

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor and Council President, Ronald Smith. Council Members present: MR. BAKER, MR. DANIEL, MR. HILL, MR. MORRISON, MS. MUNIZ, and MR. SHEPHERD. Mr. Wynbissinger was excused.

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of December 8, 2025, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Hill to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and the minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor, Kevin Strecker, presented a plaque and proclamation from the Administration and City Council to Mrs. Ommert for all her years of dedicated service. Her decisions and hard work helped maintain the high standards of the City of Bellevue for the greater good of its citizens. She did a stellar job with everything she did and her work will be appreciated for many years to come. She will be missed.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that he will give his card to the new members of Council so they can contact him.

We are in full swing with Columbia Gas and Miller Pipeline in the Kilbourne area.

There were 14.2 tons of recycling done in December. That is an all-time high. There were 129.5 tons done for 2025. Every year during the holidays they watch the recycling bins closely. They bring extra bins when needed. During this last holiday season, Bellevue had a strong windstorm. He received 27 calls in one weekend from citizens complaining about trash blowing around. Many trash cans were blowing into neighbor's yards and down the streets, business trash cans were overflowing, and some trash was blowing into citizen's yards. This was not an isolated incident, as it happens during Christmas each year, but the wind certainly played a part creating havoc with trash cans this year. One thing they did at the end of the year was put wind shades up to help with the wind and it doubles as shade so citizens cannot see into the bin area.

He turned some time over to Street Supervisor, Bob Sutherland, to discuss the streetlight on Rt. 18 and Rt. 20. He was there today monitoring it for an hour and noticed that the longest time was three minutes and eleven seconds. Afterward they went through the programming of the light. The timing for the light was off for vehicles traveling northbound on Kilbourne. They should be working correctly soon. The intersection at Greenwood will unfortunately have to be off for a few more weeks and then they will then be on a new system.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, thanked Mrs. Ommert for her service in City Council, particularly with the Budget & Finance Committee. It will be hard to replace her.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that he received a notice regarding ethics reports for elected officials to file. They are due May 15, 2026. This report can be done and submitted online. If you would like a hard copy to fill out by hand, contact him or Mrs. Soper.

He stated it has been a pleasure working with Mrs. Ommert. Budget and financing can be very daunting, but she tackled it cheerfully. She has a great background and personality and is very detail oriented so she was excellent in her position in the Budget & Finance Committee.

He gave a brief outline of some of the legal aspects that City Council handles for the newly-elected members. There are two kinds of legislation: resolutions and ordinances. Resolutions are usually of a temporary nature, and ordinances are more of a permanent nature. All legislation documents will have three readings on separate dates and at separate meetings. The first reading is in full, the second and third readings are by title only. Normally legislation will take effect thirty days after passage. Many times, an emergency clause is added to legislation which means that we won't have the 30-day waiting period. It goes into effect once it is signed by the Mayor, Council President, and Clerk. Things that are of a more permanent nature normally will have three readings and go into effect in thirty days. To pass legislation, it requires a majority of Council members to vote, or 4. To pass one with an emergency clause, it takes 2/3 members, or 5. If Council decides to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only, it takes ¾ majority of members, or 6 members. Resolutions are always read before ordinances. Tonight, we will start out with Resolution No. R -1-26. If Council adds Resolution No. R-2-26, it will be read next. If Council takes Ordinances No. 21-25 through 25-25 off the table, they will have first readings. Lastly, we will have a third reading of Resolution No. R-10-25.

President Smith called for nominations for President Pro Tempore for 2026. Mr. Hill nominated Mr. Baker. No one else was nominated. Mr. Hill made a motion that Mr. Baker be the President Pro Tempore for 2026. Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. A vote was taken and everyone was in favor of Mr. Baker being President Pro Tempore for 2026. Mr. Baker accepted the nomination.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired if the City has a list of trash providers that provide services for Bellevue and asked if we know which days they provide their services. Mr. Brugnone stated that each of them provide information as to licenses, insurance, etc. before providing services. He isn't sure which days they provide their services and some days they may overlap with other trash services. Mr. Shepherd asked if it is possible to send out a reminder to the public that trash cans should be out only for 24 hours for pick-up, and they cannot leave trash cans out for the entire week.

Mr. Morrison stated that a citizen contacted him regarding a problem with a snowplow scraping up his front yard. He asked who the citizen should contact. Mr. Brugnone stated that they need to call the City Offices. They are aware of this particular issue as the employee called and reported it. It will be repaired in the spring.

Mr. Baker stated same person contacted him and he told him he had a Council person living next door.

Mr. Hill thanked Mrs. Ommert. He has served with her for ten years. She did a great job. He thanked her for all her dedication and service to Council and the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Council protocol and committee assignments.

Mr. Baker stated that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held tonight at 7:15 p.m. to discuss Ordinance Nos. 21-25, 22-25, 23-25, 24-25 and 25-25, which were tabled. It was voted to un-table the ordinances during the regular Council meeting. They discussed Resolution No. R-2-26. It was voted to take it out of Committee and add it by vote to tonight's agenda during the regular Council meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Patti Gray, 252 Gunther Street, stated that because of her shoulder replacement surgery twelve weeks ago, she has been on hiatus from the Backpack Program. She gave a report from September through December 2025. 1,412 backpack meals were prepared and distributed to elementary and middle school children during this time. 2,024 bags were given out for the year compared to 1,226 bags distributed in 2024. She showed up to resume her work with the program last week but was having shoulder issues and has now been relegated to supervision only on Fridays. President Smith thanked her for her enthusiasm and dedication to this worthy program.

She welcomed the new Council members.

Jennifer Reed, [REDACTED], stated that regarding proposed Ordinances No. 21-25 through 25-25, she has many issues. She has been either a state, county, or federal employee for the last 20 years. She stated she has never come across salary and fringe benefits like what is being proposed. She disagrees with the proposals and hopes that more than Council members are receiving this information. She feels that Bellevue City workers are being paid over and beyond and have much greater fringe benefits than all other nearby municipalities. She also has issues with the proposed sick leave, car allowances, car mileage, and whether a City worker retires or is terminated, the way the ordinances are written, she has issues with the benefits. She stated there will be many records requests if these ordinances are passed. She is asking for due diligence regarding these proposed ordinances.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Councilman, Mr. Wynbissinger, and Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, are excused tonight.

He thanked Mrs. Ommert for her service to our community. It has been a pleasure serving with her and he thanked her for keeping everyone up to speed with our finances.

He received a nice thank you card from the Bellevue High School Leadership Team to all Council members for doing such a great job of leading and guiding the community.

Before he turned the time over to Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, for tonight's legislation, some motions were made. A motion was made by Mr. Hill to add Resolution No. R-2-26 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to take Ordinance Nos. 21-25, 22-25, 23-25, 24-25, and 25-25 off the table and give them their first readings. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to give Ordinance Nos. 21-25, 22-25, 23-25, 24-25, and 25-25 their first readings by title only. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-1-26 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH GOVDEALS FOR THE SALE OF UNNEEDED PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION, PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 721.15, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-1-26 its second and third readings by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Resolution No. R-1-26 was given its second and third readings by title only: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH GOVDEALS FOR THE SALE OF UNNEEDED PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION, PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 721.15, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Resolution No. R-1-26. It was seconded by Mr. Morrison. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Resolution No. R-2-26 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH).

Ordinance No. 21-25 was given its first reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE CITY ENGINEER AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 4-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE, VACATION AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 22-25 was given its first reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE CITY SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 4-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE, VACATION AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 23-25 was given its first reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 4-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE, VACATION AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 24-25 was given its first reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE FINANCE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 4-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE, VACATION AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 25-25 was given its first reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE RECREATION DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 4-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE, VACATION AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Resolution No. R-10-25 was given its third reading by title only: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND AGREEING TO COOPERATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PARK IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE SANDUSKY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT 2025 LOCAL PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Resolution No. R-10-25. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired if we have a dollar amount on the items going out for bid on GovDeals. Mr. Brugnone stated that he can get him the information.

Mr. Baker stated that in the past there were times that Council had specific meetings to go over the budget. He would like to schedule meetings down the road to review the budget. He also inquired about the water rates and Mr. Brugnone stated that a study is being done and information regarding the water rates will soon be coming out.

Mayor Strecker, stated that he distributed this year's Boards and Commissions. He asked Council to review it before the next meeting so it can be approved. There are a couple of typos on it but it is the correct list for 2026. Mr. Shepherd stated that the handout has the old address for City Offices.

He mentioned that on the back table they have the applications for Bellevue's Hometown Heroes. They are filling up fast but if anyone wants to submit one there are some spots open.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baler. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk