

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 11, 2026

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Pastor and Council President, Ronald Smith. 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 April 27, 2026, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Shepherd to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. The minutes were approved as written.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Strecker thanked members of Bellevue's Boy Scout Troop 273 for attending tonight. He also welcomed the Bellevue High School government class members who were in attendance.

He stated that two proclamations were being given tonight by City Administration and City Council. The first is to proclaim that May is National Mental Health Month. The second is for National Poppy Day which is this Saturday at the VFW.

There is a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Bellevue's Masonic Lodge. It is sponsored by, and benefits go to, Boy Scout Troop 273. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and it is free for children under 5.

Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, turned the time over to Robert Sutherland, Street Superintendent, who stated that (1) he knows street striping is a big concern to citizens. They are waiting for good temperatures with no rain to do the striping. They are hoping to do this at the end of May or first week in June, (2) the Route 18 Project will be starting on May 26 on Kilbourne Street. Our part is to rebuild two catch basins. He is grateful for the portable traffic signals that have been furnished for this project, and (3) they will be spraying for mosquitos in a few weeks when the warmer weather starts.

Mr. Brugnone gave a shout out to the Street Department and members from other City departments for their help getting the cemetery cleaned and ready for Mother's Day.

Law Director, Mr. Wallingford, stated that he was happy to be back and it was great to see all the students and scouts in attendance.

Tonight on the agenda we have the second reading of Ordinance No. 13-26 regarding solicitation in the City. These are normally not done as emergency ordinances and can have three separate readings. Also on the agenda is the first reading of Resolution No. R-6-26 regarding the rec levy. This is the first of two rec levies. Another one will be done next year. Council already passed the first resolution regarding the rec levy, Resolution No. R-5-26. A certified copy was given to the serving auditor that covers Bellevue who gave us a certificate of estimated property tax revenue the very next day. He was very impressed with the auditor's office. The certificate is the official exhibit to Resolution No. R-6-26. He encouraged everyone to review it. He stated that everything is ready and this resolution can be given its first reading and we could suspend the rules and give it second and third readings and passage and then get a certified copy over to the auditor and to the Board of Elections. It is Council's pleasure if they want to do that.

Dave Sabo has sent information regarding a job creation City income tax rebate application. There are two ordinances that can provide rebates on income taxes to help with bringing in new businesses. The first one is when the State is also granting a rebate. The second one is when the City is doing its own rebate. We will get the information from Mr. Sabo and get something ready. He gave kudos to Dave Sabo for all he is doing for Bellevue's economic development.

He informed everyone that the date to file their ethics commission report is this Friday, May 15. Make sure to do it either online or if you want a printed one, our Clerk can print one for you to fill out.

Our next Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 26, as Monday is Memorial Day.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Shepherd stated that in following up with the mausoleum item he brought up at the last meeting, he found the burial of a Civil War veteran, Private Frank Fitch. He contacted the VFW and Donn Rospert who was able to get a flag marker and new flag for the burial site. Mr. Rospert also stated he will be able to get a new tombstone for Private Fitch. Mr. Shepherd has been in contact with Mr. Brugnone who told him there are plans to clean up the mausoleum area at the cemetery. President Smith thanked Mr. Shepherd for following up with that.

Mr. Morrison gave a shout out to the Street Department. They are doing a great job and he appreciates all they do. He also stated he completed his ethics report and it was very easy to do.

Mr. Baker stated he was approached by a citizen who inquired whether or not the City could possibly get a historical grant for some of the downtown properties that are in disrepair. Some windows are starting to fall apart or deteriorate. There is a lot of rust along the top of the buildings. Business owners struggle sometimes and perhaps the City could apply for a grant of some kind. Mr. Brugnone stated that the properties would have to be designated historic with a historical marker in front. Some of these old properties are owned by people living far away and are difficult to get in touch with. He stated he would look into it. Mr. Baker stated that maybe not a historical grant, but a grant of some type to help the business owners. It would make the City look much nicer.

He was also approached by a citizen about many of our street signs. The white poles under the signs on many of them are rusted and it would be a great idea for a civic group to clean them up and paint them.

Ms. Muniz stated that the new flags that were hung up look very nice, especially the 250 celebration flags. They are beautiful.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Shepherd inquired on behalf of the Streets & Sidewalks Committee if the gas line would be done on Kilbourne Street before they start the Route 18 Project. Mr. Brugnone stated that it will be finished.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Smith stated that Auditor, Mr. Smith, and Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, were excused tonight. He reminded everyone that the next meeting falls on Memorial Day so our meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. He then turned the time over to Mr. Wallingford for tonight's legislation.

LEGISLATION:

Resolution No. R-6-26 was given its first reading: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR THE RENEWAL OF A ONE (1) MILL LEVY FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Ordinance No. 13-26 was given its second reading by title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 731.02 THROUGH 831.09, INCLUSIVE, OF THE BELLEVUE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CONCERNING CANVASSING, SOLICITATION, AND PEDDLING.

CLOSING REMARKS: None.

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