

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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 Stiehl, Alderperson Rothweiler, Alderperson Elmore, Alderperson Weygandt, Alderperson Sullivan, Alderperson Osthoff.

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 Public Works, Jason Poole; 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; Director of Maintenance, Mike Schaefer.

Excused: Director of Human Resources, William Clay.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Gain Meyer: We do have a public hearing tonight regarding the Special Service Area 4 for the levy of Property Taxes and the issuance of bonds. Jamie and Eric, do you want to say a few minutes or say a few words? And then we'll invite the public up. If you want to speak, you have two to three minutes to speak on the topic.

Public Hearing regarding the Special Service Area 4, the levy of Property Taxes within the Special Service Area and the issuance of Bonds

Finance Director Maitret: Good evening. As all of you know, a few months ago, we actually had a public hearing for the creation of this new Special Service Area. There was a clerical error in that Ordinance, so we had to redo everything, including the Notices and the Public Hearings. To create a Special Service Area, you have to set a maximum dollar amount to levy as well as a maximum rate. So, if the EA changes dramatically, there's, there's limits. It was meant to be 3% or \$50,000, whichever is lesser. They put three cents per hundred dollars, which equated to about \$3,000 instead of the anticipated about \$40,000. So, this cleans that up. As we mentioned at that Public Hearing, that was all with the intent to keep the levy about what it was with the Special Service Area that just expired. That last Levy was around \$140,000, \$40,000 for their general use for the Downtown Committee, as well as \$100,000 towards those bonds. Question came up, have we already bonded? Do we know what we're going to bond? The committee has not finalized that yet. They did make it very clear they want to keep the tax amount what it was before. So, like I said, about \$100,000 for the bond

payments, \$40,000 for their general use in the district. That would keep the tax amount on each building pretty much exactly what it was before the district expired about a year ago.

Ahsan Raji: Good evening. I'm here for long Q4. Last time you told us that the rate was \$0.03 per one hundred. Now it is saying there's three percent. And it's called a clerical error. So, \$0.03 \$3 mistake, that's a 10,000% increase. So, in what world is that acceptable? My bank accidentally charged me ten hundred times what they lent you. I don't think they would call it a clerical error. They probably call it a crime. You keep telling us that. Not to worry because there is a \$50,000 cap on Service Tax. You say that means most of us will only pay three to five hundred dollars a year. So that part is actually true for the service portion. But here's what you are not saying that 3 to 500 is healthy appetizer. The main course is 1.5 million round. And with 9% increase that round is going to cost us 4.4 million total. That 2.9 million is pure interest. So, it means that almost \$3 in interest or for every single dollar we hold. So honestly, if I run my business like that, I would be bankrupt. If you run your household like that, you lose your home. I guess it's easy to be relaxed about other people's money, public money. It's our money when it's not your own wallet. I suppose a few million in extra doesn't keep you awake in the night. So, what we are buying with 4.4 million? A parking garage. Drive around downtown any given night. We have plenty of parking. What we don't have is a reason to build one more. So, this isn't a solution. It's a solution in search of a problem paid by our money. So let me clear. I oppose this SSA. I oppose the bond; I oppose the garage. I oppose the way this has been handled from day one. So, you have the legal right to do this, but having rights doesn't make it wise. Hiding behind a clerical error doesn't inspire confidence. I'll just take 30 more seconds:

Mayor Gain Meyer: I will give you ten.

Ahsan Raji: 51%. That's a magical number. If we get 51%, and I'm talking about fellow property owner to sign this by number. The law says they cannot do this. So, I'll be mailing petition to all 372 property owners to sign it. And all in the Council's member, when you vote on this remember that we taxpayers are the ones who pay your salaries. We are the ones who live here. We are the ones who will be stuck with this bill for 30 years. Thank you. God bless you.

Darla Blecha: I have a business downtown. I understand that this increment is for parking garages mostly, is what I'm kind of, is that not true?

Mayor Gain Meyer: There has not been a determination yet.

Darla Blecha: Okay, so how does that get determined?

Mayor Gain Meyer: So that's part of the Downtown Belleville Development. I always get the name wrong, Commission. There's a commission that determines that.

Darla Blecha: So, are there any other items that that money would be going towards or being voted for to be used for?

Mayor Gain Meyer: They have to have one large project. Like the streetscape. That's how the streetscape was originally done.

Darla Blecha: Well, I used to be, my business used to be down at 11th and West Main. And at 11th and West Main, you guys also did a beautification project down here across TOCO. And I don't see it being utilized. I don't want to pay extra taxes for that are coming through to help the City and help commerce and

people drop in. But I'm kind of with this gentleman over here. I don't see our parking pool. And I think that a lot of is for improvements for people who are wanting to put rentals and lease buildings and that kind of parking. Not for sure. But that is not retail parking I am looking for.

Mayor Gain Meyer: We are going to officially close the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jack LeChen: 37 North Douglas. I'm here with Molly McKenzie and found out members of the Koerner House Committee. You have two contracts on your agenda this evening. This goes back four and a half years and is funded by three state grants. Eric Schauster has been working hard on this during this whole period. So, we're now at the point where we have a project in mind which is to tear off the west side porch and a decrepit frame addition to the building. It will improve the look in the neighborhood and help us tell the story better. Secondly, I have asked for your yes vote on those. Secondly, I gave to City Clerk Shelley 20 copies of our latest booklet, God Bless the Dutch, Lincoln, and Belleville. It's a compilation of about as much as we know about Abraham Lincoln's connection to City of Belleville and his two speeches here. And I hope you get the time to read it.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Acting Chief Heffernan presented awards for 2025 Officer, Detective, and Civilian Staff of the Year.

Aldersperson Rothweiler made a motion second by Aldersperson Randle to approve Mayor Gain Meyer recommendation for the reappointment of Tom Bell to serve a 2-year term on the Building Code Board.

All members present voted aye.

Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aldersperson Dowling-Urban made a motion second by Aldersperson Elmore to approve the City Council Meeting of February 2, 2026.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

CLAIMS, PAYROLL AND DISBURSEMENTS

Aldersperson Whitaker made a motion second by Aldersperson Ferguson to approve claims and disbursements in the amount of **\$1,165,244.52** and payroll in the amount of **\$1,030,824.55**.

Members voting aye on roll call: Whitaker, Schneider, Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff. (16)

Motion carries.

REPORTS

Aldersperson Rothweiler made a motion second by Aldersperson Kaiser to approve Treasurer Report December 2025 and a motion to approve Statement of Cash and Investments Report – December 2025.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

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

MASTER SEWER COMMITTEE

Motion to Approve Sale/Conversion of a 2003 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup, (VIN: 8980) and miscellaneous items (WWTP).

Motion to Approve Agreement with TWM for West Outfall Rehab Design not to exceed \$24,500.00.

Motion to Enter into an Agreement with USACE for Phase 3 of the East Creek Sewer Separation Project with the City's estimated 25 percent cost share being \$1,700,000.00 of the total \$6,800,000.00.

Aldersperson Sullivan made a motion second by Aldersperson Schneider to approve the requests as presented.

Members voting aye on roll call: Schneider, Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker. (16)

Motion carries.

ADMINISTRATION

Motion to waive formal bidding procedures and approve a contract with Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$188,446.00 for Phase I and Phase II of the Koerner House Porch Project (DCEO Grant).

Motion to waive formal bidding procedures and approve a contract with Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$67,179.00 for Phase III of the Koerner House Porch Project (DCEO Grant).

Motion Approving and Authorizing Financial Commitment in the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (Build) Grant Program for West Main Street Revitalization.

Aldersperson Rothweiler made a motion second by Aldersperson Stiehl to approve the requests as presented.

Members voting aye on roll call: Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker, Schneider. (16)

Motion carries.

POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE

Aldersperson Anthony made a motion second by Aldersperson Whitaker to approve sale/conversion of the following vehicles: 1989 Chevrolet S-10 (VIN: 1523); 2008 Ford F-150 (VIN: 3977); 2019 Ford Explorer (VIN: 8254); 2001 Chevrolet S-10 (VIN: 1994); 2004 Ford Mustang (VIN: 0324); 2011 Dodge Charger (VIN: 1491); 2014 Can-Am Spyder RT (VIN: 2530); 2014 Can-Am Spyder RT (VIN: 3980); 2013 Ford Taurus (VIN: 4878); 2014 Ford Taurus (VIN: 4223); 2014 Ford Explorer (VIN: 5092); 2016 Ford Explorer (VIN: 7885); 2017 Ford Explorer (VIN: 2834); and 2019 Ford Explorer (VIN: 8247) (Police Department).

Aldersperson Schneider: May I ask where they all come from?

Mayor Gain Meyer: They are all from the Police Department.

Aldersperson Schneider: No, were they, they weren't Police Cars.

Mayor Gain Meyer: Yes, ma'am they were.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion to approve proposal from Honeywell International for system upgrade to the server for the City Hall automation system in the amount of \$34,814.20.

Motion to approve contract amendment with Watts Copy Systems to add new booklet folder/tri-fold unit finisher to existing Parks & Recreation machine at additional cost of \$60 per month.

Motion to approve extending agreement with CJ Schlosser & Company for audit services through fiscal year ending April 30, 2030.

Motion to approve closing the Parkway North business district and terminating the corresponding 1% business district tax.

Motion to approve opening the Mount Hope Future Care Fund (Fund 17) and checking account.

Motion to approve closing the Tourism Fund (Fund 44) and checking account by April 30, 2026, after any remaining funds are transferred to the General Fund.

Aldersperson Whitaker made a motion second by Aldersperson Kaiser to approve the request as presented.

Members voting aye on roll call: Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker, Schneider, Duco. (16)

Motion carries.

COMMUNICATIONS

THE BARKERY EVENT- 02/19/2026

Request from The Barkery to host Adoption Event with Food Truck, Thursday, February 19, 2026, 11:00am to 6:00pm. Additional City services: closure of 2 parking spaces in front of 335 West Main Street, cones, and “No Parking” signage.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATION- 03/14/2026

Request from The Harp Pub to host St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, Saturday, March 14, 2026, 12:00pm to 8:00pm. Additional City services: trash toters, barricades, and picnic tables.

MAIN STREET KID’S DAY – 04/11/2026

Request from Belleville Main Street to host Main Street Kid’s Day, Saturday, April 11, 2026, 10:00am to 2:00pm. Request closure of Paderborn Square, East Main Street between 159 and Charles Street, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Additional City services: picnic tables, trash toters, “No Parking” signage and Police Personnel.

OCE FIRESIDE CHAT – 04/18/2026

Request from Michael Powell to host OCE Fireside Chat Saturday, April 18, 2026, 6:30pm to 10:00pm. Event organizers will need to have fire pits inspected and acquire “Bon Fire Permit”.

PSOP SENIOR CELEBRATION – 05/01/2026

Request from PSOP to host Senior Celebration, Friday, May 1, 2026, 10:00am to 2:00pm. Street Closure request: North Church Street (between East “B” and East “C”), Municipal Parking Lot corner of North Jackson and East “B”, 7:30am to 3:30pm. Additional City services: “No Parking” signage, barricades, trash toters, BBQ grill and volunteers.

STRAWBERRY FEST- 05/02/2026

Request from Sugar High to host Strawberry Fest, Saturday, May 2, 2026, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Street Closure request: South High Street from East Main Street to East Washington Street. Additional City services: trash toters, barricades, and picnic tables

LIBERTY & LEGACY PARADE: BELLEVILLE’S HOMETOWN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY- 06/27/2026

Request from City of Belleville to host Liberty & Legacy Parade: Belleville’s Hometown Celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary, Saturday, June 27, 2026, 11:00am to 1:00pm. Street Closure request: Centreville Avenue at West Lincoln to South 6th Street, West Main Street from 6th Street to 27th Street. Rolling street closures. Additional City services: trash toters, barricades, Port A Potties, “No Parking” signage, and Public Works and Police Personnel

DOWNTOWN HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT – 10/30/2026

Request from City of Belleville to host Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat, Friday, October 30, 2026, 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Street Closure request: East Main east of 159 to west of Charles Street, first block of North/South High, North/South Jackson and North/South Church to alley/parking lot entrances to include use of Paderborn Square, 4:00pm to 9:00pm. Additional City services: personnel, “No Parking” signage, picnic tables, trash toters and electric.

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY – 11/11/2026

Request from City of Belleville to host Veteran's Day Ceremony, Wednesday, November 11, 2026, 11:00am to 12:00pm. Street Closure request: Public Square, first block of East Main, West Main, North Illinois and South Illinois, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Additional City services: barricades, trash totes, "No Parking" signage, electric, and personnel. In the event of inclement weather, ceremony to be held inside City Hall – Council Chambers.

MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY – 09/11/2026

Request from the September 11th Memorial Committee and City of Belleville to host the Moment of Remembrance Ceremony, Friday, September 11, 2026, 1125 South Illinois Street, 11:30am to 12:30pm. Additional City services: barricades, chairs, and Personnel.

Aldersperson Ferguson made a motion second by Aldersperson Dowling-Urban to approve the communications as read.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

PETITIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS

Aldersperson Ferguson made a motion second by Aldersperson Randle to read Resolutions 3562 and 3563 by title only.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

RESOLUTION 3562

A Resolution Approving and Authorizing Financial Commitment in the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (Build) Grant Program for West Main Street Revitalization.

RESOLUTION 3563

A Resolution Requesting Permission from IDOT to Close Illinois Route 159 for the Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 25, 2026.

Aldersperson Randle made a motion second by Aldersperson Ferguson to approve Resolutions 3562 and 3563 as read.

Aldersperson Schneider: What do you mean? I was just going to ask on the tax thing. So, the two people that spoke. It's in the taxing, East Main and West Main?

Members voting aye on roll call: Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker, Schneider, Duco, Dowling-Urban. (16)

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

Aldersperson Randle made a motion second by Aldersperson Ferguson to read Ordinance 9464, 9465 and 9466 by title only.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.

ORDINANCE 9464-2026

An Ordinance Rescinding the Taxes Imposed by Ordinance Number 7181 and Dissolving the Special Business District Allocation Fund Thereunder.

ORDINANCE 9465-2026

An Ordinance Authorizing Sale/Conversion of Personal Property 2003 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup (VIN# 1GCGC24U53Z158980), 1-4HP Mercury Outboard Boat Motor (SER# 0A890198), Admiral Clothes Dryer, Frigidaire Clothes Washer, 2-Sets of 3 Personnel Lockers, 2-Sets of 2 Personnel Lockers (WWTP).

ORDINANCE 9466-2026

An Ordinance Authorizing Sale/Conversion of Personal Property 1989 Chevrolet S-10 (VIN # 1GCCS1421K2191523), 2008 Ford F-150 (VIN # 1FTRF12238KC33977), 2019 Ford Explorer (VIN # 1FM5K8AR9KGB28254), 2001 Chevrolet S-10 (VIN #1GCCS19W118131994), 2004 Ford Mustang (VIN # 1FAFP45X84F180324), Dodge Charger (VIN # 2B3CL3CG7BH591491), 2014 Can-Am Spider RT (VIN # 2BXNBDD16EV002530), 2014 Can-Am Spider RT (VIN # 2BXNBDD19EV003980), 2014 Ford Explorer (VIN # 1FM5K8AR5EGA65092), 2019 Ford Explorer (VIN # 1FM5K8AR1KGB28247), 2013 Ford Taurus (VIN # 1FAHP2M81DG144878), 2014 Ford Taurus (VIN # 1FAHP2MKXEG124223, 2016 Ford Explorer (VIN # 1FM5K8AR8GGA77885), 2017 Ford Explorer (VIN # 1FM5K8AR2HGA62834) (Police Department).

Aldersperson Whitaker made a motion second by Aldersperson Kaiser to approve the Ordinances as read.

Members voting aye on roll call: Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker, Schneider, Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle. (16)

Motion carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS & NEW BUSINESS

Aldersperson Rothweiler made a motion second by Aldersperson Weygandt to pay the Motor Fuel Claims in the Amount of **\$141,906.29**.

Members voting aye on roll call: Anthony, Ovian, Dintelman, Kaiser, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Sullivan, Osthoff, Whitaker, Schneider, Duco, Dowling-Urban, Randle, Ferguson. (16)

Motion carries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Aldersperson Elmore made a motion second by Aldersperson Schneider to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

All members voted aye.

Motion carries.



Shelly Schaefer, City Clerk

