



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021, 7:00 pm

Via Zoom Teleconference

Call to Order

President Pennington called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Mrs. Pikul, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Sloane, Ms. Cerminara and President Pennington. A quorum was established.

(Ms. Hause arrived at 7:03 pm and Mr. Pritchard at 7:09 pm)

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

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Cindy West, 203 Summit Avenue: Asked Council to enact an ordinance to allow property owners a say in where and how 5G cell towers are installed. The Solicitor responded that Verizon is relocating the pole near her property, and that it is difficult for the Borough to dictate the site of the pole if it's within the utility right-of-way.
- Carolyn Laquatra, 607 Shade Avenue: Echoed Ms. West's comments, and stated that she is concerned about the health hazards related to cell towers.
- Vince Dish, 607 Shade Avenue: Asked why the towers were being installed on that side of the street. The Solicitor noted that the right-of-way is not Borough-owned, and that the PUC regulates utilities.
- Justin Greenawalt, 93 N. Euclid Avenue: Stated that if Federal funding is being used to erect cell towers, a review must be conducted to determine if there is an historical view in sight. The Solicitor responded that if the Borough had a local historic district, it would be a completely different response, but the Borough does not have a historic district nor a Historic Architectural Review Board.
- Linda Carroll, 31 N. Howard Avenue: Expressed her concerns about the appearance of the cell towers. Ms. Hause suggested that residents contact the new state representative.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Stated that she can stand on her front porch, throw a rock and hit 3 utility poles. The Solicitor reported that he had a conversation with Verizon, and they want to work with property owners.
- Danielle Dunham, 199 Summit: Noted that there is research on the health hazards related to the cell towers, and that there are between 25 and 30 children in Summit within the tower site.
- Mimi Rowlands, 436 Forest Avenue: Stated that it's not only Bellevue facing this issue, and that some places are filing lawsuits.
- Chris McReady, 93 N. Euclid: Suggested that Verizon look at "urban camouflage".
- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that homeowners in other locations have hired private counsel and sued because of the towers' impact endangered species.

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)

- Ms. Hause stated that the Zoning Hearing Board will hold 3 hearings, and requested that the Borough BCO/Zoning Officer summarize. The hearings relate to special exceptions for a tattoo/piercing parlor at 8 Fremont Avenue, a parking pad at 600 Means Avenue, and a driveway to a rear parking pad at 121 N. Balph Avenue.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- No comments were made.

Public Works Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Nothing was added to the written report.

Director of Administrative Services Report

- DAS Bahn reported that she met with firefighters for a preliminary negotiation session, and that a report from that meeting was posted to the Council shared drive.
- She further noted that participants are trying to find a mutually-agreeable date for a second firefighter mediation.
- Ms. Bahn is preparing letters for applicants to the paid firefighter/lieutenant position; the written exam is scheduled for February 17.

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

- Mr. Churilla had no additional comments.

Joint Planning Commission

- No report was provided.

Northwest EMS Report (written report provided to Council)

- No comments were made.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Report

- Mr. DiTullio had no comments.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the January 12 , 2021 Bill List.
Moved: Ms. Hause Second: Ms. Edmondson
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
2. Discussion: Third Party Tax Collectors
Ms. Hause would like to keep this in Committee.

3. Discussion: Delinquent Tax Waivers

Ms. Hause stated that the Committee is not in a position to hear individual complaints, and this has not been done before. This will be included on the agenda for a formal vote at the January 26 Council Meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Val Pennington, Chair

1. Discussion: Pool Improvements

- Mr. Churilla provided an updated quote from Main Line Commercial Pools Inc.; the company is a COSTARS vendor. The quote is nearly double what was originally provided by Renosys, in part because of the additional warranties and the need to pay prevailing wages to laborer. The DPW Superintendent noted that this is not a typical pool liner, but is more akin to resurfacing with a PVC shell.

2. Update on Memorial Park Waterline.

1. Work has started; Mr. Churilla and Mr. Kelly met with the contractor and the project should be completed in a week or so.

Public Safety Committee; Anya Pikul, Chair

1. Motion to Advertise for Zoning Hearing Board Members at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250. (01.406.341)

Moved: Mrs. Pikul

Second: Ms. Cerminara

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

2. Motion to Adopt Resoluton 02-21 Appointing Cindy L. Bahn to Execute Forms and Documents to Obtain Financial Assistance under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Moved: Mrs. Pikul

Second: Mr. Stuncard

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

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Hiring an Arborist to Assess Trees in Bayne and Memorial Parks

The DPW Superintendent reported that a number of Borough trees appear to require assessment and remediation in order to preserve them, and he recommended hiring an independent arborist to perform this work. Several members were concerned about the cost; Mr. Kelly noted that arborists are not that expensive, and that the Borough could start with a limited scope of work.

2. Motion to Adopt Resolution 03-21, Extending a Conditional Offer of Employment to Bryan Rowlands as Public Works Laborer.

Moved: Ms. Edmondston

Second: Ms. Cerminara

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

Unfinished Business

▪ Discussion: Returning to In-Person Meetings

No Council members expressed an interest in returning to in-person meetings.

New Business

- Ms. Cerminara expressed her concerns for public safety on Inauguration Day in light of recent events at the Capitol on January 6. The Police Chief stated that there is no intel regarding local credible threats.

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

- Wendy Blazier, 532 Highland Place: Thanked DPW for the lime they put down in the parking lot near the dog park..

Executive Session

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:31 pm, and returned to the Council Meeting at 9:30 pm. No legislative action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

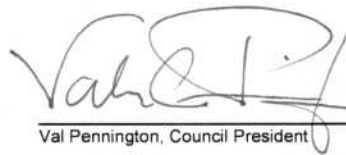
Adjournment

There being no further business, President Pennington adjourned the meeting at 9:31 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy L. Bahn, Director of Administrative Services/Secretary



Val Pennington, Council President

