

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 13, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor and Council President, Mr. Smith. 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 June 22, 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 reminded Council of the Celebrate America 250 celebration beginning July 24, 2026, at Central Park. The donations have been very forthcoming. They will have a lot of fun things for children and all festivities are free.

He was proud to announce that they are adding a 5K race for Sunday, July 26, in memory of David Wallingford. They will be awarding the "David A. Wallingford Memorial Award" to the first Bellevue grand master finisher. (grand master being over 50.) They are planning 1K, 5K, and 10K runs at the same time in honor of Dave in the fall of 2027.

He thanked Ann Schloemer and the Huron County Project Leadership Group for inviting him to meet with mayors of Huron County at a Mayoral Roundtable on July 9. It was a peer-to-peer conversation on issues facing our communities and our visions for the future.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that Rumpke recycling for June amounted to three tons. They are having success since increasing the pick-up schedule to three days a week and having less bins. He hasn't received as many calls regarding overflowing bins.

They are wrapping up the Route 18 Project. The last of the concrete was poured around the manholes and they should soon be in to work on the boulevards and repair some of the sidewalks. They have already begun the Route 20 Project. They are hoping to put some new asphalt down on Friday starting with the outside lanes.

He thanked Mr. Baker for his help with contacting Ohio Edison personnel to help with some of the City's issues.

They have given out fourteen sidewalk permits this year for individual citizens wanting to install new sidewalks.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that the Route 20 Project was pushed ahead of schedule so the City wasn't fully prepared financially. He scheduled a Budget & Finance Committee meeting on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 7:10 p.m. to discuss this. He will have information distributed before the meeting for Council members to review.

He distributed the year-to-date report through the end of June, 2026.

He turned the time over to Finance Superintendent, Courtney Evans, to speak to Council.

Ms. Evans stated that she wears many hats. She supervises two employees, Pauline and Kashmir, in the front office. They do an awesome job. They also help her with accounts payable so she can assist Mr. Smith with his responsibilities.

She provides information for auditors. They just wrapped up the 2026 audit and did awesome.

She started working at the City in late 2019 right before Covid hit and she stated that was a difficult time for everyone. One of the major projects she was responsible for was Covid grant money in 2021 and 2022. It was her job to oversee the spending of that money and report all the details. There was a lot of red tape, but with that money, they purchased three vehicles for the Police and Street Departments, they were able to help recover some of the costs for the Recreation Department for repairing the pool, and they had a new system added to the Water Plant. These were just some of about twenty projects. The rules were always changing, which made it challenging. After six years dealing with the grant money, she just received the invitation for the close-out program. Her report was completed and submitted on July 1. The project is now officially finished.

Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, stated that he attended the Council of Regional Government's annual meeting. This is the organization that allows RITA to operate. RITA is now 55 years old. There are 410 cities in Ohio using RITA's services, of which they have added some new ones. They are going to implement a better registry for the City to help get more vendors and contractors to come into the City. They do a great job and our participation in RITA is priceless.

Law Director, Mr. Leal, stated that there is only one item of legislation tonight which is Resolution No. R-7-26 regarding emergency management services. It is a resolution that we do every year. If anyone has questions, let him know.

Council Clerk, Mrs. Soper, announced that she received a request for a new liquor license from the Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control. The business is: Nickel Plate Coffee Roaster, (Younique Wellness Center), 208 West Main Street, Bellevue, Ohio 44811. The notice was emailed to the Mayor, Safety-Service Director, Police Chief, and Council members. No one made any objections to this business receiving a Class D-2 liquor license. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to NOT request a hearing. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0. Mrs. Soper will notify the Division of Liquor Control that **no** hearing is requested.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired if there was any way to take Rt. 18 off Kilbourne. The trains block the crossing frequently which creates a bottleneck and there is no good detour as of now. He wonders if we can petition the State to get Rt. 18 south of the City. Mr. Brugnone stated that it is continually being discussed but there is no update as of tonight.

Mr. Daniel stated that the Lion's Club is going to collect old eyeglasses to give to those in need. Also, the Holiday House is going to help citizens residing in nursing homes celebrate America 250 by distributing cupcakes to all of them. That way every citizen of Bellevue can be a part of the celebration.

Mr. Morrison stated that he has been approached by citizens inquiring why Bellevue does not have fireworks on the Fourth of July. He tells them that Council legislates and appropriates but doesn't have a say on things like this. Mr. Brugnone stated that for 18 years the City celebrated Community Days and had fireworks during that celebration. That is no longer happening, but the Holiday House hosts different

events and our fireworks show this year will be coordinated with our Celebrate America 250. They have a private donor for fireworks this year and the show will be larger and better than originally planned.

Mr. Wynbissinger congratulated Bellevue's Little League team for winning the State championship. They will be traveling to Iowa to participate in Regionals. He wished them good luck. They will represent Bellevue and the State of Ohio well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Auditor, Mr. Smith, scheduled a ***Budget & Finance Committee*** meeting for Monday, July 27, 2026, at 7:10 p.m., to discuss appropriations for financing the new Route 20 Project which has already begun.

President Smith stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight to discuss Resolution No. R-7-26. The Resolution is on the agenda tonight.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Cheryl Irons Meyers, 412 West Main Street, stated that she has lived at 412 West Main Street for a little over six years and has been a resident of Bellevue for over 40 years. Her husband bought their Victorian home over 52 years ago and raised his family there. She has concerns with the changes at Wendy's. She has communicated with her Councilman, Mr. Baker, and understands that there were notices in the newspaper about variances and meetings held, but the remodeling has given them light intrusion in her kitchen, master bedroom and bathroom, upstairs guest bedroom, their living room and parlor. The lighted sign is on from dusk until dawn, and it shines into her kitchen and other rooms. The light from the handicap parking shines directly into her parlor, living room and kitchen. The privacy hedge which was mandated in 1985 was recently cut down. In addition to the large lighted sign, she looks at a tall flag waving in the boulevard. The privacy hedge that was previously there was planted tightly together and was a healthy hedge. She doesn't understand why they had to take it down. She was told Wendy's wanted clearer visibility from the road.

They live in a residential/historic zone. They are one of two original homes there when Wendy's was built, and she wishes special consideration would have been given to them for the light intrusion. President Smith inquired if she has shared these concerns with the management of Wendy's. She stated that she talked with people at Wendy's but didn't know if they were management. She was told it was a done deal and she should have attended the variance meetings. She didn't know that it had been published. Had they known, they would have been there and expressed their concerns. Their home is over 120 years old, and they have spent a lot of money remodeling it and taking great care of it.

President Smith stated that he appreciates her comments and if she would like to stay after the meeting, our Safety-Service Director could speak with her about her concerns.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

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

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-7-26 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION DETERMINING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrison to suspend the rules and give Resolution No. R-7-26 its second and third readings by title only, and declaring an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

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A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to adopt Resolution No. R-7-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-0.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that in light of Mrs. Myers' comments tonight, Council should do a better job announcing when public meetings are being held for the citizens to attend.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that Mr. Wynbissinger is one of the proud owners of a new sidewalk.

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