



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2020, 7:00 pm

Via Zoom Teleconference

Call to Order

President Pennington called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. DiTullio, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Sloane, Mrs. Pikul, Ms. Hause, Ms. Cerminara, and President Pennington. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Mayor Emily Marburger, Treasurer Joe Scioscia, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn; Financial Services Administrator Andrea Contes; Engineer Bryan Churilla; and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Andrew Beckas, 203 North Ralph Avenue: Is interested in starting a "Snow Buddy" program with his sister to help elderly and disabled residents keep their sidewalks clear during snowy/icy weather.
- Sue Benaquista, 166 Davis Avenue: Asked if any Borough inspection is done on sidewalks replaced by Columbia Gas.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Provided suggestions for the 2021 Budget.

Presentation: Catherine Tulley, Joint Planning Commission

- Ms. Tulley was in attendance to answer Council questions about the JPC in general, and the Resolution related to appointing a Solicitor and Engineer to serve the JPC, specifically.
- Per the established rotation, Ben Avon is scheduled to provide a Solicitor and Engineer in 2021, but would like to cede their turn to Bellevue so that Kerry Fraas can continue to serve as the Solicitor. She explained that Mr. Fraas had been an association of Solicitor Matt Racunas, and served in his place at JPC meetings because of a scheduling conflict.
- Ms. Tulley spoke about activities, including the need for a review of the PA liquor laws, which will require an update to the Zoning Ordinance; advice regarding Air BnBs to Ben Avon, the new Starbucks establishment, issues with signage and fencing, and draft ordinances related to bicycle parking.
- The JPC is requesting additional contributions from participating municipalities, in part to fund a Drop Box for document storage.

Reports

Mayor's Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- The Mayor had nothing to add to her written report.

Treasurer's Report (written report was included with Council packet)

Mr. Scioscia had nothing to add to his written report.

Financial Report (Budget, Tax and Services reports were included with Council packet)

- No comments were made.

Code Enforcement Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- No comments were made.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- No comments were made.

Public Works Report

- No comments were made.

Director of Administrative Services Report

- DAS Bahn reported that the Borough Christmas tree has been installed, with thanks to Paul Cusick for his coordination of efforts.
- She further noted that Allegheny County, and possibly the state, are likely to implement additional COVID-19 mitigation measures, including limited shutdowns.

Engineer's Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Mr. Churilla had no additional comments.

Northwest EMS Report (written report provided to Council)

- No comments were made.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Report

- No comments were made.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the December 8, 2020 Bill List.
Moved: Ms. Hause Second: Ms. Edmondson
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
2. Discussion: Delinquent Tax Notices
Ms. Hause recommended that the Council not make any exceptions as it could appear to be a favor. President Pennington suggested a blanket exception that would cover a narrowly defined situation. Mr. Stuncard stated that this is a slippery slope. DAS Bahn will provide the emails from the 2 residents requesting waivers to Council.
3. Motion to Authorize Advertisement, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250, Ordinance 20-05, Setting the 2021 Borough Millage Rate. (01.406.341)
Moved: Ms. Hause Second: Mrs. Pikul
Discussion: Mr. Pritchard stated that the rate was incorrect. DAS Bahn stated that she will confirm and correct if needed.
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
4. Motion to Authorize, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250, Advertisement of Ordinance 20-06, Establishing Salaries and Benefits for Borough Elected Officials and Employees. (01.406.341)
Moved: Ms. Hause Second: Mr. Stuncard
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.

5. Motion to Authorize, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250, Advertisement of Ordinance 20-07, Adopting the 2021 Borough Budget. (01.406.341)

Moved: Ms. Hause

Second: Mrs. Pikul

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Val Pennington, Chair

1. Update on Park Improvements.
 - Mr. Churilla noted that Memorial Park improvements are 99% complete, and that the fitness equipment was \$4,000 less than anticipated.
 - He also reported that the contractor installing the new waterline in Memorial Park has had difficulty obtaining the pipe due to the pandemic, but expects to take delivery this week.
2. Update on Memorial Park Waterline.
 1. Mr. Churilla reported that the pre-construction meeting was held, and he has issued a notice to proceed to the contractor, who is expected to mobilize by the end of this week. The work should take about 5 days to complete once started.

Public Safety Committee; Anya Pikul, Chair

1. Discussion: Parking During the Holiday Season
In past years, the Borough has waived paid parking in the business district during the holiday season. Mr. DiTullio moved to set aside the parking ordinance for the month of December, 2020.

Moved: Mr. DiTullio

Second: Ms. Cerminara

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0

2. Agreement with the Civil Service Commission Solicitor
DAS Bahn provided to Council a copy of the agreement with Tucker Arensberg, PC to provide legal services to the Civil Service Commission. As the Commission is entitled by state law to their own Solicitor, this was provided for information only.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: DPW Building Furnace
Public Works Superintendent Jim Kelly reported that the furnace in the DPW building has been red tagged due to a cracked heat exchanger. Mr. Kelly noted that the furnace should be replaced, as repairs do not make fiscal sense. He has obtained a bid in the amount of \$6,971 and attributed the cost to the need for a crane to mount the unit on the building roof.

Motion: Authorize the expenditure of up to \$7,000 to replace the furnace at the DPW garage.
(01.430.740)

Moved: Mr. Pritchard

Second: Ms. Edmondson

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0

2. Mr. Kelly also noted that the holiday light displays have been installed, but his department was unable to install 6 of the wreaths because of burnt-out bulbs and the inability to replace them. He recommended that the Borough consider new decorations that use LED bulbs. He further reported that the leaf vacuum quit on the last scheduled day of leaf collection, and he will research the possibility of a grant through DEP to replace it.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion: Returning to In-Person Meetings
No Council members expressed an interest in returning to in-person meetings.

New Business

- There were no items of new business raised.

Public Contribution on Non-Agenda Items (limit of 2 minutes)

- There was no public contribution.

Executive Session

President Pennington announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the Pre-Council, and no legislative action was taken as a result of that meeting.

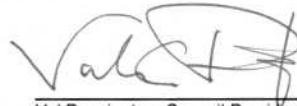
Adjournment

There being no further business, President Pennington adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy L. Bahn, Director of Administrative Services/Secretary



Val Pennington, Council President

