



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

June 8, 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. Stuncard, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Cerminara, Mrs. Pikul, Mr. DiTullio, and President Pennington. Ms. Hause was absent. A quorum was established. Ms. Sloane arrived at 7:09 pm and Mr. Pritchard at 7:33 pm.

Also in attendance were Mayor Emily Marburger, Junior Councilperson Andrew Beckas, Treasurer Joe Scioscia, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn, Library Director Ellen Goodman, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, Police Chief Matt Sentner, BCO Jeff Wissner, Engineer Bryan Churilla, and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- There was no public contribution at this time.

Changes or Corrections to Minutes

- No changes or corrections were made to the minutes of the May Committee, Pre-Council or Council meetings.

Reports

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

- The Mayor had nothing to add to her 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, or questions asked.

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

- Mr. Wissner had nothing to add to his written report.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Ms. Goodman had nothing to add to her written report.

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

- Mr. Kelly reported that he had procured prices on a steam pressure washer.

Director of Administrative Services Report

- DAS Bahn noted that the Administrative Offices were spending a great deal of time on preparations for the opening of the Memorial Park pool.

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

- Mr. Churilla stated that he had nothing to add to his report.

Joint Planning Commission

- Tom Hrynda had nothing to report.

Northwest EMS Report (written report provided to Council)

- No comments were made.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Report

- Mr. DiTullio had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair Pro Tem

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the June 8, 2021 Bill List.

Moved: Mr. Stuncard

Second: Ms. Edmondson

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

- ## 2. Discussion: South Fremont Street Property.

This topic was held for Executive Session because it involves the potential purchase of real estate by the Borough.

- ### 3. Discussion: Event Permit Application

Ms. Edmondson reported that this was not discussed in the June Finance Committee meeting because she was the only committee member present. The Solicitor noted that he has a simple application that he will forward to Ms. Edmondson. President Pennington asked that the Finance Committee discuss it and bring a solid recommendation to the full Council.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Jeff Stuncard, Chair Pro Tem

- ## 1. Discussion: Soliciting Formal Bids for Exterior Library Repairs

Mr. Kelly stated that he has reached out to several companies to solicit quotes for repairs, but has only received 1 so far. He would like to put out a formal bid.

Motion to authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals to complete exterior library repairs with the same specifications as outlined in the quote received from Carmel Construction Inc.

Moved: President Pennington

Second: Mrs. Pikul

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

- ## 2. Discussion: Summer Concert Series

Ms. Goodman has booked 3 acts, for the third Wednesday of June, July and August. Some members of Council would like to see more concerts, and others would like to take a wait and see approach to attendance at the scheduled event. No change was made at this time.

- ### 3. Discussion: New Library Staff Position

Ms. Goodman reported that she had to lay off a library staff member at the end of last year due to the pandemic. Now that the library is reopening, she needs to replace that staff person, but would like to change the position to a Coordinator of Children's and Youth Services to more accurately reflect usage and staffing needs. She noted that the Borough's Personnel System is outdated, and many of the Library positions described therein no longer are needed or staffed as such. The Solicitor responded

that this will require a change in the Borough Ordinances with a several step process, including public hearings. DAS Bahn stated that the Personnel System requires many changes, including gender-neutral language and the elimination of language that may violate Federal laws. Solicitor Racunas suggested that they be done all at once. DAS Bahn will work on providing a copy of the Personnel System in an editable format.

Public Safety Committee; Anya Pikul, Chair

1. Discussion: New Civil Service Hire; Lieutenant Position
This will be moved for discussion at the July Public Safety Committee meeting.
2. Discussion: Portable Radios
Chief Sentner reported that the Police Department's portable radios are not functioning, and he would like to replace them as it's a safety hazard. Chief Sentner explained that he had budgeted \$30,000 for body cams and new vehicle cameras; he procured a \$10,000 grant to help offset the cost of body cams (\$20,000) and he would postpone the purchase of new vehicle cameras in order to replace the portable radios with remaining funds. In order to spread the approximate \$30,000 cost of new portable radios over several years, he recommends a 3-year Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase. Mrs. Pikul would like to pay for the radios this year in order to avoid interest. This will be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.
3. Discussion: Straw Avenue Permit Parking
The Solicitor stated that changes to Ordinance 93-7 which provides for permit parking on designated streets, would need to be updated and a public hearing held.

Motion to authorize the advertisement, at a cost not to exceed \$250, for a Public Hearing to solicit public comment on changes to the permit parking ordinance to allow for permit parking only on Straw Avenue (01.406.341).

Moved: Mrs. Pikul Second: Ms. Cerminara
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

4. Discussion: 35th Street Name Change
The Solicitor noted that the process involves contacting the County, USPS, EMS and may require an ordinance. A suggestion was made to change it to something more meaningful. President Pennington observed that it's not urgent, and requested that suggestions be given to Ms. Edmondson.
5. Motion to authorize HRG Engineers to survey North Jackson Avenue in the area of the failing retaining wall at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 (01.438.100).

Moved: Mrs. Pikul Second: Mr. Pritchard
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: LED Retrofit for Bellevue
Mr. Kelly reported that part of the sign – the 3 ovals – had been previously updated with LED lights and new plastic covers, but not the larger "Bellevue" portion. He received one quote, for \$2,154.27 with a 7 year parts and labor warranty. This will be moved to the July Council meeting for a vote.
2. Discussion: Streetscape
President Pennington suggested that the DAS continue to research the history of this project.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion: Returning to In-Person Meetings

Mrs. Pikul noted that because of technical difficulties, she would like to return to in-person meetings and Mr. Pritchard agreed. President Pennington stated that there are 3 key issues: 1. Not everyone is vaccinated yet; 2. If the state does not mandate full occupancy for indoor gatherings, how do we determine who can attend; and 3. Virtual meetings have provided more opportunities for people to attend who might not otherwise be able to.

Motion to return to in-person meetings, effective with July Committee meetings and incorporating social distancing and the wearing of masks.

Moved: Mr. Pritchard Second: Mrs. Pikul
Aye: Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Sloane, Ms. Edmondson, Mrs. Pikul, Mr. Pritchard
Nay: Mr. DiTullio, Ms. Cerminara, President Pennington
Motion carried, 5-3.

New Business

- There were no items of new business to discuss.

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

- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Questioned why Council is talking about masks and vaccinations and asked what the concern is. President Pennington responded that not everyone who wants vaccinations can get them, including children and adults with medical issues.

Executive Session

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and a possible real estate purchase at 8:53 pm, and returned to the Council Meeting at 9:08 pm. No legislative action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

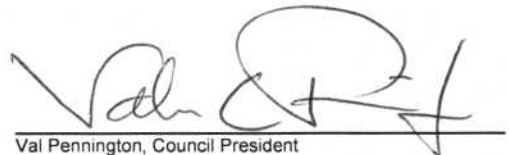
Adjournment

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

ATTEST



Cindy L. Bahn, Director of Administrative Services/Secretary



Val Pennington, Council President

