



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Council Meeting Minutes (rev)

July 27, 2021, 7:00 pm

Municipal Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers

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

Also, in attendance were Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn and Treasurer Joe Scioscia.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Connie Rankin, 118 Arch Avenue: Expressed her opinions about the proposed Public Gathering Ordinance, noting that the concern should be the impact on Borough resources.
- Becky Smolens, 728 Clinton Place: Stated that she chaired the 2019 light up event and that the proposed ordinance is detrimental to the event.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Noted that the proposed ordinance did not have a first and second reading, and that there is nothing about closing streets or notifying businesses of same. Also spoke regarding the Streetscape plans and proposed DPW laborer hiring.
- RJ Startzenbach, 728 Clinton Place: Addressed the proposed Public Gathering Ordinance, adding that there needs to be a process, and that the process that was implemented years ago was not followed.
- Susan Stabnau, 264 Summit Avenue: Chaired the House Tour Committee for 4 years and stated that Bonafide Bellevue tried to get it write; offered assistance with drafting the Public Gathering Ordinance

Consent Agenda

Items of business and matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and noncontroversial and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired by Council Members, that item is to be identified and removed from the Consent Agenda, and will be considered separately at the appropriate place on the Agenda.

- a. Motion to Accept Minutes of the May 4, 2021 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.
- b. Motion to Accept Minutes of the May 11, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting
- c. Motion to Accept Minutes of the June 1, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting.
- d. Motion to Accept Minutes of the June 1 2021 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.
- e. Motion to Accept Minutes of the June 1, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting.
- f. Motion to Accept Minutes of the June 1, 2021 Public Works Committee Meeting.
- g. Motion to Accept Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Pre-Council Meeting
- h. Motion to Accept Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Council Meeting.

Moved: President Pennington

Second: Ms. Cerminara

All voted in favor of the motion as amended. Motion carried, 6-0.

- a. Motion to Approve the Purchase of a Steam Pressure Washer at a Cost of \$4,075.32 (01.430.740)
Moved: Mr. DiTullio Second: Ms. Cerminara
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- b. Motion to Authorize Repairs to the Skid Loader at a Cost of \$5,852.16 (01.430.374)
Moved: Mr. DiTullio Second: Ms. Hause
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- c. Motion to Authorize Insight Pipe Contracting Inc. to Camera Inspect Sewer Lines Under Dawson Avenue at a Cost of \$375.00/Hour (08.429.72).

Moved: Mr. DiTullio Second: Ms. Cerminara
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

- d. Motion to Accept the CEC Proposal in the Amount of \$14,500 for Additional Services Required for Streetscape Phases 6 and 7 (01.408.313).

Moved: Mr. DiTullio Second: Ms. Cerminara

Discussion: Mr. DiTullio thanked the QVCOG representatives – Executive Director Patrick Conners and Board President Jean-Sebastien Valois – who were present. He stated that there were claims and statements made that were not true, and noted an insurance settlement for the Hallmark store on Lincoln Avenue that was due to water in the building's basement. DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly expressed his belief that the designs were not at fault for the basement water because of the work DPW performed to remedy the bumpout sinkhole. He suggested that future contracts provide for daily construction supervision. President Pennington suggested that the Borough is at the "point of no return" for this project.

Aye: Ms. Cerminara, Ms. Hause, Ms. Sloane, Mr. Pritchard President Pennington
Nay: Mr. DiTullio
Motion carried 5-1, with no abstentions.

Motion to Authorize HRG Engineering to Develop an RFP for Phases 6 & 7 of the Streetscape Project and Advertise Same at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250.

Moved: President Pennington Second: Ms. Hause

Public Contribution:

Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Believes there was a flaw in the design which permitted water up against building foundations.

Erin Morris, 529 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that she owns the Hallmark store and that she had a dry basement until the Streetscape project. Further stated that a membrane was in the plan.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

- e. Discussion: Hiring

Mr. Kelly reported that he is down several laborers; he has 1 opening because an employee left, and 2 others have been out with medical issues, although 1 recently returned. He would like to stay at a total of 7 laborers, but requested an "anticipatory hire", which the union has approved. He noted that DPW had 8 laborers at one point and encouraged Council to adopt Resolution 27-21.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 27-21 Authorizing the Hire of Todd Helwich and Shawn Lane as DPW Laborers.

Moved: Ms. Cerminara Second: Mr. Pritchard

Public Contribution:

Linda Woshner, 137 South Euclid Avenue: Asked how many laborers are included in the wage ordinance.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Ethics Committee (Ad Hoc):

- Ms. Sloane stated that a new draft would be available this week for discussion at the August Pre-Council meeting.

Unfinished Business

There were no items of new business to discuss.

New Business

a. Discussion: Coal Tar Ordinance.

Ms. Cerminara stated that coal tar is nasty stuff, and she would like to ban it; Mr. Stuncard and Mrs. Pikul agreed. The proposed Ordinance will be added to the August Public Safety and Public Works Committee agendas.

Presentation: Patrick Conners, Executive Director, QVCOG and Jean-Sebastien Valois, President, Board of Directors, QVCOG.

Mr. Conners stated that he is in the process of meeting COG members, and that he will be issuing a monthly report. He noted that Bellevue has received 2 grants through the CDBD 47 award, for blight remediation and a retaining wall. He reported that the pre-application period for CDBG 48 will be open soon. He added that the Borough can take advantage of ArcGIS consulting with Matt Mercurio, as well as the COG's Meeting Owl. Mr. Conners reported that 2 bids were received for the COG-wide solid waste contract. Mr. Valois added that the COG functions as a management arm of the County in respect to grant administration, and they take pride in that work.

Public Contribution on Non-Agenda Items

- Danielle Graham Robinson, on behalf of Representative Emily Kincaid: Shared that she has brochures for residents outlining the services provided by Rep. Kincaid's office.
- Grant Saylor, 146 North Balph Avenue: Complained about being cited for having canopies and umbrellas over his sidewalk tables. Reported that after he removed the canopies, his sales dropped 42%.
- Lisa Saylor, 146 North Balph Avenue: Suggested that Council reconsider the proposed Gathering/Event Ordinance.
- Linda Woshner, 137 South Euclid Avenue: Asked why turnover is so high in DPW; requested that the Borough put more information out through Savvy Citizen; stated that prospective Council members should be attending meetings.
- Moniqueka Barron, 653 Tingley Avenue: Stated that she is uncomfortable at in-person meetings, that she is risking her life to come to the meetings and is not able to hear everything that is said.

Executive Session

- President Pennington noted that Council met in Executive Session immediately prior to the Council meeting to discuss the hiring of 2 DPW laborers, and that action was taken during the meeting to hire them.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Pennington adjourned the meeting at 9:09 pm.

ATTEST


Cindy L. Bahn, Director of Administrative Services/Secretary
Val Pennington, Council President