



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022, 7:00 pm

Municipal Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers

Call to Order

President Cerminara 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 Ms. Sloane, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Miller, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Ms. Slavicek, Ms. Edmondson, and President Cerminara. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Mayor Pennington, Junior Councilperson Andrew Beckas, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn, Financial Services Administrator Andrea Contes, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, Library Director Ellen Goodman, Police Chief Matt Sentner, Treasurer Joe Scioscia, Engineers Bryan Churilla and Dan Barna, and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Shannon Smithey, 153 N. Balph Avenue: Asked that Council install a 4-way stop sign at Forest and N. Balph because of the number of accidents; a next-best alternative would be to paint yellow curbs on the uphill side.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Asked for data regarding the number of vehicles passing through the intersection of N. Balph & Forest Avenues, commented that "people get killed because of stop signs", had questions regarding the hiring of the new library staff member and noted that "employees are a luxury", and commented on the status of Borough infrastructure.

Reports

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

- Mayor Pennington encouraged residents to ask questions of him, and reported that he intends to perform wedding ceremonies as permitted by law.

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

- Mr. Scioscia had nothing to add to his 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)

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

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

- Mr. Kelly had nothing to add to his report.

DAS Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Ms. Bahn had nothing to add to her report.

Engineer's Report

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

Joint Planning Commission

- No questions were asked, or comments made.

Northwest EMS Report (written report provided to Council)

- No comments were made, or questions asked.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Report

- DAS Bahn noted that the COG is beginning a pilot glass recycling program; more details will be forthcoming.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the January 11, 2022, Bill List, as amended to address a minor discrepancy in the Glassmere invoice.

Moved: Ms. Cerminara

Second: Ms. Edmondson

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

2. Discussion: Fee Schedule
This will remain in Committee.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair

1. Discussion: North Boroughs 5K Race, to be Held August 13, 2022, Starting at 8:30 am on a Route Beginning and Ending at Greenstone UM Church in Avalon.
Chief Sentner requested that the organizers ensure they have sufficient volunteers for traffic control of the rolling closures and openings. Several Councilmembers agreed, noting that in the past, people did not move their vehicles, and requested that the organizers communicate with residents; the Chief suggested they go door-to-door. Ms. Bahn will contact the organizers and request that they communicate with residents in advance.
2. Discussion: Ordinance 22-01, Revising the Personnel System to Create a New Library Position and Updating Other Library Positions; Hearing to Precede the February 22, 2022 Council Meeting with a Vote to Adopt at the Meeting.

Ms. Goodman noted that the new hire will return the Library to the same staffing levels as existed prior to the December 31, 2020 layoff of a staff member. The change represents a shifting of positions and change of title.

Public Safety Committee; Amanda Sloane, Chair

1. Discussion: Bellevue Elementary School Safety.
Chief Sentner reported that the Borough has the equipment to do "No Parking" signs, but installation has been delayed because of the snow. President Cerminara suggested better crosswalks, and Mr. Kelly stated that they will be re-painted in the spring.

2. Discussion: 4-Way Stop at Balph and Forest Avenues.
Ms. Sloane expressed appreciation for hearing – pro and con – from residents. Chief Sentner reported that the accident data reflects driver error as the cause. Issues with sight lines, turning requirements for large vehicles such as busses and fire equipment, and requiring large vehicles to stop on a hill, were all discussed. In response to a question, Chief Sentner reported that the Mayor has the authority to order temporary (90 days) changes until Council amends the Ordinance. This will be sent back to Committee for further discussion.
3. Discussion: N. Balph Avenue Bollards & Chains for Safety and to Address Parking Issues.
Chief Sentner reported that the Police Department has been battling the issue and that enforcement hasn't been. He suggested that the bollards and chains will keep cars from parking on the sidewalk in front of the businesses, limit jaywalking, and that this will be incorporated into the Streetscape plans; Lee Costello is interested in using the same bollards and chains alongside Classic Chevrolet. The bollards will be 5 feet apart with a chain in between. Mr. Kelly reported that CEC Engineering has swapped out the planned concrete planter for the bollards and chains that will match the decorative lights along Lincoln Avenue.
4. Discussion: Purchase of a Police Vehicle.
Chief Sentner noted that this is the replacement of an SUV, and that it was included in the 2022 budget. He is trying to replace one vehicle every 2 years. The cost of the vehicle is \$38,946 and upfitting is an additional \$13,023. When asked about mileage, the Chief responded that engine hours are more a factor in whether or not to replace a vehicle; while Bellevue only has 26 miles of streets, the cars are operated 24/7, which puts a lot of wear on the engines. Discussion followed about the practice of leaving vehicles running when not in use, and about the purchase of a hybrid vehicle. Ms. Edmondson stated that she would like to see officers on bike patrols since the Borough already has the bicycles. The vehicle purchase will be added to the February Council agenda for action.
5. Recommendation for Appointment of a Fire Marshal.
Mayor Pennington reported that the previous Fire Marshal took a position in a different municipality, and he recommends that Lt. Jack Davin be appointed; Lt. Davin current serves as a Deputy Fire Marshal, he lives locally, and is usually the person who is called in anyway. In response to comments about the time commitment, Lt. Davin responded that the biggest commitment is continuing education. This will be added to the February Council agenda for action.
6. Appointment of an Emergency Management Coordinator.
Mayor Pennington noted that due to the retirement of Mike Bookser, he plans to appoint Lt. Davin as the EMC, which is within the purview of the Mayor.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Purchase of a Skid Loader.
Mr. Kelly stated that this was included in the 2022 DPW budget, and the current skid loader has reached the end of its useful life. In 2021, DPW spent over \$7,000 to repair the old one, and Mr. Kelly estimates that the next repair will exceed \$15,000. He went on to say that it's a primary piece of equipment used to load salt. The cost is \$59,503 and he recommends a 4-year TELP. If Council approves, he will list the old skid loader on Municibid. This will be on the Council meeting agenda for action.
2. Discussion: 694 North Avenue.
Mr. Kelly reported that the basement sump pump is pumping out onto the roadway, creating a hazardous condition. He recommends that Council permit the homeowner to tap into the Borough's storm sewer. In response to a question regarding the setting of a precedent, Mr. Kelly responded that this is a unique issue involve ground water, not roof drainage. This will be added to the February Council meeting agenda.
3. Discussion: HVAC Preventative Maintenance.

Mr. Kelly noted that he has obtained 2 quotes for a preventative maintenance agreement; each of the Borough's buildings has a different system, so the selected company must have the capacity to deal with all of them. Currently, the Borough is using 4 different HVAC companies for repair and maintenance. This will be added to the February Council meeting agenda for action.

4. Discussion: Borough Building Maintenance Concerns.

Mr. Kelly reported that plaster in the area behind Council Chambers has been falling down; in repairing it, workers discovered that the wall was wet and determined that the mortar joints are deteriorating. He is soliciting quotes to repoint that side of the building. This will be moved to Committee for further consideration.

Unfinished Business

- Streetscape Update: Mr. Kelly state that he has received revised drawings from CEC and these are being reviewed by the Borough engineer. Once reviewed, they will be submitted to Council for review. A discussion about brick streets followed; the brick street inventory completely by the Borough's engineers will be added to the shared drive for Council access.
- Ms. Edmondson asked about the status of Orchard Avenue, and Mr. Kelly replied that he has met with the engineers to discuss who might be tapped to do the repair, but that nothing can be done until spring.
- Mr. McKelvey asked about the status of microphones for Council Chambers and Mr. Kelly responded that he is working on obtaining quotes, as the company he wanted is now out of business.

New Business

- DAS Bahn stated that several positions on Borough Authorities, Boards and Commissions need to be filled. Dameon Holmes has agreed to continue on the Joint Planning Commission; Justin Greenawalt has agreed to serve on the JPC and would fill the seat vacated by Leann Chaney. Chris Driscoll has resigned from the Zoning Hearing Board; Kaitlin Braun is currently an alternate on the ZHB, and is willing to be appointed to the vacant seat. These appointments will be added to the February Council meeting agenda.

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

- Mary Lou Giglio, 694 North Avenue: Stated that the issue with ground water arose when Aqua Guard installed a sump pump, and that she was told by a former Code Enforcement Officer that she could direct the water to the street.
- Shannon Smithy, 153 N. Balph Avenue: Noted that studies show that when intersections are changed from 2-wy to 4-way stop signs, accidents increase by 17%.

Executive Session

- Council did not adjourn to Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

ATTEST



Cindy Bahn, Director of Administrative Services, Secretary



Jodi Cerminara, Council President