



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 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, Mr. Stuncard, Mr. Pritchard, Ms. Sloane, Mrs. Pikul, Ms. Hause, Ms. Cerminara and President Pennington. Ms. Edmondson was absent. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were 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

- Wendy Blazier, 532 Highland Place: Noted that the Bellevue Dog Woods received 2 more waste stations from Alcosan, and expressed her thanks.
- Linda Woshner, 137 South Euclid Avenue: Asked about what was being added in the proposed parking ordinance. Noted that there is still a designated delivery space in front of the former cake place business. Also expressed her concern about conducting interior rental inspections during the pandemic.

Changes or Corrections to Minutes

- No changes or corrections were made to the minutes of: the October 7, 2020 Committee meetings; the October 2020 Pre-Council and Council meetings; the November 4, 2020 Committee meetings; the November, 2020 Pre-Council and Council meetings; the December, 2020 Pre-Council and Council meetings; the January 5, 2021 Committee meetings; and the January, 2021 Pre-Council and Council meetings.

Reports

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

- The Mayor was not present.

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 or questions asked.

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

- No comments were made or questions asked.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- No comments were made or questions asked.

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

1. Discussion: Status of Retaining Wall at Gillott Park
Ms. Cerminara requested an update, and Mr. Kelly reported that lumber costs have increased exponentially during the pandemic and he is looking at alternatives. The quantity and size of the lumber poses a particular challenge, as the wall will require one hundred 6x6 inch posts. DPW has purchased Versa-Loc to be used for the smaller section. Mrs. Pikul stated that she works for a concrete supplier and prices have increased across the industry, with a major price increase February 1, 2021, and a second price increase due to be implemented in April, 2021.

Public Safety Committee; Anya Pikul, Chair

1. Discussion: 4-Way Stop at Balph and Forest Avenues

Mrs. Pikul stated that this concern was brought by a resident and was discussed at the February Public Safety Committee meeting. Chief Sentner reported that the Police Department cannot conduct speed tests with temperatures so low as it would not be a true benchmark, but will try in the next week or so if temperatures increase.

2. Discussion: Rental Inspections

Mrs. Pikul reported that she has heard from several residents who are concerned about in-person inspections during the pandemic. The Building Code Official, Jeff Wissner, stated that the Department is way behind on these inspections, and he is working with the Code Enforcement Officer to develop an accurate list of rental properties. Mr. Wissner, as the Borough's Fire Inspector, plans to inspect properties with 3 or more units, which number about 2000, and Ms. Howells will inspect properties with 1 or 2 units. A great deal of discussion followed, touching on the unknowns with the pandemic, the risks of not having rental properties inspected regularly, and the Code Enforcement Department providing tenants with the option to defer in-person visits. Mrs. Pikul stated that the consensus is for the Department to continue as they have, and work with property owners and tenants on a case-by-case basis.

3. Discussion: Body Camera Grant

Chief Sentner reported that the Borough has secured a grant to cover half of the costs of procuring body cameras; he would like to have a further discussion in March regarding in-vehicle cameras, which can be integrated with the body cam system. Chief Sentner is soliciting input regarding policies, including data storage, when cameras are turned on and off, etc. Upon questioning, Chief Sentner stated that he has only worked with vehicle cameras, not body cameras.

4. Discussion: Resolution 06-21, Lincoln Avenue SINC-Up Project with Southwest Regional Corporation.

Ms. Bahn reminded Council of this project, which is partially-grant funded and was initiated in 2019 under the previous DAS. It will replace the signals at 4 Lincoln Avenue intersections.

5. Recognition of Police Officers Blair and Diven, and Sgt. McGaughey

Mrs. Pikul reported that these 3 police employees responded to a call in January and performed an immediate life-saving response for a Borough resident. She thanked Officers Blair and Diven, and Sgt. McGaughey and expressed her pride in their service. Chief Sentner stated that the 3 went above and beyond, thought quickly, and applied a tourniquet to both arms of the individual, which is not standard. Mr. Stuncard stated that the employees should be recognized in person at a future date, and President Pennington noted that he is full of pride and appreciation.

6. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of Ordinance 21-02, Regulating Loading Zone and Special Parking Locations, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250 (01.406.341).

Moved: Mrs. Pikul

Second: Ms. Cerminara

Discussion: Chief Sentner provided a history of the parking issues that led to this Ordinance, stating that it became a public safety issue last summer.

Aye: Ms. Hause, Mr. Pritchard, Mrs. Pikul, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Cerminara, Ms. Sloane, President Pennington

Nay: Mr. Ditullio

Motion carried 7-1 with no abstentions.

7. Motion to Authorize the Expenditure of \$7,213.00 to Purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera from 1st Out Specialty Vehicles & Equipment (01.411.260).

Moved: Ms. Cerminara

Second: Mrs. Pikul

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Streetscape Project

Brad Hazelwood, who is an engineer with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. is the Project Manager for the Streetscape Project. He is also a 16-year Bellevue resident. Mr. Hazelwood presented background information on the Project and reported on the status. He also spoke to his recommendation to put concrete in the sinkhole at the bumpout in front of Northwest Bank. 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. Discussion: Excavator Purchase

Mr. Kelly addressed the need for this purchase, which was included in the 2021 Borough budget – in the past 6 months, DPW has had to rent an excavator twice as at a cost of \$1500 each time. He provided information about the various financing options; several Council members expressed their preference for an outright purchase as opposed to a Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase (TELP), which provides for a 4-year term, 1 annual payment, and Borough ownership after the final payment. This will be added to the agenda for the February Council meeting.

Mr. Kelly also reported on his conversation with Columbia Gas: they are willing to cover 100% of the cost of paving Kendall Avenue with asphalt. A decision will be deferred until March to give residents a chance to weigh in.

Unfinished Business

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

New Business

1. Motion to Adopt Resolution 07-21, a Concurring Resolution for the Town Council of Bellevue Borough Confirming That the Borough Has Requested a Grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County.
Moved: Ms. Pritchard Second: Mrs. Pikul
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0
2. Motion to Advertise an Opening on the Joint Planning Commission to Fill the Vacant Seat Due to the Resignation of Tom Hrynda, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250.
Moved: President Pennington Second: Ms. Cerminara
An opportunity for Public Contribution was offered, but no one spoke.
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0

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

- Sue Benaquista, 166 Davis Avenue: Expressed her concerns regarding Columbia Gas paving over Kendall Avenue.
- Linda Woshner, 137 South Euclid Avenue: Stated that the contract for outside auditors should go out to bid, asked about the status of the 2019 and 2020 audits, expressed her thoughts on street design, and suggested checking the numbers on the trash collection ordinance.
- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Expressed his thoughts on brick vs, asphalt paving on Borough streets; noted that several lights are burned out on Lincoln Avenue; questioned the need for a speed study for a 4-way stop sign; and stated that the sinkhole in the bumpout is the result of a design flaw.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: stated that the Borough's Home Rule Charter requires a roll call vote on ordinances and resolutions.

Executive Session

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 10:04 pm, and returned to the Council Meeting at 10:39 pm. No legislative action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

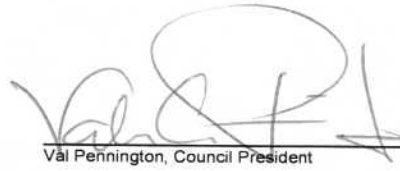
Adjournment

There being no further business, President Pennington adjourned the meeting at 10:41 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy L. Bahn, Director of Administrative Services/Secretary



Val Pennington, Council President

