

## MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 27, 2016

The regular City Council meeting of June 27, 2016 began at 7:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor Justin Jump of Bellevue's First United Methodist Church. Council persons present: MR. BAKER, MR. FEUERSTEIN, MR. MILLER, MRS. MISSLER, MISS NASCONE, AND MRS. OMMERT.

The minutes from the regular City Council meeting of June 13, 2016, were presented for approval. Mr. Miller made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Feuerstein seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

### REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

**Mayor Strecker** asked the Streets & Sidewalks Committee to meet as a committee and consider limiting parking to one side of the street on Huffman Street. The cars are bottlenecking and it makes it difficult for any emergency vehicle to get through.

The Water Department Superintendent is asking the Utilities Committee to discuss raising the water meter pricing.

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Lantz**, stated that last weekend was Bellevue Community Days and they were a big success. He thanked the Recreation Department and all the volunteers for coming together to make the festivities fun. There were some problems with electricity at Greenwood Heights and a small water problem, but they were taken care of. Everyone did a great job.

**Auditor, Mr. Smith**, stated that Jacob Bollinger is initiating a petition and having it signed by citizens in the City regarding a sensible Bellevue marijuana ordinance. He is getting signatures and then he will present it to the Auditor who in turn passes it on to the Law Director and City Prosecutor. He just wanted everyone to know the petition is being circulated and if there are any questions, direct them to Law Director, Mr. Wallingford.

**Treasurer, Mr. Freitag**, stated that last Tuesday he attended the annual RITA meeting. There are 270 member communities involved which represents 70 of 88 counties. Last year they collected 1.2 billion dollars in income tax. They have added web-based videos that are available 24/7. They have doubled their capacity for incoming calls. They decreased the number of dropped calls. During the last year they had a 93% success rate on calls. Tax professionals can register their emails and RITA will send them updates. Last year they operated at 1.57% of costs. On June 30, 2016 Bellevue will receive a refund check in the amount of \$62,821.00.

**Law Director, Mr. Wallingford**, stated that with regard to the initiative petition, he has been in contact with the people who are proposing this. If they have sufficient signatures on the petition, they will turn it in to the City Auditor who will turn it in to the Board of Elections and it could potentially be on the next ballot in November. He recently received a copy of the petition. It will decriminalize marijuana and will be not just for medicinal purposes, but for recreational purposes also. It will affect driving violations and may not be a positive thing. Those concerns have been expressed. The City operates under City laws as well as State laws. Even if City laws are changed, State laws are still in effect and people can still be charged for traffic violations.

## REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Mr. Miller** stated that he has heard comments from citizens that they have noticed the employees of the City are reenergized and there is an increased pride in the community.

**Miss Nascone** stated that she attended Bellevue Community Days which were a great success and she appreciates everyone who put it all together.

**Mrs. Ommert** scheduled a Streets and Sidewalks Committee meeting for July 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., prior to the regular council meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**President Smith** stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight to discuss personnel changes at the Water Department.

**Mr. Robinson of the Committee to Grow Bellevue** stated that open air markets are doing very well. The Committee's project at Central Park regarding the construction of permanent concrete pads for picnic tables is progressing very well. Three are completed and three more are in progress. Last year the Committee purchased Christmas lights for the tree in Central Park. This year the Committee has purchased a Christmas train.

**George Keller, representing the Bellevue Historical Society & Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum**, stated that the Bellevue Historical Society has purchased twenty new period-correct windows for the Tremont House and members are busy painting them. This last weekend was the dedication of historical marker for the Tremont House. The contractor has been busy shoring up the foundation and getting ready to put in new steel columns to support the second floor. The steel was donated at cost by Thomas Steel. The labor is being donated at no cost. The Wine & Cheese Festival is scheduled for August 6.

The Railroad Museum celebrated in conjunction with Bellevue Community Days. Entrance was free. They had a steam engine there which provided rides to 800+ people. They had many visitors from the Cleveland and Toledo area. It was a big success.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS:

**Eli Beachy, Executive Director of Historic Lyme Village**, expressed appreciation to the Bellevue Fire Department and Mayor's office who helped out with providing a water tank for their Civil War celebration. They had roughly 350 men in wool clothing living in 1861 extreme heat and the water tank prevented a life threatening situation when a 22-year-old reenactor went down from heat exhaustion.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Smith** stated that Mr. Hill is excused tonight. He thanked Marc Weisenberger for and the volunteers who worked hard to make Community Days a big success. He then turned the time over to Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, for tonight's legislation.

## LEGISLATION:

**Ordinance 9-16 was given its second reading by title only:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF A FULL-TIME CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR, AND FIXING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR THIS POSITION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion was made by Mr. Miller to suspend the rules and give Ordinance 9-16 its third reading by title only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Feuerstein. A vote was taken. Five were in favor, Mrs. Missler, nay. The motion does not pass.

CLOSING REMARKS:

**President Smith** opened the floor for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss employee discipline and personnel as it relates to possible litigation. Mr. Miller made the motion and it was seconded by Miss Nascone. All were in favor. They will return to Council after the session only to adjourn the meeting.

After the Executive Session, motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Missler. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Ronald Smith**  
President of Council

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**Rhonda R. Soper**  
Clerk of Council