MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 9, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 7:40 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Mayor Kevin Strecker. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MR. DANIEL, MR. MORRISON, MS. MUNIZ, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER. Mr. Hill was excused.

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of October 26, 2026, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Ms. Muniz to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. The minutes were approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker stated that a Veteran's Day ceremony will be held this Wednesday, November 11, at 11:00 a.m., at Fallen Soldiers Memorial.

Happy birthday to the Marine Corps tomorrow.

On Monday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a 1776 Thanksgiving service at Lyme Congregational Church. This will be a special event where all participants will be dressed in 1776 period clothing.

The Bellevue Historical Society will be hosting a Tremont House walk through. It was built in 1846. There will be Christmas trees decorated by various businesses and organizations. You can have your photo taken and made into a magnet or key chain. More information to follow.

We have recently had meetings with St. Nick on the upcoming holiday season. Santa will be in the House on Saturdays, Dec 5, 12, and 19, and Sunday, December 13. We will be sponsoring letters to Santa again this year. Children can drop off their letters, and each letter will be answered by Santa and mailed with a special sticker from his workshop.

On Sunday, December 20, Santa will be traveling the City streets escorted by vehicles from the Bellevue Police and Fire Departments. It was highly successful last year, and we anticipate that it will be even more successful this year.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that street resurfacing is all finished for the year. There are still some manholes that need to be addressed and they will be taken care of the week of November 23.

Leaf pickup will begin next Monday, weather permitting. There will be two weeks of leaf pickup.

Many citizens have made remarks about the streetlights that are out. City officials met with members of Ohio Edison. They have run out of the current bulbs they have been using. They will start replacing them with LED lights which will be much brighter. They have been

making the rounds, and they have a list of lights that are out. Let your constituents know that the lights are going to be taken care of.

Members of the Sandusky County EMS would like to attend one of our upcoming meetings. Council President can decide which meeting would be best.

He thanked Superintendent Brandon Good for being here tonight with the water study. He had Mr. Good report to Council regarding the new waterline project on 302. Everything is going very well.

Law Director, Mr. Leal, stated that Ordinance No. 25-26 is on the agenda tonight. The Administration noticed that Section 521.12 in Bellevue's Codified Ordinances permits the use of boats with electronic motors on Reservoir 5. The Administration has been telling the public for over a decade that no boats are allowed on any of the reservoirs. Having discovered that the code is incorrect, he was asked to delete that section of the Code so that it can be clear that no boats of any nature will be allowed on any of the reservoirs. That is the intent of Ordinance No. 25-26. The first reading will be tonight.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that at tonight's Budget & Finance Committee meeting, he requested an increase for street resurfacing on the temporary budget. After discussion, it was decided to hold off on the temporary budget, and revisit it in 2027 on the permanent budget.

Mr. Morrison gave a shout out to Bellevue's Street Department for their work on repaving the streets this year. He drives on Union Street every day to get to US 20, and he is very happy with the repaving work that was done on that street. He also gave kudos to Water Filtration Superintendent, Brandon Good. During the course of the water study, he has increased efficiencies and done a great job with the water treatment plant.

Mr. Baker thanked Superintendent Good and the gentleman who presented the water study. He has been concerned for the last ten years and he is very satisfied with the water study results.

Ms. Muniz gave a shout out to the Rec Department, local organizations, and all the volunteers involved with the fun Halloween activities this year. Her family attended many of them and they were very well organized. She thanked the Bellevue Police Department and local businesses for helping with trick-or-treating. The police shut down the streets to keep the children safe. They followed the kids and made sure they were crossing the streets safely. The kids were excited to see and interact with the police officers. It was a great event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Morrison stated that a Public Utilities Committee meeting was held tonight at 6:30 p.m., prior to the regular Council meeting, to review the results of the water study. At this point, recommendations for potential rate increases were made to the City Administration. The meeting was very informative. He appreciates all the work that was put into it.

Mr. Baker stated that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held tonight at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the temporary budget for 2027 and pending Ordinance No. 27-26, the contract with Barnes, and the City's EMS contract with pending Ordinance No. 26-26. It was voted upon and passed to take Ordinances No. 26-26 and 27-26 out of Committee and add them to tonight's agenda by motion.

Mr. Baker made a motion to add Ordinances No. 26-26 and 27-26 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken. The motion passed with four in favor. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Shepherd, nay. Ordinances No. 26-26 and 27-26 are added to tonight's agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Cole Verhoff and Bret A. Verhoff, 535 Castalia Street. Cole stated that on July 13, 2026, he climbed a tree in Robert Peters Park and broke some branches. He apologized profusely and stated that he had no excuse and he regretted it. He stated he will never do anything like this again and hopes Council will accept his apology. Mayor Strecker stated that Cole has been volunteering at Fish and Loaves every Wednesday and everyone there has enjoyed working with him. Ms. Muniz thanked him and stated that it took a lot of courage for him to speak at Council and she sees great things ahead for his future. His father, Bret, mentioned that he was only expected to volunteer one evening at the Fish and Loaves. Cole enjoyed it so much he has been volunteering every Wednesday since.

Jennifer Reed, Bellevue, Ohio, stated that in the spirit of transparency as she indicated in the October 13 meeting, she had an update. She requested public records. The City contracted with an outside attorney to respond to said records request. She was emailed documents that were not privileged. Council introduced legislation in a committee meeting on October 13. It was voted to take it out of committee and add to the agenda. It was read the same night. Then it was given its second and third readings all in the same night. It was approved. She received a copy of a purchase agreement signed by the Safety-Service Director on September 22, 2026. It was brought to an executive session after it was signed. City Council approved the purchase on October 13. The appropriation was also approved at same meeting. She asked Council if they looked at the purchase agreement and if so, did they know it had already been signed. Fisher Titus signed even before City Council had appropriated the funds. We were led to believe it was an emergency. How long has the discussion been going on with City officials and Fisher Titus and is that how we define an emergency?

There is proposed legislation on the agenda tonight to approve the Safety-Service Director to enter into a contract outside of the bidding process. There is plenty of time to put it out for bid. Legislation should be read at three meetings. Council members are entitled to copies of these agreements. By not going out for bid, the City is limiting its pool for contracts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Councilman, Mr. Hill, was excused tonight.

He thanked everyone who put together the temporary budget. He then turned the time over to Law Director, Mr. Leal, for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 25-26 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE DELETING SECTION 521.12 OF THE BELLEVUE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CONCERNING ELECTRIC BOAT MOTORS ON RESERVOIR NO. 5.

Ordinance No. 26-26 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITHOT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051 FOR THE CONTINUATIOBN OF AMBULANCE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to table Ordinance No. 26-26. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0. Ordinance No. 26-26 has been tabled.

Ordinance No. 27-26 was given its first reading: 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. 2027, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, announced that there will be an Open House for the Rec Center tomorrow night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Staff members will be available to answer any questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Smith thanked everyone for attending and requested a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Muniz. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. Everyone was in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk