

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2025**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Ladd led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER. 2.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the council chambers of City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Ladd called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Luke Otto, James Evans, Brady Hartmann and Rex Stacey present.

Also present were City Administrator Meyer, Community Development Director, Finance Director Jirik, Public Works Superintendent Otto, City Attorney Vose, City Engineer Duncan and Police Sergeant Vycital.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans second by Councilmember Hartmann, to approve the Agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC FORUM.

**Anyone wishing to address the Council must sign up before the meeting and then have a seat in the audience. The signup sheet is removed 5 minutes before the start of the meeting. Maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. No official action will be taken.*

No one signed up.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

- 5.1. Regular Session Minutes of April 7, 2025.
- 5.2. Work Session Minutes of April 7, 2025.
- 5.3. Resolution 25-035 Re-Appointing Seasonal Life Guards, Water Safety Instructors and Aquatic Staff for the 2025 Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Season.
- 5.4. Resolution 25-036 Appoint Timothy Eckstein, Larry Hanson and Gavin Peterson as a Full Time Public Works Seasonal Employee.
- 5.5. Resolution 25-37 Adopting the Special Assessment for Delinquent Fire Bills.
- 5.6. Resolution 25-038 Resolution Approving Terms of a ROSE Program Loan to The Belle's Bistro 1050 Enterprise Drive.
- 5.7. Resolution 25-039 Resolution Approving Terms of a ROSE Program Loan to Steel Horse Tavern – 114 Meridian Street North.
- 5.8. Resolution 25-040 Accepting a \$9,269 Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2025 No Child Left Inside Grant Program.
- 5.9. Resolution 25-045 Closing 2014A General Obligation Improvement Bond (Fund 340) and Transferring Remaining Funds to Fund 348 2020A General Obligation Improvement Bond.
- 5.10. Resolution 25-046 Accepting the Donation of \$431.20 from the Berger Interiors for the purchase of Furniture for the Fire Department.

MOTION by Councilmember Hartmann, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: 5.1. Regular Session Minutes of April 7, 2025; 5.2. Work Session Minutes of April 7, 2025; 5.3. Resolution 25-035 Re-Appointing Seasonal Life Guards, Water Safety Instructors and Aquatic Staff for the 2025 Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Season; 5.4. Resolution 25-036 Appoint Timothy Eckstein, Larry Hanson and Gavin Peterson as a Full Time Public Works Seasonal Employee; 5.5. Resolution 25-37 Adopting the Special Assessment for Delinquent Fire Bills; 5.6. Resolution 25-038 Resolution Approving Terms of a ROSE Program Loan to The Belle's Bistro 1050 Enterprise Drive; 5.7. Resolution

25-039 Resolution Approving Terms of a ROSE Program Loan to Steel Horse Tavern – 114 Meridian Street North; 5.8. Resolution 25-040 Accepting a \$9,269 Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2025 No Child Left Inside Grant Program; 5.9. Resolution 25-045 Closing 2014A General Obligation Improvement Bond (Fund 340) and Transferring Remaining Funds to Fund 348 2020A General Obligation Improvement Bond and 5.10. Resolution 25-046 Accepting the Donation of \$431.20 from the Berger Interiors for the purchase of Furniture for the Fire Department. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

6.1. Community Services Department. (Report Only)

Community Services Director Koller was not present. The Council acknowledged the Community Services Report.

6.2. Ambulance Department. (Report Only)

Ambulance Director Burton was not present. The Council acknowledged the Ambulance Report.

6.3. Police Department.

Police Sergeant Vycital was present. Vycital highlighted the Police Report.

6.4. Fire Department.

Fire Chief Otto was not present. The Council acknowledged the Fire Department Report.

6.5. Community Development Department.

Community Development Director Smith Strack was present. Smith Strack highlighted the Community Development Report.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

7.1. Ordinance 25-07 Zoning Code Amendment Outside Storage. The City Council will hold a public hearing on Ordinance 25-07, An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 1107.08 Outside Storage Residential, Commercial and Industrial.

Community Development Director Smith Strack reviewed what code is and how a public hearing works with a brief slideshow.

Community Development Director Smith Strack reviewed Ordinance 25-07 Zoning Code Amendment for Outside Storage.

City Attorney Vose noted the number of people in the audience and gave the Council the option to open all three public hearings at once to allow residents to testify on the three ordinances once verses three times.

It was the consensus of the Council to open the three hearings at once.

And Community Development Director Smith Strack reviewed Ordinance 25-08 and 25-09 respectively.

Mayor Ladd opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-07, 25-08 and 25-09 at 6:34 PM.

Denny Moriarty, 24 Woodridge Drive, spoke against the three Ordinances. Discussion regarding parliamentary procedures was had.

MOTION by Councilmember Stacey, second by Councilmember Hartmann ruled the continuation of testimony by a majority of the council.
Moriarty continued his testimony regarding the ordinances and opined the reason for the Ordinances coming forward.

Mike Woletz, 304 Shea Street, spoke against Ordinances 25-07 and 25-09. Woletz opined the reason for the Ordinances coming forward citing previous meeting audio.

Chris Meyer, 108 Oakwood Drive, spoke against the Ordinances noting the community name meaning Beautiful Prairie. Meyer urged the council to vote against the Ordinances.

Renee Christianson, 212 and 214 Meridian Street and owner of Cully's Coin Laundry, spoke against the ordinances noting the current code is well written. Christianson recommended Council allow staff to enforce Code issues.

Erin Ludwig, 1013 W. Court Street, spoke for keeping the City a beautiful place to live. Ludwig noted some consideration of weight limits should be considered for a working community and agreed with the adjustment from 14 days to 90 days.

Crystal Ladd, 221 S. Elk Street, noted her neighborhood is the source of 50 code complaints and stated there are people who can't afford things. Ladd noted she supported the previous speaker Ludwig's comments.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Hartmann, to close the public hearings for Ordinances 25-07, 25-08 and 25-09 at 7:25 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

7.1.1. Ordinance 25-07 An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 1107.08 Outside Storage Residential, Commercial and Industrial.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Otto, to Deny Ordinance 25-07, An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 1107.08 Outside Storage Residential, Commercial and Industrial. ALL VOTED AY. MOTION CARRIED.

7.1.2. Resolution 25-042 Approving summary publication of Ordinance 25-07, An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 1107.08 Outside Storage Residential, Commercial and Industrial.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Hartmann, to Deny Resolution 25-042 Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 25-07, An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 1107.08 Outside Storage Residential, Commercial and Industrial. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

7.2. Ordinance 25-08 Zoning Code Amendment Residential Parking Areas. The City Council will hold a public hearing on Ordinance 25-08, An Ordinance Amending Section 1107.12, Subd. 4,6 Residential Parking Areas

Ordinance 25-08 was reviewed and the public hearing was held earlier in the meeting

7.2.1. Ordinance 25-08 An Ordinance Amending Section 1107.12, Subd. 4,6 Residential Parking Areas

Council asked clarifying questions.

MOTION by Councilmember Hartmann, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve Ordinance 25-08 An Ordinance Amending Section 1107.12, Subd. 4,6 Residential Parking Areas. Councilmembers

Hartmann, Stacey, Ladd and Otto VOTED AYE. Councilmember Evans VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

7.2.2. Resolution 25-043 Approving summary publication of Ordinance 25-08, An Ordinance 25-08, An Ordinance Amending Section 1107.12, Subd. 4,6 Residential Parking Areas.

MOTION by Councilmember Otto, second by Councilmember Ladd, to approve Resolution 25-043 Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 25-08, An Ordinance Amending Section 1107.12, Subd. 4,6 Residential Parking Areas. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

7.3. Ordinance 25-09 Code Amendment Public Nuisances Affecting Welfare and Visual Environment. The City Council will hold a public hearing on Ordinance 25-09, An Ordinance Amending and Repealing Portions of Section 400.05 Public Nuisances Affecting Welfare and Visual Environment Related to Outside Storage and Unlicensed Vehicles.

Ordinance 25-09 was reviewed and the public hearing was held earlier in the meeting

7.3.1. Ordinance 25-09 Ordinance 25-09, An Ordinance Amending and Repealing Portions of Section 400.05 Public Nuisances Affecting Welfare and Visual Environment Related to Outside Storage and Unlicensed Vehicles

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Stacey, to Deny Ordinance 25-09, An Ordinance Amending and Repealing Portions of Section 400.05 Public Nuisances Affecting Welfare and Visual Environment Related to Outside Storage and Unlicensed Vehicles. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

7.3.2. Resolution 25-044 Approving summary publication of Ordinance 25-09, An Ordinance Amending and Repealing Portions of Section 400.05 Public Nuisances Affecting Welfare and Visual Environment Related to Outside Storage and Unlicensed Vehicles.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Evans, to Deny Resolution 25-044 Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 25-09, An Ordinance Amending and Repealing Portions of Section 400.05 Public Nuisances Affecting Welfare and Visual Environment Related to outside Storage and Unlicensed Vehicles. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8. BUSINESS.

8.1. Presentation of Claims.

8.1.1. Pay Request No. 2, The Joseph Company for the Well No. 5 and Well House Project.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans second by Councilmember Hartmann, to approve the reviewed claims as presented in the amount of \$217,075.56. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.2. Accept the 2024 Audit Report and Management Letter.

Finance Director Jirik introduced the 2024 Audit Report.

Brad Falteysek of Abdo presented the 2024 Audit Report and Management Letter findings.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans second by Councilmember Ladd, to accept the 2024 Audit Report and Management Letter. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.3. Resolution 25-041 Awarding Bid for the 2025 Pavement Maintenance Project to Allied Blacktop Company for \$106,570.40.

MOTION by Councilmember Hartmann, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve Resolution 25-041 Awarding Bid for the 2025 Pavement Maintenance Project to Allied Blacktop Company for \$106,570.40. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.4. Police Department Study:

Council held discussion regarding the potential of making Chatfield Elementary a police station pending a passed referendum from the School District.

8.4.1. Resolution 25-033 Accept Bray Architects Proposal and Authorizing Conceptual Planning and Costs.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd second by Councilmember Evans, to deny Resolution 25-033 Accept Bray Architects Proposal and Authorizing Conceptual Planning and Costs. Councilmember Ladd, Evans, Hartmann and Otto VOTED AYE. Councilmember Stacey VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED TO DENY 4-1.

8.4.2. Resolution 25-047 Accept ERA Structural Engineering Proposal and Authorizing Feasibility Study and Costs.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd second by Councilmember Evans, to deny Resolution 25-047 Accept ERA Structural Engineering Proposal and Authorizing Feasibility Study and Costs. Councilmember Ladd, Evans, Hartmann and Otto VOTED AYE. Councilmember Stacey VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED TO DENY 4-1.

9. ADMINISTRATION.

9.1. Upcoming Tentative Meetings.

1. Design, Monday, May 5, 5:00 PM
2. City Council, Monday, May 5, 6:00 PM
3. Work Session, Monday, May 5, 6:15 PM

The Council was reminded of the upcoming tentative meetings as listed.

10. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Otto, to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:58 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary