also of the Committee to Grow Bellevue, stated that the Committee is always looking for new members. They have only one fund raiser a year which is the "Power of the Purse" which has been scheduled for March 3. It is their only source of income. She stated that the members enjoy being on the Committee and appreciate all of Council's support.

Mrs. Miller of the Shop Bellevue Committee stated that February 4 will be the Third Annual Chile Cookoff at the Green Emerald Restaurant.

President Smith welcomed Mr. Hollinger, Commissioner of the Huron County Public Health Department. He knows there are many drug problems in the community. He thanked those who came to tonight's meeting for this reason. He appreciates the concern of the citizens. A program was started to bring awareness to this issue a while back with the police department, detectives law enforcement agencies, county commissioners, and state representatives. There was no interest at that time and it was disbanded. He stated that Mr. Hollinger will be here to answer questions after the meeting tonight.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Tiffany Lewis, 6202 Co. Rd. 177, stated there are many here tonight with questions about the drug problems in the area. She inquired about the program that was started and was disbanded for lack of interest. She personally didn't know about it. It was discussed that it was put on Facebook and in the newspapers. She feels the community needs to be involved. Recently there were six overdoses and three died. When police responded to her cousin, they were not carrying Narcan. Mr. Crosby stated that the police do not carry Narcan, the reason being that all the emergency personnel in our area are medically trained and they carry Narcan. They respond before the police and they can medically help them. Policemen are not medical personnel. North Central EMS has medical people that are trained to use Narcan. Regular citizens can also get it and learn how to use it. He added that all those who recently died were already dead when the police got there. Narcan would not have helped.

Commissioner Hollinger stated that there is a substance abuse group made up of citizens and various agencies including the Bellevue Hospital, Bellevue schools, Sheriffs personnel, police departments, and others within Huron County. They are always looking for more people to come and the information is listed online. There are many programs including a program right now conducted through the court system. Later it will be open to the public. Other programs include a study with pregnant women to show how drug addiction affects their newborn babies. He stated he would stay after the meeting tonight to answer questions.

Lisa Keith, 520 Northwest Street, stated that she spoke with a detective today who told her that they rely on informants to help them with the drug problems in the area. Drugs on the street are being mixed with other things and they are becoming more deadly all the time. These kids who are dying are wonderful human beings who deserved better.

Dawn Bova, 1681 County Road 302, stated that used to be a member of the Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandot Mental Health Addiction Board. She now has her own practice in Clyde through the Bellevue Hospital. She is seeing a lot of people who are addicts. The reason she is speaking is that alcoholism is a problem too. The reason people don't come forward for help for any kind of addiction is because there is so much judgment and criticism. She has read many things that citizens posted on Facebook and she believes they don't understand the disease process. First thing we need to do is not educate the addict or alcoholic, but be compassionate and understanding. Never hate, but love, acceptance and tolerance. We owe it to our citizens to have a list of agencies that can help. She thinks that as City Council members and as a health provider, it is our responsibility to have some solutions. When someone needs help, we need to be ready to give them ideas to help.

Jenny Lewis, 605 Northwest Street, inquired if a meeting could be set up to help with this. Mr. Crosby stated that another meeting could be set up for this subject at another time when the police and various agencies can attend and discuss it. Not at a Council meeting. She can contact him at his office and something can be arranged.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that AJM Packaging Corporation has submitted an application to partake in the city income tax rebate program. A motion was made by Mr. Miller to accept the application. It was seconded by Mr. Feuerstein. A vote was taken. All were in favor.

He stated that depending if we finish all our business tonight, we will not have another meeting during the holidays. He then turned the time over to Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance 21-15 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LABOR CONTRACT WITH OPBA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance 21-15 its second and third readings by title only. The motion was seconded by Miss Nascone. A vote was taken. All were in favor.

Ordinance 21-15 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LABOR CONTRACT WITH OPBA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance 21-15, and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Miss Nascone. A vote was taken. Motion passed by the vote 7-0, and as an emergency.

At this time, a motion was made by Mr. Miller to have Ordinance 22-15 read by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Fuerstein. A vote was taken. It passed by 7-0.

Ordinance 22-15 was given its first reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING UNIFORM RULES FOR COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION BY DESIGNATING THE ENTIRE CITY OF BELLEVUE AS A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70; DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER; PROVIDING FOR A CO9MMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL; DETERMINING THE NATURE AND LENGTH OF EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO FILE A PETITION WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY TO CONFIRM THE FINDINGS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Motion was made by Mr. Miller to suspend the rules and give Ordinance 22-15 its second and third readings by title only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Feuerstein. A vote was taken. All were in favor.

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Motion was made by Mr. Feuerstein to adopt Ordinance 22-15, and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller. A vote was taken. Motion passed by the vote 7-0, and as an emergency.

Ordinance 19-15 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE FORMALIZING THAT THE CITY AUDITOR IS THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE AND THAT CERTAIN BARGAINING UNIT AND SUPERVISORY POSITIONS

SHALL REMAIN UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE CITY AUDITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mrs. Missler to suspend the rules and give Ordinance 19-15 its third reading by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Feuerstein. A vote was taken. Five were in favor, Mr. Hill and Mr. Miller, nay. Mr. Wallingford informed Council that the motion will not carry because it needs six out of seven votes to pass.

Ordinance 18-15 was given its third reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Miller to adopt Ordinance 18-15, and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Feuerstein. A vote was taken. Motion passed by the vote 7-0, and as an emergency.

President Smith inquired with regard to Ordinance 19-15 if would it be Council's pleasure to have a special meeting, or meet on December 28 to do the final reading. It was discussed. A motion was then made by Mr. Baker to table Ordinance 19-15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller. A vote was taken. The motion passed by the vote 5-2. Mrs. Missler and Mr. Feuerstein, nay. It will be tabled.

Mr. Feuerstein made a motion to meet at regular Council meeting on Dec. 28. It was seconded by Mrs. Missler. A vote was taken. It passed with a vote 6-1, Mr. Miller, nay.

CLOSING REMARKS:

President Smith announced that there will be a Council of the Whole work session at 7:00 p.m. on December 28, 2015, just prior to the regular City Council meeting. He thanked everyone for coming and taking part.

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