

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

Mayor Gain Meyer called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Schaefer called roll. Members present on roll call: Alderperson Whitaker, Alderperson Schneider, Alderperson Duco, Alderperson Dowling-Urban, Alderperson Randle, Alderperson Ferguson, Alderperson Anthony, Alderperson Ovian, Alderperson Dintelman, Alderperson Kaiser, Alderperson Rothweiler, Alderperson Elmore, Alderperson Weygandt, Alderperson Sullivan, Alderperson Osthoff.

Excused: Alderperson Stiehl

ROLL CALL DEPARTMENT HEADS

City Clerk Schaefer called roll of Department Heads: City Treasurer, Sarah Biermann; City Attorney, Garrett Hoerner, Asst. Police Chief, Mark Heffernan; Fire Chief, Curt Lougeay; Finance Director, Jamie Maitret; Director of Wastewater, Brett Friedman; Library Director, Leander Spearman; Director of IT, Ty Buckner; City Engineer, Scott Saeger; Director of Health, Housing & Building, Scott Tyler; Director of Grants & Special Projects, Eric Schauster;

Excused: Police Chief, Matt Eiskant; Director of Public Works, Jason Poole; Director of Human Resources, William Clay; Director of Maintenance, Mike Schaefer.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Catherine Kreher: I am Catherine Kreher. I live in the west end of Belleville. I used to be Alderman in the 8th Ward. On New Year's Eve my home was struck by a stray bullet. I live near the 3908 Apartments, and it is very concerning as a single person in a private home to have bullets striking your home. I don't I really, I mean I know the (inaudible) and the help involved but at the same time I really would like to see the city see what might be done to address this ever increasing use of fireworks and bullets on New Year's Eve. Thank you.

Rick Brown: My daughter sold her house and here's a certificate of compliance where it passed inspection. Um she's got a contract with the purchaser, but you can't get an occupancy because you guys only allow mortgages from banks to be allowed in the city. You completely ignore the fact that there are private contracts out there that are regulated by the state of Illinois 765 ILCS 671. You cannot add an addendum to a sales contract that allows the people to be evicted. You can't do it. You can't you know it's bad enough what you do to people that rent, but the people that buy, they can't get a contract approved here. The contract is stipulated by the State of Illinois. It can't be altered. You can't, it has to be that you can't add a crime-free addendum because you say and particularly Mr. Hoerner, he said, oh that's just a fancy way of saying rental property. Well, it's not, it's a sale. The State of Illinois uses it when uh, in some of their housing programs

where they sell bond for deed. This isn't a bond for deed. This is a real estate installment contract. You can't mess with that thing. It's a legal instrument. It's a contract. And you'll be violating contract law by doing that, and you're opening yourselves up for lawsuits. What is it with you? You can't leave anything alone. You got to screw with everything. I don't get it. Are you trying to make people not live in Belleville? What's wrong with you people? Nobody else does this stuff. I just don't get it. My daughter's selling her house and the contract's going to go through and there's not going to be a crime-free lease addendum to it that requires eviction from a sales contract. You can't do it. It's an illegal addendum that you're requiring. The county says that it's a sale. The state says it's a sale. But you guys don't. Are you guys just stupid or what? Especially you, Mr. Horner.

Henry Leford Belleville Improvement Group: We would like to donate \$2,625.00 to the Fire Department for a machine that they want to detect carbon monoxide.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Fire Department. I'm assuming that's why the Fire department's here.

Mike Agne: I live across the street from Department of Sanitation. You might recognize me. I've been up here before with this sign. And uh, you know, this was what I took picture of a few years ago and it's not really a whole lot different there other than there's just rocks there now. You know, other than that, it's about the same thing. And, um, one of the things that I wanted to talk about is integrity. You know, it's the word of the month this month. And uh recycling just really doesn't have it here in Belleville. There's been litter blowing in my yard, my neighbor's yards for years now. Basically since 2011 whenever this whole operation got set in motion. And um I've been over to the MRF which is Republic Services facility over in St. Louis where all that stuff gets hauled over and sorted out, and it's basically like ten times worse there. I've talked to neighbors in their community. They have a dust of like plastic in their homes. They're just like, where is this dust coming from? I'm dealing with litter blowing in my yard that's bags and boxes from Christmas overload and they're dealing with the dust in their house from the whole St. Louis region's recycling. And it's just it's an atrocity. There's a problem here with the recycling and Belleville being a leader in the southern Illinois community. I think we can do something about it. You know, we need to step forward and, you know, have a little integrity when it comes to this. And I'm asking the City Council, what can we do? I don't, I don't really know. and toss them in the waste bin. It's not the answer to me because you look, you go down Highway 13 down to Marissa, and it's covered in trash the whole way down there. Stuff blowing off the recycle trucks, the trash trucks, too. Um, you know, there's just a serious problem of waste going on here, and like it's not following the ethics and the codes of even the city itself, you know, littering codes. I get this litter blowing in my yard all the time. That's, you know, where's the integrity? So, I'm asking for the City Council's help in doing something about this. I mean, we got 30 seconds. What can we do? Anyone got an answer? Anyone got an idea? Well, I'll say you can contact me 618-litter. I haven't heard from anybody yet here on the City Council. To get in contact with me and uh maybe we can talk about it. But I'll say it's going to have integrity. This conversation has to have integrity. It's going to be open to the public and um you know, if you're willing to get in contact with me, you're willing to get in contact with everybody as far as I'm concerned. So, um please do. Thank you.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Gain Meyer recognized the character word of the month "INTEGRITY"; doing what is right even if it's difficult.

Mayor Gain Meyer recommended the reappointment of Laura Kelly to serve a 1-year term on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Aldersperson Rothweiler made a motion second by Aldersperson Ferguson to approve the recommendation.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aldersperson Elmore made a motion second by Aldersperson Dowling-Urban to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

CLAIMS, PAYROLL AND DISBURSEMENTS

Aldersperson Whitaker made a motion second by Aldersperson Kaiser to approve claims and disbursements in the amount of **\$2,915,988.10** and payroll in the amount of **\$988,646.01**.

Members voting aye on roll call: Whitaker, Schneider, Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff. (15)

Motion carries.

REPORTS

Aldersperson Rothweiler made a motion second by Aldersperson Dintelman to approve Treasurer’s Report-October 2025 and a motion to approve Statement of Cash and Investments Report-October 2025.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

There was a clerical error on the agenda. The agenda should have stated October not November.

ORAL REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND ANY OTHER ORAL REPORTS FROM THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OR STAFF

STREETS & GRADES COMMITTEE

Motion to approve Gelly Excavating & Construction, lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$516,914.07 for the North 28th culvert replacement (TIF 3).

Motion to approve an agreement with Lochmueller Group in the amount of \$49,950.00 for construction inspections, pay estimate submittals, general contractor questions and coordination for the 2026-2027 MFT/TIF programs.

Aldersperson Randle made a motion second by Aldersperson Ferguson to approve the request as read.

Members voting aye on roll call: Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker. (14)

Members voting nay on roll call: Schneider. (1)

Motion carries.

POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE

Aldersperson Anthony made a motion second by Aldersperson Whitaker to table the purchase of one new 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe SSV Police Package in the amount of \$59,702.00 from Miles Chevrolet using the State Purchasing Bid Program.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

COMMUNICATIONS

HOME BUILDERS & REMODELING ASSOCIATION BANNER

Request from Home Builders & Remodeling to place the Home Expo banners across East Main Street, West Main Street and North Illinois Street, February 9, 2026, through March 10, 2026.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF GREAT LOVE BANNER

St. Teresa Catholic Church is requesting to install 6 street light banners celebrating St. Teresa Parish Centennial on light posts between the 1100 and 1200 block of Lebanon Avenue, February 9, 2026, through February 9, 2027.

HONORING THE LEGACY MEMORIAL DAY 5K - 05/25/2026

Request from Trail Life Troop IL-0078 to host their Legacy Memorial Day 5K, Monday, May 25, 2026, 8:45am to 9:45am. Street closure request: rolling closure along 5K route and close one lane on West Main Street between 2nd and 4th Streets, 8:30am to 10:00am. Additional services requested: barricades, trash toters, water and Police Personnel.

BELLEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT BLOOD DRIVE -03/24/2026

Request from Local 53 Belleville Fire Department to host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 1:00pm to 6:00pm at Engine House #4 (1125 South Illinois Street).

ST. TERESA PARISH PICNIC – 08/29/2026

Request from St. Teresa Catholic Church to host their Parish Picnic, Saturday, August 29, 2026, 4:00pm to 11:00pm. No street closures. Additional City services: picnic tables and trash toters.

THANKSGIVING 5K TURKEY CHASE – 11/26/2026

Request from the Belleville Township Ice Hockey Club to hold the Thanksgiving 5K & Turkey Chase, Thursday, November 26, 2026, 8:00am to 10:15am. Street closure request: first block of West Main Street (159 to east side of First Street) and NW quadrant of Public Square; 6:00am to 10:15am; 5K route rolling street closure within city limits. Additional City services: barricades, "No Parking" signage, trash toters, cones, electric and Police Personnel.

BELLEVILLE MARATHON/HALF MARATHON - 09/26/2026

Request from Belleville Running Club & Toolen’s Running Start to host the Belleville Main Street Marathon/Half Marathon, Saturday, September 26, 2026, 7:00am to 1:30pm. Street closure request: West Main Street from Illinois Street to crosswalk between 2nd & 3rd Street, 4:30am to 3:00pm. First Street to be accessible to courthouse employee(s). 3rd Street to 17th Street, 7:00am to 7:30am; South 95th Street from West Main to entrance of Signal Hill Blvd, 7:00am to 9:00am. Additional City services: trash toters, port-a-potties, personnel, picnic tables, electric, “No Parking” signage, “Race in Progress” signage, cones, fire truck with flag and radios, banner across North Illinois Street and Streetlight pole banners.

Aldersperson Randle made a motion second by Aldersperson Kaiser to approve the communications as read.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

PETITIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS

Aldersperson Ferguson made a motion second by Aldersperson Dowling-Urban to read Resolutions 3560 and 3561 by title only.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

RESOLUTION 3560

Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code with Illinois Department of Transportation for FY 2026-2027 in the amount of \$2,546,098.50.

Aldersperson Whitaker made a motion second by Aldersperson Randle to approve the Resolution as read.

Members voting aye on roll call: Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker, Schneider. (15)

Motion carries.

RESOLUTION 3561

Resolution for joint funding agreement between City of Belleville and Illinois Department of Transportation for Federally Funded Construction of Roundabout at the proposed intersection, IL 158 and IL 13 to include all necessary work to complete the project (TIF 3).

Aldersperson Randle made a motion second by Aldersperson Elmore to approve the Resolution as read.

Aldersperson Whitaker: On the Resolution that we have I've got concern with the language in Section 1, where it says the City Council hereby appropriates \$480,000 or as much as may be needed to match the required funding to complete the improvement. Um, I know we've had other agreements where it said an amount not to exceed, and I guess my concern is in reading that language, it almost feels like a blank check.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Scott, do you have a, I don't know why IDOT changed this.

City Engineer Saeger: So, we have we have not received bids for the project yet, the contractor, so nobody knows what the exact cost is going to be. We know the amounts that the State and the Federal Government aren't going to contribute to the project and those are set. But if the contractors don't bid as expected, um if they're higher than expected, the City would be responsible for making up the extra costs above the Engineers' estimate.

Aldersperson Whitaker: And I guess that's my concern that if this comes in at double, the only entity that's on the hook to come up the rest of the money is us. I mean, I'm appreciative of the grants and the opportunities are out there, but the way this Resolution is worded to me seems kind of very much of a liability onto the city.

City Engineer Saeger: We don't have to accept the bids if they're way out of line. This is the other out.

Aldersperson Whitaker: So, if we pass this Resolution and the bids come in over that amount, you don't have to accept it.

City Engineer Saeger: Correct.

Aldersperson Whitaker: Kind of a saving grace.

Aldersperson Rothweiler: There were, there were two issues that I had in there and I don't have it pulled up in front of me. One of them was the street lighting issue that we would be responsible for the entire lighting of the intersection. However, like on Centreville Avenue, the State controls all the lighting at Centreville. They hold three quarters of this intersection. Why are we paying for all the lighting if they have three quarters of all the intersection being State Highway?

City Engineer Saeger: So, IDOT created, drafted this agreement and said they're requesting us to sign it. Um, I guess we could go back and say we want you to share in the maintenance responsibility of the lights, but I doubt that they would change it.

Aldersperson Rothweiler: The same issues with the curb and gutter. In this agreement, we're liable for taking care of all of the curbing and guttering in that intersection. Yet, the state controls three quarters of the State Highway, but yet we're responsible for all of the curb and guttering to hand, to handle that. So, they run over one of the storm drains, bust it up. It's our responsibility anywhere in that intersection. So, my concern is we're getting put upon here to handle all the lighting, all the curbing, etc. and the snow

removal for at least one leg of it. I don't have an issue with that. We do have South Charles or Freeburg Avenue, excuse me, which is part of it. So, I don't have an issue with that, but the issue is with having to maintain those there other three legs of the intersection where they're State Highway. They're not ours. So that's just my concern with it.

Alderson Schneider: Just one reason for further clarification on all of these projects around all these things.

City Engineer Saeger: I couldn't hear the question. I'm sorry.

Alderson Schneider: Is there any way we can send this back for further clarification?

City Engineer Saeger: If we have requests for modifications to the agreement, I can forward those to IDOT.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Yeah. I mean, do we actually have a deadline on this with IDOT?

Alderson Rothweiler: That's my next question.

City Engineer Saeger: I would assume before they sign the contract.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Right? So, I mean, why don't we table it and find out what we can get from IDOT?

Alderson Rothweiler: I mean, if we waited two weeks till the next council meeting, that wouldn't ruin the project, would it?

Mayor Gain Meyer: No.

Alderson Rothweiler: I'd like to go back and ask those questions, especially about the lighting, also Alderson (inaudible) question and the curb and gutter and that, and go back to them and say, look, now you did it on Centreville Avenue, that's all yours. The State takes care of it. Why aren't you doing it in this case? That's all.

Alderson Schneider: I can make a motion that we send this back to the - -

Alderson Rothweiler: I'll make a motion to table. If you'll second it, that'd be fine.

Mayor Gain Meyer: So, on the floor, we have a motion to table.

Alderson Schneider: Second.

Alderson Randle: Is this to bring it back on the 19th then?

Mayor Gain Meyer: I don't, if you set a date, then that's when it comes back. Otherwise, it'll be when we get the answers. I mean, we may not have the answers in two weeks, from IDOT do. So, I don't know. That's up to you guys.

Aldersperson Rothweiler: We need the answer, whenever IDOT answers our question. I guess put it back on the agenda. It should be put back on the agenda when those three issues are those three questions are answered.

Mayor Gain Meyer: And if we would have it back in time, we'll take it to Streets and Grades on that evening first actually. Okay.

Aldersperson Dintelman: Question. What did we pay for? What did IDOT pay for this thing to get done?

Mayor Gain Meyer: Is it 1.5 million?

City Engineer Saeger: It's almost three 3.5.

Mayor Gain Meyer: That IDOT is paying?

City Engineer Saeger: IDOT plus Federal.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Yeah, I'm way off. Okay.

Aldersperson Dintelman: That's way up from where they had been.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Yes.

Aldersperson Dintelman: And they climbed that bridge, but they you got that far. I'm afraid you make (inaudible) that your last deal. I think we got a good deal right now, but we're not over sure, indefinite but I think we want to handle this, you know, with soft hands.

Mayor Gain Meyer: I mean, I think we go back and ask them about those two issues and um I think the cap on money is more of an internal issue if we're going to cap it or we just reject a bid if it's

Aldersperson Whitaker: I'm just going to where there's a way to even change the language to not to exceed and if it exceeds then we have to bring it back and hash that out versus just I mean the way it's worded now you know. Sorry I can't. It currently says or as much as may be needed to match the required funding to complete the project to me that could just be very open ended.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Okay.

Aldersperson Schneider: So, we need a roll call vote to table it.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Yeah, there's a motion to table. Yeah. All in favor? All opposed? Okay. Motion to table.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS & NEW BUSINESS

Aldersperson Ferguson made a motion second by Aldersperson Rothweiler to pay the Motor Fuel Claims in the Amount of **\$20,540.01**.

Members voting aye on roll call: Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker, Schneider. (15)

Motion carries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Aldersperson Randle made a motion second by Aldersperson Schneider to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.



Shelly Schaefer, City Clerk

