MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 13, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. (Monday was Columbus Day). 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 September 28, 2026, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Ms. Muniz to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Baker. The minutes are approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker distributed a handout regarding 16 spooky events planned for Bellevue for Halloween. There will be a lot of fun for little ones.

Today he received a third quarter report from North Central EMS. If anyone has questions, he has it with him and can make copies.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, stated that Rumpke's total for September recycling was over 11 tons.

The cleanup at 150 Ashford is scheduled for the last week of October.

Per Council's request, they compounded a list of owners of downtown buildings, and they have contacted some of the owners, many of whom are out of town. Citations have been issued to some of the owners to start cleaning up their properties. Law Director, Mr. Leal, stated that they are looking into doing a vacant building registration ordinance to help alleviate the issues.

They are still moving forward with the E-bike ordinance. He stated that the State is working on Senate Bill 477. We are recommending that we wait to see what they enforce first and then continue with ours.

Erie Blacktop won the bid for street resurfacing. They will be working the next couple of weeks and finished by November 1.

Mr. Baker called him regarding one of the wells on a downtown street. Mr. Brugnone stated that they have a list of six or seven injection wells that need attention. We are on the list for Seismic Drilling to come in but the date hasn't been set yet.

The water line project on 302 has been started.

We received notice that the railroad will be fixing some of its crossings. It was not on our radar.

Auditor, Mr. Smith, stated that traditionally the temporary budget draft for the following year is ready and discussed in the November meetings and passed in December. He stated that it can be discussed earlier at Council's pleasure. Mr. Baker stated that he will talk with his committee and get back with him.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired if the property on Ashford isn't adequately cleaned up, do we have the authority to have it demolished? Law Director, Mr. Leal, stated that unless the structure is declared unsafe structurally, and poses as immediate risk, it cannot be demolished. Even if it is declared unsafe, the owner must receive notice. Mr. Brugnone stated that he is in contact with the Sandusky County Land Bank concerning this property.

Mr. Hill stated that recently a young man was in an E-bike accident and he is very fortunate that he is still alive. This is a serious problem and is very dangerous. Every city has the same problem. Hopefully by spring we'll have something in place. Kids are zipping in and out of traffic and not obeying traffic rules. The kids don't realize they are not able to control the E-bikes.

Another ongoing issue is vandalism at Robert Peters Park. This is a huge problem and it has been especially bad the last couple of weeks. Rec employees have been at the park trying to remove the graffiti. The restrooms have been trashed. He would ask that everyone who visits the park report any issues they see and not just let it go. We have to do something about it now because that park is going to be a showpiece. Things are coming down the pike to add to the park and we want to solve the vandalism issues now. There are cameras at the park which help but it will be up to parents to help police it. Mr. Brugnone stated that they have called several parents and they are at a point now where the next step is to take legal action. Additional cameras will be going up.

Ms. Muniz stated that she knows we all saw the comments on social media about transparency in our government. When we are elected, we owe it to our constituents to be transparent and let them know what we are doing with their tax money. If we can be more transparent next time the City is going to purchase some property, we owe it to them to let them have the information beforehand. Maybe they cannot attend the meetings, so we need to speak up as their concerns are very valid. Mr. Baker stated that previously we were told that we should not respond to comments on social media. President Smith stated that you have to keep all the information available that you put on social media in case someone requests it. Law Director, Mr. Leal, stated that when you put something in writing it is there forever. He prefers that **no one** respond to Facebook comments. President Smith stated that we did have committee meetings previous to the regular Council meeting tonight to discuss this and the public was invited.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Daniel stated that a Public Safety Committee meeting was held tonight prior to the regular meeting to discuss the acquisition of EMS property and proposed Ordinance No. 22-26. It was voted by the Committee to take Ordinance No. 22-26 out of Committee and add it to tonight's agenda during the regular meeting. Mr. Daniel made a motion to add Ordinance No. 22-26 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Morrison. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Baker stated that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held tonight prior to the regular meeting to discuss the acquisition of EMS property and proposed Ordinance No. 23-26. It was voted by the Committee to take Ordinance No. 23-26 out of Committee and add it to tonight's agenda during the regular meeting. Mr. Baker made a motion to add Ordinance No. 23-26 to tonight's agenda. It was seconded by Ms. Muniz. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Cheryl Irons Meyers, 412 West Main Street, stated that she agrees with Mr. Hill about adults saying something when they see something going on at the park. On several occasions in the past week she said something to kids who were not obeying rules. She was subsequently harassed by the kids. After she left the park, the kids followed her to Union Street and she had to get off the sidewalk to let them pass. She called the police on Sunday because someone removed the gate after Little League. One recommendation is to put more signage at the park regarding E-bikes. There is one sign that is about 12 x 20 inches. She tells the kids that the sign states no E-bikes or scooters are allowed and the kids just argue, although a couple of girls thanked her for telling them. She tells them they can pedal their bikes, but they can't use the motorized portion. Other citizens have mentioned to her that they worry about walking on the path with their dogs because the dog could get off its leash and harass the bikers, or the dogs could get hurt by the bikers.

Jennifer Reed, Bellevue, Ohio, stated that regarding proposed legislation about the property being purchased by the City, she is in attendance to ask for more transparency. As a citizen she would like to know when the City was made aware of the property, how long Council has been aware of it, and if it was during the executive session. Who has worked on it beside the City Administration? How did the City arrive at the amount to purchase it? The regular minutes were approved tonight. She would like to have the minutes made public from the executive session. Where is the transparency? She has been told to just trust the administration but this is government. This is public service.

The Ohio Supreme Court has said that the only way for a body of government to go into executive session for land acquisition is if the information given creates an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage. She would urge Council to release the minutes from the executive session.

President Smith inquired if Ms. Reed attended the committee meetings previous to this regular meeting. Ms. Reed stated she did not. She appreciated the comments made by Ms. Muniz. Citizens have a right to know.

Mr. Baker stated, as her Councilman, that this isn't the first time she has brought up issues she didn't agree with Council about. The last time she contacted him. He reached out to her and gave her answers and explanations she wanted. This time she did not contact him. She stated she spent 2-2 ½ hours doing research on this issue. She did put in a records request to Mrs. Sanders. She stated she was not aware of the committee meetings. Even if citizens cannot attend these meetings, they should be able to look at the minutes. President Smith stated that we cannot disclose what was discussed in executive sessions, no decisions are made during those sessions, and no minutes are taken during executive sessions. She inquired if minutes are taken during committee meetings. Mr. Baker stated that notes are taken during the committee meetings.

Patti Gray, 252 Gunther Street, stated that unfortunately the Bone Boys chicken dinner fundraiser this month was cancelled because they didn't sell enough tickets. She has offered refunds for the tickets sold and has received many donations in the amount of $212.00 for the Backpack Program which will pay for 50 lunch bags. She stated how much she loves our City and the support of its citizens. President Smith thanked her for all she does for the community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

LEGISLATION:

Ordinance No. 22-26 was given its first reading: AN ORDINANCE IN THE MATTER OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE'S PROPOSED PURCHASE OF LAND LOCATED AT 150 YORKSHIRE PLACE, BELLEVUE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 22-26 its second and third readings by title only, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 22-26 was given its second and third readings by title only: AN ORDINANCE IN THE MATTER OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE'S PROPOSED PURCHASE OF LAND LOCATED AT 150 YORKSHIRE PLACE, BELLEVUE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker to adopt Ordinance No. 22-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 23-26 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. Morrison to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 23-26 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 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

Ordinance No. 23-26 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. Morrison to adopt Ordinance No. 23-26, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. A vote was taken and passed by a vote of 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that he and his family have visited many parks and at one he noted a huge sign with the word POLICE on it and a telephone number. The park was very clean and great to visit.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, thanked Council for passing the two ordinances tonight. He thanked Law Director, Mr. Leal, for all his help with the acquisition of property.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Muniz. It was seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. Everyone was in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith	**Rhonda R. Soper**
President of Council	**City Council Clerk**