

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 9, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council Clerk, Mrs. Soper. 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 January 26, 2026, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and the minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that the audit has begun.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Smith stated that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held in Council Chambers last Monday, February 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss the 2026 budget and other budget matters.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Jennifer Reed, [REDACTED], stated that when she gave her citizen's remarks on January 12 regarding proposed Ordinance Nos. 21-25 through 25-25, she requested that due diligence be done by members of Council and she hopes that has happened. The minutes from that meeting reflect that she used the term "workers" when speaking about the ones involved in the ordinances. She stated that she didn't use that word and doesn't intend to use that word referring to these ordinances. They are regarding management and directors. The workers are separate and apart from these ordinances.

She stated that there are so many items the ordinances cover and so little time to address Council, so she pinpointed one specific item to discuss. Sec 124.38 covers sick time. 124.39 covers unused sick time. She encouraged everyone to read them. In the budget meeting from January 12 the Safety-Service Director indicated that the reason they are cashing out sick leave at this time is because they have met their limit. There is no limit on sick time. Every two weeks 4.6 hours goes into sick time. In Sec. 124.38c it discusses employees in the collective bargaining unit. The other is through a process that, depending on how that income is paid out, it means it has to go the county commissioners to be paid. Sec. 124.39 separates management from that type of process. An analysis that should be done on each part.

In the Council meeting on January 12, it was discussed that one person's salary was not what it was reported. The Safety-Service Director noted that the salary was not what it was reported. Public records requests indicate that it is his salary but in the language they are putting a cap on what the salary is for the director in this position. The law would state that fringe benefits such as sick leave counts as compensation.

She inquired about the value of the fringe benefits and how many benefits are going to be tax exempt. On one hand she believes the taxpayers are being taken advantage of by these fringe benefits. On the other hand, they are limited on the amount of sick leave hours they can accumulate in case a catastrophe happens medically. They are cashing them out at a lower rate.

She urged Council to reconsider that anyone can cash out sick leave at 100%. Retirement, resignation, resignation in lieu of termination, or even termination, the statute outlines the minimum of unused sick leave and what can be cashed out. The statute indicates that 100% cash out is only for retirement. She urged Council to be good stewards of our taxpayer dollars.

President Smith inquired if she has spoken to Mayor Strecker or Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, concerning these issues. She answered that she has not.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith welcomed members of the Bellevue High School government class. He then turned the time over to Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 2-26 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. 1-26 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH VACTOR, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A VACTOR TRUCK MOUNTED SINGLE ENGINE COMBINATION SEWER CLEANER FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 1-26 its third reading by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ordinance No. 1-26 was given its third reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH VACTOR, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A VACTOR TRUCK MOUNTED SINGLE ENGINE COMBINATION SEWER CLEANER FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Resolution No. R-2-26. It was seconded by Mr. Morrison. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ordinance No. 21-25 was given its third 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 21-25 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and passed (but not as an emergency) by a vote of 4-3, Mr. Baker, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 22-25 was given its third 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. 5-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE, VACATION AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 22-25 and as an emergency. No second was made.

Mr. Daniel inquired if the ones who opposed the passing of Ordinance No. 21-25 could express why they were opposed. It was mentioned that Council rules do not allow discussion during voting.

Mr. Wallingford stated that there is discussion after the reading and before the vote. This can be discussed because a motion was made but not seconded. He inquired if Council is cancelling the ordinance or if someone wants to table it because it can fail for lack of a second. Does Mr. Daniel want a committee meeting to discuss why the three Council members voted "no"?

Mr. Daniel stated that everyone previously appeared to be in favor. Now we are here getting ready to vote and suddenly there appears to be questions. He would like to hear their questions and concerns are what makes them vote "no".

President Smith stated that we have had committee meetings regarding these ordinances and no one discussed any issues they had regarding them.

Mr. Wallingford stated that members do not discuss why you voted "yes" or "no." Mr. Daniel's questions are regarding Ordinance No. 21-25. The one we are on is Ordinance No. 22-25. It has been given a third reading. It is subject to a motion and a second and then a vote at that point. If there isn't a second, it will fail if it has not been properly tabled. Then Council can have meetings and discussions and come back with new ordinances with new numbers. The ordinances can be tabled but we have already tabled them once. The questions about concerns members have with the ordinances need to be discussed at a Committee meeting.

Mr. Baker stated that he was very specific with his views regarding the ordinances in the meeting in December and why he would vote "no." We did have discussions.

President Smith stated that we had many discussions and a special meeting last week to go over any concerns. No one seemed to have any issues.

Ms. Muniz inquired if the ordinance fails, what happens? We have passed one and there are four left that have not had their third readings.

Mr. Wallingford stated that they are each separate ordinances. The first ordinance regarding the Safety-Service Director and Engineer passed without an emergency which will go into effect in 30 days. It

doesn't mean that people will not be paid. The current ordinance continues on. It is up to Council. New ordinances can be brought to Council with new numbers.

Mr. Baker inquired if there is still room to give raises. It was discussed that everyone will get paid and there will be raises. These ordinances are for the future.

Mr. Wallingford clarified that Ordinance No. 22-25 has had its third reading by title only and a motion was made to adopt the ordinance. It can now be seconded and voted on.

Mr. Daniel stated that if he knew there would be three members voting "no" it would have made a difference in his vote. As of last week, no one said anything and he thought everything was okay.

Mr. Hill stated that each member should vote how he wants to vote and not change because of how others vote.

President Smith stated that perhaps members think the caps mean everyone is getting a raise.

Ms. Muniz inquired how Mr. Shepherd felt about the caps. Mr. Shepherd stated that he thinks the caps are a little high and would like them to be a little lower.

Mr. Wallingford stated that the ordinance that covers two employees has passed. The second ordinance is regarding all supervisors.

Mr. Hill stated that he will second the motion so we can move on.

A motion was previously made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 22-25 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and failed by a vote of 4-3, Mr. Baker, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Shepherd, nay. ORDINANCE NO. 22-25 DID NOT PASS.

Ordinance No. 23-25 was given its third 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. 9-16, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE AND VACATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 23-25 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and failed by a vote of 4-3, Mr. Baker, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Shepherd, nay. ORDINANCE NO. 23-25 DID NOT PASS.

Ordinance No. 24-25 was given its third 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. 14-19, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE AND VACATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 24-25 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and failed by a vote of 4-3, Mr. Baker, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Shepherd, nay. ORDINANCE NO. 24-25 DID NOT PASS.

Ordinance No. 25-25 was given its third 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. 8-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY, SICK LEAVE, VACATION AND UNIFORM ALLOWANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Hill to adopt Ordinance No. 25-25 and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and failed by a vote of 4-3, Mr. Baker, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Shepherd, nay. ORDINANCE NO. 25-25 DID NOT PASS.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Hill stated that he was feeling disappointed. These ordinances were introduced in December, and we had several meetings to discuss them. He thought everyone was on the same page. Red flags should have been raised a long time ago. He stated that we didn't come together as a unit and it is a disappointment to him. It obviously has not been discussed enough.

Mr. Baker stated that he brought up his issues with the ordinances in December. He doesn't think it is good to state why and how they are voting to sway others. Everyone is entitled to their vote. He thinks without some of the public input, some of the things were considered very well. In December he stated he had an issue with 100% sick time. It is a pet peeve of his. There are areas where people have an abundance of sick time which should be used when they get sick or have a medical emergency. They shouldn't get sick leave paid out when they retire. As far as employees who are fired and are still entitled to sick leave payout, he thinks it was obvious how he felt when it was discussed in December.

President Smith reminded everyone that Council members cannot have meetings outside of Council to discuss issues. Special committee meetings, like the one we had last week, can be scheduled and are open to the public so things like this can be discussed. Again, the sick leave issue has been an ongoing issue.

President Smith stated that at Council's pleasure, a committee meeting can be scheduled to come up with new ordinance numbers and discuss how we want to go forward with them.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated it sounds like Council will want to have a committee meeting that is open to public to take each of these ordinances and exhibits and have an open and robust discussion.

Mr. Baker stated that some have mentioned their concerns to him and have used the words "extraordinary and extravagant" when they discuss benefits. This is one of the reasons for his vote.

Mr. Wallingford stated that each opinion is valued. There is nothing wrong with giving your opinion even if others do not agree. It will take a majority to pass ordinances.

President Smith stated that Council procedures have a learning curve. He honors everyone's opinion. Everyone has something to bring to the table.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that it is not a good look to pass the one ordinance regarding the Safety-Service Director and City Engineer and leave the other employees out with the rest of the ordinances that didn't pass. He stated he would have been happy with it going the other way.

President Smith announced that, by motion, Council would go into Executive Session to discuss possible acquisition of real estate. The Executive Session is closed to the public and press. After the

session, Council members will return to the regular City Council meeting only to adjourn, with no further business acted upon.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. All were in favor.

After the meeting, Council members returned to the regular City Council meeting only to adjourn and with no further business.

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. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith
President of Council

Rhonda R. Soper
City Council Clerk