

November 6, 2023
Regular Session

The Bellevue City Council met on Monday, November 6, 2023 in Regular Session at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Roger Michels presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present. The roll was called as follows:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nic Kueter, Lyn Medinger, Tim Roth, Tom Roth and Jayden Scheckel. Also present were City Administrator/Clerk Teresa Weinschenk, Assistant City Clerk Emily Medinger, Assistant Police Chief Ryan Kloft, Jo Fifield, Curtis Dean (zoom), Memphis Jess, (zoom) and Teri Michels (zoom)

ABSENT:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Roger Michels reviewed the Agenda and declared it approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Kueter moved with a second by Scheckel to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approve Minutes of October 18, 2023 Regular Session
- B. Approve October Financials
- C. Approve Library Bills and Claims
- D. FYE 2025 of TIF for Jackson County

VISITORS

CURTIS DEAN – TELECOMMUNICATION UPDATES AND 2024 RATES

Telecommunications Consultant Curt Dean provided an update on the current cable trends and programming rate projections for 2024. Medinger and Dean pointed out that cable continues to drop customers while the internet remains a strong. Dean said that programming costs [what programmers charge the City to broadcast their channel(s)] are going up for all municipality cable providers and everyone is trying to balance the cost increases that must be passed down to their cable subscribers.

Unfortunately, the programmers will continue to increase their rates to the City in the future too. The City has contracts expiring at the end of this year, on 12/31/23 and negotiations have begun. A couple programmers are looking for a 150% increase on their programming costs. Dean explained the frustration that programmers are charging a large amount per subscriber to the City when a person could purchase the programmer's channel(s)/app themselves for a lot cheaper. This pricing fluctuation does not make sense and is not fair to the cable providers such as the City.

Dean said a roughly \$8 price increase would be necessary for the two higher cable packages in order for the City to try to maintain/breakeven and not lose money per customer, assuming all the channels were kept and none were dropped. Medinger then when into the discussion of the City's two NBC Channels; KWQC (channel 6, Quad Cities) and KWWL (channel 7, Waterloo).

KWWL has always had more viewership than KWQC, at least 2%-3% more viewers on average. Medinger would recommend dropping KWQC at the end of this year, 12/31/2023, and by doing so, cable rates would not have to be increased.

It was briefly discussed that a handful of municipalities have recently dropped their cable business. Dean is not recommending that the City drop their cable now as the City's current infrastructure and equipment is working just fine but having a secondary option to educate on streaming options should be looked into. Dean indicated that when customers are dropping cable, many municipalities are providing and trying to help customers find a better streaming option due to the customers needing internet. They give their customers plenty of notice and hold classes on how to stream.

The Council decided to wait and see what the renegotiation prices come in for KWQC and KWWL before making the decision to drop one. But, based on the viewership numbers, they think it makes the most sense to drop KWQC. This item will be put on the agenda for one of the December meetings, and a decision will be made at that time.

JERID BESCHEN'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Tim Roth moved with a second by Tom Roth to approve the resignation of Jerid Beschen from the Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

FILLING OPEN POLICE OFFICER POSITION

Brief discussion on budget and the general fund. Tom Roth moved with a second by Kueter to approve Filling the Police Officer position. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FYE 2023 STREET FINANCE REPORT

Tim Roth moved with a second by Tom Roth to approve FYE 2023 Street Finance Report. Motion carried unanimously.

FYE 2023 URBAN RENEWAL REPORT

Tom Roth moved with a second by Kueter to approve FYE 2023 Urban Renewal Report. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR UPDATES

Stamp Property – The Council discussed the Stamp property and next steps. Council would like to have a work session with BETA. Weinschenk will reach out to BETA to set up a Work Session on November 20th at 5:30 PM.

LIBRARY BILLS AND CLAIMS

Business	Memo	Amount
Access Systems	Copier Exp	243.39
Baker & Taylor	Oper Supp	636.35
Demco	Oper Supp	155.18
Des Moines Register	Periodicals	350.55
Kueter True Value	Oper Supp	47.27

Meier Electric	Equip Maint	469.15
Petty Cash	Misc & Postage	22.65
Barbara Even Streif	Oper Supp	50.00
Windstream	Telephone	26.34

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other matters on the agenda for discussion, Mayor Roger Michels adjourned the meeting at 7:21 P.M.

City Administrator/Clerk

Mayor