

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor Beth Westphal of St. John's Lutheran Church. Council Members present: MR. BAKER, MR. HILL, MR. MORRISON, MS. MUNIZ, MR. SHEPHERD, and MR. WYNBISSINGER. Mr. Daniel was excused.

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of March 23, 2026, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. The minutes were approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker stated that Lori Brodie, Regional Director at Northwest Ohio's Office of Senator Jon Husted, was in attendance tonight. He had a good discussion with her a week ago and he thanked her for being present.

He thanked Kenn and Donn Rospert and President Smith for organizing the wonderful Veteran's Day ceremony. It is so important to remember our vets for their service and sacrifice and unwavering dedication to our nation. He stated that President Smith is there every year and helps to make the ceremonies amazing. President Smith thanked Mayor Strecker for always being there supporting them.

He thanked Amy Walters, Career and Workforce Development Specialist for Bellevue High School. for allowing him to be a part of this year's "Sophomore Shake." This is a competition that brings in City leaders and role models to teach students about professional skills for success. It is important for the students to develop life skills and it is also important for him to attend and talk with students and learn more about them.

He thanked the Bellevue Holiday House and the Eagles Club and all the volunteers and donors for a very successful fundraiser they organized with Duling Pianos as entertainment. All proceeds will go to the Holiday House for the America 250 Celebration to be held at Central Park over the weekend of July 24, 25, and 26.

The Easter festivities were very successful at Central Park with the Easter Egg hunt and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that they applied for a safety grant and were awarded it which will be used for signs for the City such as "Men at Work", "Slow Traffic", etc.

The City had 12.35 tons of recycling for the month of March. Some of the screens that were installed blew down on one side with the strong winds we had. They will reattach them and they have ordered a second set of wind protection screens to add to it. They discovered that by eliminating a couple of bins and having the recycling company come in one extra day a week, it will hopefully reduce costs. The procedure will be to come in on Monday and empty all bins. On Thursday they choose five of the fullest ones to pick up, and then they pick up all containers on Saturdays. This will hopefully keep the costs down.

Last meeting Mr. Baker brought up how to handle AI centers in the future. They have been talking with administrators in other cities who are waiting to see what the state will be doing regarding them so for now they will keep it on hold.

Mr. Shepherd suggested updating an old skateboard ordinance in our last meeting. It has been discussed and will be addressed soon.

If citizens inquire about the stripes on US 20, they are waiting for steady good weather to get them painted which should be in the next few weeks.

They should be getting the new website up and running this week. It will be much more accessible than the previous website.

Mr. Baker inquired if the City has someone that monitors emails on City accounts. Mr. Brugnone stated that everyone has a new City email address now. It should help with email hacks, but if anyone sees something suspicious, give them a call and they will investigate it immediately.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, reminded everyone that Wednesday is tax filing day. RITA is tracking calls and this time of year they are off the charts.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that one of his interests is history and genealogy. He learned that Bellevue had a mausoleum from 1919 through 1970 which was torn down. There were about 24 bodies buried in a mass grave. He found the grave and it is in bad condition. He sent an email to Mr. Brugnone to see if something could be done. Mr. Brugnone informed him that Foos is looking into it. It was a fire that took down the mausoleum.

Mr. Shepherd stated that he would like to see the traffic lights updated at 308 and 302.

Mr. Wynbissinger thanked everyone involved with getting the new City website up and running.

Armeton recently relocated and established its new production facility in Bellevue, according to the Sandusky County Economic Development Corp. The move to an 81,000-square-foot building on Hirt Drive is a significant investment in Sandusky County. They are adding four new positions, bringing Armeton's Bellevue workforce to 41 employees.

Mr. Hill gave a shout out to Kate at the Bellevue compost site. She keeps it nice and clean she is doing a great job monitoring who comes in.

Ms. Muniz gave kudos to the Bellevue Holiday House and the Knights of Columbus for their Easter egg hunts. There was a great turnout for them and she knows that a lot of time and effort goes into sponsoring them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Baker stated that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. to discuss amending the permanent appropriations, and a Public Safety Committee meeting was held at 7:15 prior to the regular meeting tonight to discuss an ordinance regarding door-to-door soliciting. Resolution No. R-4-26 was discussed as well as Ordinances No. 11-26 and 12-26. It was decided to take Resolution No. R-4-26, Ordinance No. 11-26, and Ordinance No. 12-26 out of committee and add them to tonight's agenda during the regular City Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Baker to add Resolution No. R-4-26,

Ordinance No. 11-26, and Ordinance No. 12-26 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Hill scheduled a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting to establish our Rec levy for Monday, April 27, 2026, at 7:15 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Jeff Haughawoot, 880 West Gardner Road, stated that he received his water bill. It stated that a total of \$0.00 for water and \$0.00 was owed and yet he was billed \$54.47 and he doesn't understand why.

He stated that he doesn't understand why we cannot make right turns at traffic lights.

He feels that Bellevue has failed to honor veterans in this town the way they should be honored. Veterans have earned our respect. He has participated in the Veteran's Day parade for ten years. This year he won't be participating because he feels that veterans are not honored the way they should be. The mayor talks about America's 250-year celebrations in July. Without veterans there would be no need for these celebrations. He is disappointed that in Council, no one speaks up for veterans. President Smith stated that if he would like to stay after the meeting, someone would be happy to discuss his water bill issues. President Smith is a veteran and he can answer some questions Mr. Haughawoot has regarding veterans.

Jennifer Reed, [REDACTED] stated she is asking Council to vote no to Ordinances No. 4-26 through 8-26. There are glaring conflicts within the proposals. She attended and spoke to Council two meetings ago and she is hoping they paid attention or took notes. She stated that the City contracts for so many services on behalf of the City. Why doesn't the City attempt to bring in someone that can help with the employment policies? She stated she is happy to volunteer to help.

She would like the Budget & Finance Committee to look at Bellevue's income tax and find out why it is higher than other municipalities in the area. She is requesting a review of a 2008 ordinance regarding the additional \$5.00 added to monthly water bills. What is the goal and where is the accounting? If the City keeps increasing the water bill for maintenance, what is the point of the additional \$5.00 charged?

She requests Council to reevaluate its contract with Safebuilt. Some new businesses have struggled. It wouldn't cost much money to look into it and see if it is serving our town and not just a financial burden. Why pay for an economic development person if we have small businesses that are failing?

President Smith inquired if she has contacted anyone in the Administration or talked with our Law Director. She stated the Mayor and Safety-Service Director are aware of her concerns. President Smith encouraged her to stay after and discuss some of her concerns.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith welcomed members of Bellevue High School's government class. He stated that Councilman, Mr. Daniel, is excused tonight.

He stated that he received a letter from Dave Sabo, our Economic Development Director, regarding the Bellevue Tax Incentive Review Council ("TIRC") who met on Thursday, March 12, 2026. The minutes of the meeting were included with his letter. President Smith called for a motion to accept the minutes and

recommendations. A motion was made by Mr. Hill and seconded by Ms. Muniz to accept the minutes and recommendations of the annual TIRC meeting. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Wallingford stated that the City passed an ordinance a dozen years or so ago contracting with the Huron County Health Department to provide required services for the city. The present contract rolls over from year to year. Mayor is authorized to attend the annual meeting and he has minutes of that meeting. Everything is in order and it needs to be approved by Council as a formality. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to approve the resolution of the Huron County Health Department. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Shepherd made a disclosure that he previously worked for a short time for one of the entities involved with the Huron County Health Department. He is currently working for a company that has an affiliation but doesn't think it interferes with him approving the resolution.

President Smith then turned the time over to Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-4-26 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-4-26 its second and third readings by title only. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Resolution No. R-4-26 was given its second and third readings by title only: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Resolution No. R-4-26. It was seconded by Mr. Shepherd. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 11-26 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND FOR THE BOARD OF CONTROL TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS FOR STREET REPAVING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 11-26 its second and third readings by title only, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 11-26 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND FOR THE BOARD OF CONTROL TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS FOR STREET REPAVING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Ordinance No. 11-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Morrison. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 12-26 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 2-26, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 12-26 its second and third readings by title only, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Morrison. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 12-26 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 2-26, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 12-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 4-26 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 PERTAINING THERETO, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 14-19, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY AND BENEFITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 4-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 5-1, Mr. Baker, nay.

Ordinance No. 5-26 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 PERTAINING THERETO, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 9-16, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY AND BENEFITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 5-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 5-1, Mr. Baker, nay.

Ordinance No. 6-26 was given its third reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS SUPERVISOR OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, OHIO, THEREBY REPLACING ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING THERETO, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 8-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY AND BENEFITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 6-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 5-1, Mr. Baker, nay.

Ordinance No. 7-26 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 PERTAINING THERETO, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 5-14, REGARDING PROVISIONS FOR SALARY AND BENEFITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 7-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 5-1, Mr. Baker, nay.

Ordinance No. 8-26 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 PERTAINING THERETO, AND SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE NO. 4-14, REGARDING THE PROVISIONS FOR SALARY AND BENEFITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynbissinger to adopt Ordinance No. 8-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken and passed by the vote of 4-2, **but not as an emergency**. Mr. Baker and Mr. Morrison, nay.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired if they still have training for new Council members. President Smith stated that he would look into it.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Economic Director, Mr. Sabo, for attending the meeting tonight. He thanked Mayor Strecker and President Smith for attending all Bellevue's veteran's meetings and celebrations and for participating in the parade.

Mayor Strecker congratulated Bellevue High School's coach, Nick Lilli, for his dedication and years of service.

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