

Village of Bellaire Council
Thursday, February 19, 2-26
5:00 p.m.

The regularly-scheduled meeting of Bellaire Village Council was held this date and called to order by Mayor Robert Dodrill, who opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mr. Evans	Here
Mr. Connors	Here
Mrs. Dugmore	Here
Mr. Schmitt	Here
Ms. Richardson	Here
Mr. Maupin	Here

Village Administrator, Scott Porter, Chief of Police, J.J. Watson, Fiscal Officer, Ginny Favede, and Village Solicitor Paul Stecker were also in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion Mr. Connors, second Mr. Schmitt, that the minutes from 02/05/26 be engrossed and passed.

Roll Call:

Mr. Evans	Aye
Mr. Connors	Yes
Mrs. Dugmore	Aye
Mr. Schmitt	Aye
Ms. Richardson	Yes
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Schmitt, second Mr. Evans that the minutes from the Special Meeting held 02/11/2026 be engrossed and passed.

Roll Call:

Mr. Evans	Aye
Mr. Connors	Yes

Mrs. Dugmore	Nay
Mr. Schmitt	Aye
Ms. Richardson	No
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion carried.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Dodrill reported that a lot of people have been commenting regarding the length of the council meetings and now they are attempting to make the council meetings short, sweet, and professional.
- Mayor Dodrill noted that during the Special Meeting held 02/11/26 he appointed Mr. Connors as Chair of the Social Media Committee but Mr. Schmitt has been named Chair Person.

Fiscal Officer's Report:

- Mrs. Favede reported that the Auditor of State has determined that the 2022 Mayor's Court account has been deemed not auditable. This does not indicate that anything was done incorrectly, it just means that there is not enough information provided to move forward.
- The Village of Bellaire will also likely receive a qualification regarding the 2022 payroll; again, this does not mean that any fraudulent activity occurred, only that the auditors were unable to verify the payroll activity due to inconsistency in supporting documentation. The Auditors have asked that moving forward, the Village of Bellaire audit ourselves, specifically the timesheets, which Mrs. Favede indicated will be very laborious and time consuming. There is no documentation tying payments to specific accounts so our balances are not reconciling. We will need to audit ourselves and prepare a document reconciling hours worked and hours paid for each Village employee.
- The Traveling Clerk has been working with Mrs. Favede to reconcile Village accounts.
- The new computer from the State Auditor's Office will arrive 02/25/26.
- The Village of Bellaire has six bank accounts with United Bank. This poses a problem because the new computer system only supports one bank account.
- Mrs. Favede cannot locate anything in writing that backs up the uniform allowance and has provided all council members with a policy that has been written to address this payment. Additionally, there is not a policy in writing that supports the payment in lieu of employer-provided health insurance. Mrs. Favede will be contacting other municipalities in our area to determine how each handles this situation.
- Mrs. Favede cancelled a Lowe's Credit Card held by the Village with the name of Marla Krupnik, former Fiscal Officer.

- Mrs. Favede applied for and received a Village Credit Card from United bank. She is asking Council for a voice vote to ratify the intent to apply for the card.
- Mr. Maupin, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Connors were registered for state training required for newly-elected council members.
- Mayor Dodrill and Mrs. Favede are registered for Mayor's training and Fiscal Officer training.
- Mrs. Favede reported that she has applied for an extension for the Hinkle Filing. This will give an extra 30 days. The Hinkle Filing is annual financial reported required by the Village.

Village Administrator Report:

- The Sanitation Department is currently running approximately three days behind but Mr. Porter hopes to have them caught up by Saturday.
- There are several large potholes that need repaired throughout the Village. The asphalt company is scheduled to open 04/01/26 and Mr. Porter is hoping to be able to purchase the needed asphalt to begin repairs. He has been looking into the cost of the proposed paving and hopes to have the funding available.
- There have been 12 water breaks in West Bellaire.
- The current lead line replacement project phase is going well, there are 40-60 more lines that need to be completed.
- Bel-O-Mar has approved funding for paving and sidewalks on Central Avenue.
- Mrs. Barnhart and Mr. Porter have applied for a \$5,000.00 grant through the JB Green Team that will provide five trash receptacles and five park benches. There is a \$1,200.00 match that the Village must provide but it can be done through in-kind work, so no actual monies will be required by the Village.
- The wall and paving on Hamilton Street have been funded. The project will begin as soon as the weather breaks, however, there are been four water breaks in the work zone in the last three weeks and Mr. Porter would like to find a grant to assist with 880 feet of 8-inch pipe to run from Brewery Hill to Washington Street before the paving begins and the road would have to be dug up again.
- Mr. Porter met with the Port Authority regarding the tax abatement application for Muxie's Distributing and this request has been approved.

Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee, Mr. Maupin, Chairperson. Mr. Maupin reports there have been no meetings as of this date. He is also going to change the meetings back to once a month instead of the twice a month meeting that were held by the previous Finance and Personnel Committee.

- Health and Safety Committee, Mr. Evans, Chairperson. Mr. Evans has not held any meetings as of this date but has scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
- Ordinance Committee, Ms. Richardson, Chairperson. The next meeting is scheduled for 03/03/26 at 10:00 a.m.
- Streets and Properties Committee, Mr. Schmitt, Chairperson. Mr. Schmitt reported no meetings have been scheduled but he has received a request for a handicapped parking space. He and Chief Watson will schedule a time to go review the area and will make the recommendation at the next council meeting.
- Utility Committee, Mrs. Dugmore, Chairperson. A meeting was held on 02/10/26 at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Mrs. Dugmore, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Connors. Also in attendance were Mr. Porter, Mr. Watkins, Mrs. Melanie Dyer, and Gay Lucci.
 - Casey Coyne, owner of Goliath Realty, requested a payment plan for a replacement water meter that froze. The replacement cost is \$675.00 and the payment plan was approved at the rate of \$110.00 per month for six months.
 - The Utility Committee will be checking with the Water Department to determine if all commercial businesses using outside sanitation services are paying the Village minimum as specified by an ordinance.
 - The Committee has asked Mr. Porter to get an update on the status of the air stripper litigation.
 - It is recommended by the Utility Committee that residents in the Village learn how to shut off their water if something occurs on their property. If a Village worker is called out after hours, there may be a fee imposed.
 - The Committee will be re-evaluating the tap fees for the Village. The current fee is \$1,200.00.
 - The final payment to Core and Main for Phase 1 of the meter replacement and reimbursement of Zack Warner's fee has been submitted for payment.
 - Zack Warner, Water Distribution Coordinator, has resigned his position to take employment elsewhere.
 - Gary Landers, the representative from the Village of Bellaire to the East Ohio Regional Water Authority Board, needs to be re-appointed.
 - Mr. Porter is searching for resources to assist the Village with infrastructure replacement.
 - Mr. Watkins, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, advised the Utility Committee that the West Bellaire Water Tank Project has to be bid out in 2026.
 - Mrs. Dyer informed the Committee that the ordinance increasing water rates expired in 2025 and needs to be revisited.
 - Mr. Porter updated the Committee on a list of violations from the EPA.
 - Mr. Porter has recommended the hiring of Michael Reese, Class II Water Operator as the Operator of Record in accordance with EPA regulations.
 - Mr. Porter has been instructed to obtain proposals for trash collection in the Village of Bellaire.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Social Media Committee, Mr. Schmitt, Chairperson. Mr. Schmitt reported that the Bellaire Village Council has recently experienced a 30% increase in engagement with postings and friend requests. Currently the page is set up as an individual page but needs adjusted to reflect a Commercial Page.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

No resolutions.

Ordinance 2026-05, an ordinance hiring an operator of record for the Village's sanitary collection system and setting the salary thereof. First reading held this date. Ms. Richardson asked when the hiring needs to happen and Mr. Porter said immediately but it can have three readings and not be treated as an emergency. Ordinance 2026-05 held for second reading at the next meeting on 03/05/26.

Old business:

Ms. Richardson informed council that the NEPA study for the Recreation and Entertainment Complex has been approved. The next step involves developing the scope of work and obtaining contractors. She will keep council informed of the progress.

New business:

Mr. Connors informed Council that Mud Road and Central Avenue need to be worked on prior to shutting down St. Clairsville Pike so that the residents who live in that area have an additional route to travel.

Motion Mrs. Dugmore, second Ms. Richardson to give Mr. Porter permission to advertise for proposals for solid waste collection in the Village of Bellaire.

Roll Call:

Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Connors	Yes
Mrs. Dugmore	Yes
Mr. Schmitt	Yes
Ms. Richardson	Yes
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion Carried

Motion Ms. Richardson, second Mr. Schmitt, to approve and ratify the authorization for Mrs. Favade to apply and accept the United Bank Purchasing card on behalf of the Village of Bellaire.

Roll call:

Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Connors	Yes
Mrs. Dugmore	Yes
Mr. Schmitt	Yes
Ms. Richardson	Yes
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion Carried

Motion Ms. Richardson, second Mrs. Dugmore, to approve travel and related expenses for those Council Members scheduled for training.

Roll Call: Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Connors	Yes
Mrs. Dugmore	Yes
Mr. Schmitt	Yes
Ms. Richardson	Yes
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion Carried

Motion Ms. Richardson, second Mr. Schmitt, to approve registration and associated travel expenses for Mrs. Favede and Mayor Dodrill.

Roll Call:

Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Connors	Yes
Mrs. Dugmore	Yes
Mr. Schmitt	Yes
Ms. Richardson	Yes
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion carried.

Visitors to Council:

Mr. Tom Ferguson, Bellaire Christian Church, 3565 Belmont Street, Bellaire, Ohio.
Mr. Ferguson and the Bellaire Christian Church asked Council for permission to use Belmont Street, from the Salvation Army to Union Park, for a car show to be held May 23, 2026. Motion

Mrs. Dugmore, second Mr. Maupin, to grant permission to block the street and allow the Bellaire Christian Church block off Belmont Street.

Roll Call:

Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Connors	Yes
Mrs. Dugmore	Yes
Mr. Schmitt	Yes
Ms. Richardson	Yes
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion Carried.

The next meeting of Bellaire Village Council will be held 03/05/25 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion Mr. Evans, second Mr. Connors for adjournment.

Roll Call:

Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Connors	Yes
Mrs. Dugmore	Yes
Mr. Schmitt	Yes
Ms. Richardson	Yes
Mr. Maupin	Yes

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Date: _____

Robert P. Dodrill, Sr, Mayor

Ginny Favede, Fiscal Officer

ORDINANCE NO. 26-05

**AN ORDINANCE HIRING AN OPERATOR OF RECORD FOR THE
VILLAGE'S SANITARY COLLECTION SYSTEM AND SETTING
THE SALARY THEREOF.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BELLAIRE, COUNTY OF BELMONT, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1: That Mike Reese is hired as the Village's Class II Operator of Record for the Village's sanitary collection system, starting March 1, 2026.

SECTION 2: That the Operator of Record will visit the system at least 5 times per week and complete all necessary or required EPA reports.

SECTION 3: The Operator of Record will be paid \$1,000.00 per month.

SECTION 4: This is a part-time position and not entitled to fringe benefits.

SECTION 5: That all other Ordinances or Resolutions, or portions thereof, which are in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6: That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 7: That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

ATTESTED:

Virginia Favede, Fiscal Officer

Robert Dodrill, Mayor

Date: _____

Date: _____

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

I, _____, Clerk of Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was published by posting the same in five (5) public places within the Village of Bellaire, Ohio as provided by Ordinance No 1229, for a period of not less than fifteen (15) days, said Ordinance having been first posted on _____.
