

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 22, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Mayor Kevin Strecker. Council Members present: MR. BAKER, MR. DANIEL, MR. HILL, MR. MORRISON, MS. MUNIZ, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of June 8, 2026, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. The minutes were approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker acknowledged Art 106 in their celebration of 13 successful years in business. They started their business to bring art and creativity to the community where people of all ages can grow, learn, and create. Thirteen years is a milestone and we congratulate them and wish them many more years of creativity.

He wanted to honor Mad River & NKP's 50th anniversary. They had a great celebration on Saturday. The weather was perfect and they did a great job. They had a couple of commissioners from Sandusky and Huron Counties in attendance. He presented them with a proclamation from the Administration and City Council.

He gave a shout out to the Bellevue Police Department who had some difficult things they had to deal with over the last couple of months. They did a fantastic job. He can't say enough about the good job they do.

Bellevue's Celebration 250 will be on July 24, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. They will have water slides, bounce houses, eight different food trucks, games, giveaways, a live band, and a train ride. Fireworks will be on Saturday, July 26, 2026, at 10:00 p.m. at Robert Peters Park. There will also be a 5K race on Saturday beginning at Central Park.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that mosquito spraying has been done only once because the weather has not been warm enough. When it warms up they will be doing it more often. Right now they are scheduled for Wednesday mornings.

As far as road projects go, last year's Route 20 Project is just being finalized. The striping is done. They are basically down to a walk through with the project manager. They will be wrapping it up in a week or two. You can see where the State Route 18 Project is at the moment. Next year's Route 20 Project is already starting with getting the medians throughout the City ready to be intermediately paved which should happen this week. There are one or two more catch basins to work on. He will finalize the street projects for this year and let Council know.

He welcomed the new Law Director and stated he looks forward to working with him.

Mr. Baker stated he has been approached by a number of citizens inquiring if this project will be as intense. Mr. Brugnone stated that the last project was a whole infrastructure project. The current project will be to come in, take three or so inches off, put some new on. The bike trail from 302 to Arby's will be included. Mr. Daniel inquired if the City will be fixing the dip by Arby's. Mr. Brugnone stated that it is intentionally there for water drainage.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that he distributed the year-to-date report through the end of May, 2026. Also, the they are in the final stages of the 2025 audit from the Auditor of State and a draft copy of the report will be ready soon.

President Smith welcomed new Law Director, Mr. Leal.

Law Director, Mr. Leal, stated that he felt very welcome. He looks forward to working with everyone to serve the citizens of Bellevue.

Council Clerk, Mrs. Soper, welcomed new Law Director, Mr. Leal.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that he wants to disclose that he works for Ready-Mix in town and is a Councilman for the City. As an employee of Ready-Mix, he does not control the schedule and as a member of Council, he does not control who the City orders concrete from. He wants to make sure there is no appearance of a conflict of interest.

He made a motion that the two ordinances on the agenda tonight be read by the Law Director by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. All were in favor.

Mr. Morrison significant uptake in water receipts are we using more water or is it from the efficiency of the meters? Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated they can look into it.

Mr. Baker stated that he is pleased that Wendy's is getting up and going. He has been asked some questions regarding that. They removed all the arborvitaes and they moved the sign. Will they be replacing privacy shrubs or a fence? The neighbors see the sign now. Also will they be planting arborvitaes? Mr. Brugnone stated that he has been talking with some of the same neighbors. When the Board of Zoning Appeals meets, anyone with concerns can attend the meetings. When a business wants to do something with their property, a letter goes out to all the neighbors and they are welcome to attend the meetings. They will be constructing a fence or planting arborvitaes on the west side. They were very upfront and forwarded copies of the old paperwork in the 1980's and copies of their current paperwork.

Mr. Baker recommends that Council consider making an adjustment in the pay rate for the mayor. It has been the same amount for years. Looking at ordinances for other administrators, the pay for the mayor is the lowest and yet he is the face of Bellevue. It is a part-time position, but it doesn't have part time hours. Mr. Brugnone stated that this issue can only be addressed in an election year. It will come up next year. Mr. Baker inquired who sets the pay for the mayor and who brings it to Council? It was stated that the Budget & Finance Committee would meet and consider it. President Smith stated that we can do some research and follow up. Mr. Baker also stated that the President of Council should be earning more.

Mr. Hill congratulated new Law Director, Brandon Leal. Mr. Wallingford was very thorough. He got us all on the same page. He never wavered, never was influenced by others, and did a great job.

Ms. Muniz stated that the new improvements at the entrance of Robert Peters Park look great.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight to discuss Amended Ordinance No. 14-26, and Ordinance No. 16-26 regarding DORA. Both ordinances are on the agenda tonight.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Patti Gray, 252 Gunther Street, stated that she has been the chief administrator of the Backpack Program for the last eight years. The last several years the Eagles Auxiliary has been giving the Backpack Program a donation from their Christmas project. The secretary of the Auxiliary asked her to fill out a grant application. The top person would receive \$5,000.00, but there was no guaranty that her program would receive anything. Their convention was this weekend and she got a phone call this morning informing her that she got \$3,000.00. She was ecstatic! This will give the program six additional weeks of 125 bags.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, is excused tonight. He received a letter this afternoon with a copy of an article that was placed in the Sandusky Register by Shirley Lindsey, a long time resident of Bellevue who is now 96 years old. She asked if he would read her letter. The article was about an army veteran who was walking across the US to support mental health. He reported that one of the best parts of the walk was traveling along the North Coast Inland trail near Bellevue. He raised money for the National Alliance for Mental Illness. If anyone wants to contribute, he has more information.

He then turned the time over to Mr. Leal for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Amended Ordinance No. 14-26 was given its first reading by title only: AN AMENDED ORDINANCE APPROVING A JOB CREATION INCOME TAX CREDIT WITH TOWER AUTOMOTIVE OPERATIONS USA 1, LLC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Amended Ordinance No. 14-26 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 7-0.

Amended Ordinance No. 14-26 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN AMENDED ORDINANCE APPROVING A JOB CREATION INCOME TAX CREDIT WITH TOWER AUTOMOTIVE OPERATIONS USA 1, LLC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Amended Ordinance No. 14-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 16-26 was given its first reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE RENEWING A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA) AND ENACTING REGULATIONS FOR THE DORA FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 16-26 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ordinance No. 16-26 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE RENEWING A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA) AND ENACTING REGULATIONS FOR THE DORA FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrison to adopt Ordinance No. 16-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 7-0.

CLOSING REMARKS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Smith thanked everyone for attending and requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wynbissinger. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. Everyone was in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk