



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

April 12, 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 Mr. Hrynda, Ms. Sloane (via Zoom), Mr. Stuncard (via Zoom), Ms. Miller (at 7:12 pm), Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Ms. Slavicek, Ms. Edmondson, and President Cerminara. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Junior Councilperson Andrew Beckas, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn, Library Director Ellen Goodman, Police Chief Matt Sentner, BCO/Zoning Officer Shawn Jacobs, Lt. Mark Ford, Engineers Bryan Churilla (via Zoom) and Dan Barna, and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Spoke in favor of the "Dance for America" program, which was held in Avalon last year. The organizer has requested the use of Memorial Park for this year's event.

Reports

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Pennington noted that his report was delayed, but any questions should be directed to him.

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

- Mr. Scioscia was not in attendance.

Financial Reports (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. Jacobs thanked everyone for their assistance during the emergency demolitions at 571 Forest Avenue. He reported that the walls have been taken down to a safe level, and will be removed completely April 13. President Cerminara thanked Mr. Jacobs for his handling of the event.

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 was not in attendance.

DAS Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Ms. Bahn reported that the 2023 Community Project Funding grant has been submitted.
- She also noted that this week is "Local Government Week" in PA, and spoke about a "Mock Council Meeting" that will be held April 13 with participation by local Girl Scout Troop 53314; the meeting will be followed by a pizza dinner and tours of the Fire and Police Departments.
- The DAS reminded everyone of the Avalon/Bellevue Dumpster Day April 23rd, and the Avalon/Bellevue/Northgate joint blood drive May 5 at the high school.

Engineer's Report

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

Joint Planning Commission (minutes provided to Council)

- Ms. Tulley noted that the JPC is in a holding pattern, and she is onboarding the newest member. The JPC will be meeting with General Code to discuss digitizing ordinances.

Northwest EMS Report (written report provided to Council)

- No report was provided; the DAS will follow up.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Report

- Ms. Miller noted that she was offline and unable to connect.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the April 12, 2022, Bill List
Moved: Ms. Cerminara Second: Ms. Edmondson
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
2. Discussion: Event/Gathering Ordinance
Ms. Cerminara noted that this has been in the works for some time, and the current version was adapted from one the Solicitor prepared for another municipality. Mr. Hrynda asked about a business requesting a street closure for several days, such as Grant Saylor has done, and the Solicitor responded that in the municipality he developed the same ordinance for, it would be handled as one event. In response to a comment from Ms. Slavicek, Mr. Racunas replied that the Borough could make approval of the application contingent upon notification of businesses. Ms. Edmondson stated that this has been discussed for a long time and suggested that Council just vote and move on. Authorization to advertise the Ordinance will be on the April Council meeting agenda.
3. Informational: Distribution of RAD Funds to the QVCOG.
Ms. Bahn explained why the Borough has been invoiced by the QVCOG for \$12,329.36, which represents 25% of the difference between sales tax collected by RAD in 2020 and 2021. Under Act 77, 25% of the difference must go to an organization covered under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, and the QVCOG is the only ICA organization in the area.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jennie Denton, Chair pro tem

1. Discussion: Bayne Park Summer Concert Series
President Cerminara suggested that, in the absence of a solid plan, this go back to the Committee. Ms. Goodman responded that this would not permit much time to engage bands and promote. Several suggestions as to a format were made, including holding 1 or 2 bigger concerts, perhaps in conjunction with a night swim at the pool; and moving concerts to Friday nights to avoid competition with the Avonworth Park concerts. JCP Beckas asked who the target audience is, and suggested that different bands would appeal to different demographics. This will be sent back to Committee.
2. Discussion: Bayne Park WWI Memorial
President Cerminara requested that this be sent back to Committee for recommendations.
3. Discussion: Dowden Memorial, Lincoln Avenue at Sheridan Avenue
President Cerminara asked that this be sent back to Committee for more details.
4. Discussion: Use of Bayne Park by the Salvation Army on September 10, 2022.
President Cerminara noted that Mr. Melfi cannot close off the entire park, as it's a public park. This will be added to the April Council meeting agenda for action.
5. Discussion: Purchase of Pool Lane Markers
This will be added to the April Council meeting agenda for action.

6. Discussion: Gillott Park Light Replacement by BAGAA
In the absence of Mr. Kelly or any additional information, this will be sent back to Committee.
7. Discussion: Resurfacing of the Bayne Park Bocce Court
This will be added to the April Council meeting agenda for action.
8. Discussion: ServiceMaster Quote to Clean the Andrew Bayne Memorial Library
This will be on the April Council meeting agenda for action.
9. Discussion: Bayne Park Retaining Wall
Mr. Churilla reported that the low bid for the wall was \$145,000 but the grant budget was \$75,000. Mr. Barna added that the Borough could think of this as a multi-phase project, which could require renegotiation with the County, or reissuing a request for proposals. This will be on the April Council meeting agenda.

Public Safety Committee; Tom Hrynda, Chair pro tem

1. Discussion: Purchase of Parking Ticket Machines
Chief Sentner noted that the costs of the machines would be offset by proceeds from the movie detail, and that future related costs pay for themselves in revenues from fines. In response to a question, he noted that they come with a 3-year warranty. This will be added to the April Council meeting agenda for action.
2. Discussion: Civil Service Hiring List
DAS Bahn noted that Council needs to formally direct the Civil Service Commission to create a hiring list; this will be done at the April Council meeting.
3. Discussion: Bus Shelter on Lincoln Avenue at South Harrison Avenue
In response to Mr. Hrynda's question, the Chief noted that this location is the convergence of several bus routes. The shelter should still permit ample space for pedestrians to walk. The DAS noted that there may be some opportunity for advertising dollars. This will be on the agenda for the April Council meeting.
4. Discussion: Appointing Lt. Mark Ford Deputy Fire Marshal
This will be an action item on the April Council agenda.
5. Discussion: Requiring Face Masks at Public Meetings
President Cerminara noted that the COVID caseloads are low again, but suggests a standard for requiring them if numbers rise again. Mr. Hrynda believes that it should be a personal preference. Ms. Denton suggested following the County recommendation. JCP Beckas stated that a spring surge is predicted. Ms. Sloane remarked that other metropolitan areas, such as Philadelphia, are reinstating a mask requirement. Mr. Hrynda suggested that this be reviewed at every meeting. This will be added to the April Council meeting agenda for action.
6. Discussion: Purchase of a 2022 Ford Interceptor Hybrid SUV
Chief Sentner noted that an area dealer has one available, and he would like an indication from Council as to whether or not he should tell the dealer that the Borough intends to purchase it. In response to a question, the Chief replied that this was included in his budget. This will be on the agenda for action at the April Council meeting, and the Chief will ask the dealer to hold the vehicle for us.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Borough Building Exterior Brick Repair
Mr. Kelly received several quotes, and the lowest one was for \$14,650. This will be on the agenda for action at the April Council meeting.
2. Discussion: Authorization to see Equipment from the Code Enforcement Car on MunicBid.
Mr. Kelly was directed to move forward with the sale.

3. Discussion: Authorization to Sell Unused Radiators from the Borough Building
Mr. Kelly was directed to move forward with the sale.
4. Discussion: Purchase of Winter Equipment Coating
The coating is used to protect winter equipment that is exposed to rock salt to prevent rust and extend the life of the equipment. This will be on the agenda for the April Council meeting.
5. Discussion: Dakota Townhouses
The lowest bid submitted for this project was \$69,000, and the grant proposal budget was just over \$50,000. DAS Bahn noted that the sale of the skid steer loader netted more than \$18,000 when it was sold on MunciBid, so the difference can be made up from the proceeds of the sale of the skid steer loader. Acceptance of the lowest responsible bid will be on the agenda for the April Council meeting.
6. Motion to Approve the Purchase of 50 American Flags and 20 Pole Sets for Lincoln Avenue from The Flag Store at a Cost of \$1,757.38 (01.730.430)
Motion: Ms. Edmondson Second: Ms. Denton

Discussion: Mr. McKelvey stated that he has a problem voting on items at Pre-Council meetings. Mayor Pennington responded that this was uncontroversial, and that there have been votes on agenda items at Pre-Council meetings in the past. Mr. Hrynda pointed out that the DAS has the ability to spend up to a specified limit without authorization, and suggested that the limit be increased.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passes 8-0 (Ms. Miller stepped out of the meeting)

Unfinished Business

1. Streetscape Update: Mr. Churilla noted that CEC is working on the bid, and expects it to be complete by 04.15.2022. The QVCOG will then advertise.
2. Appointments to the Shade Tree Commission: DAS Bahn reported that 1 application has been received and requested that Council solicit candidates from interested Bellevue residents

New Business

1. Dumpster Day: DAS Bahn reminded everyone of the Avalon/Bellevue Dumpster Day, April 23, 2022.
2. She also reported that "Improve the Vue" will happen the same day; volunteers will be cleaning up along Lincoln Avenue.

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

- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Street: Spoke in favor of the "Dance Across America" program proposed to be held in Memorial Park.
- Jennifer Koch, 540 Highland Place: Asked that the Short Term Rental Ordinance, #18-05, be re-evaluated as it strains parking, and short-term rentals depress home values.
- Catherine Tulley, 538 Highland Place: Stated that short-term rental owners are not following the variance they were granted.

Executive Session

- Council did not adjourn to Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy Bahn, Director of Administrative Services, Secretary



Joeli Cerminara, Council President