



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

May 10, 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, Ms. Miller, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Denton, Mr. McKelvey, Mr. Hyrnda, Ms. Slavicek, Mr. Stuncard, and President Cerminara. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Mayor Val Pennington, Junior Councilperson Andrew Beckas, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn, BCO/Zoning Officer Shawn Jacobs, 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

- Bethany DiLucente and Angela Rodarte, Location Managers, "Untitled Jackson Project": Netflix is filming a movie at AHN 4 days this summer, 2 days each in June and August. Ms. DiLucente and Ms. Rodarte came to introduce themselves, discuss the project, and their plans for traffic control, etc. They provided a one-page handout about the project.

Reports

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Pennington noted that that he had nothing to add to his written report, and added that he performed a wedding May 9.

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

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

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 had nothing to add to his written report.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Ms. Goodman was not in attendance.

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

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

DAS Report

- Ms. Bahn had nothing to add.

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 met April 25, 2022. Bellevue appointees to the JPC will rotate attendance at Pre-Council meetings. A draft of an updated JPC Ordinance incorporating 5G cell tower language will be circulated. The JPC is working to transition documents to eCode 360, and would like to have a public website. She noted that Avalon is working on their own SALDO, and requested that the JPC be copied on any conditional use applications. Ms. Tulley asked for a status update on the former Post Office building.

Northwest EMS Report (written report provided to Council)

- No representative was in attendance.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Report

- Ms. Miller reported that she has no update, but would like Bellevue to be considered for the 2nd permanent glass recycling site, stating that the cost is not high compared to other things the Borough spends money on.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the May 10, 2022, Bill List.
Moved: Ms. Cerminara Second: Ms. Sloane
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
2. Discussion: Spending Limits.
Ms. Cerminara noted that under current practice, the DAS and Department Heads have discretion to spend up to \$1,000 without prior Council approval, but this sometimes hampers staff when occasional emergencies arise. She proposes increasing the limit to \$1,500. Ms. Miller asked for specific examples from Chief Sentner, and he responded that tire replacement was one example. Mr. Kelly noted that the winter equipment coating was another example, or vehicle repairs that cannot wait for a Council meeting. Mr. Stuncard noted that the downtime alone justifies the increase. This will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.
3. Discussion: Recording Meetings.
President Cerminara noted that the Borough could do this but is not required to; a Bellevue Ordinance requires that recordings be destroyed once the minutes of that meeting are adopted. Several Council members expressed support for the recordings, and suggested adding subtitles, which led to discussion about capacity, both staff time and storage. President Pennington stated that people could record on their end and the Solicitor noted that recording is not required, and most municipalities do not even retain audio recordings. He added that keeping recordings for a month pending the adoption of minutes puts pressure on the Secretary. A motion to record meetings and upload to a YouTube channel until the corresponding minutes are adopted will be added to the May Council agenda.
4. Discussion: August 6, 2022, Closure of Lincoln Avenue from Florence to Balph Hours During the Hours of 4 pm to 10 pm for a Brewery Crawl.
Ms. Miller reported that the event is sponsored by Bona Fide Bellevue and will highlight local breweries and musicians. Chief Sentner asked if the issue of underage drinking will be addressed, and Ms. Miller responded that the breweries will be paired with a local business, and that attendees must sign a waiver at the beginning, where IDs will be checked, and wristbands provided. Tickets will be sold for \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. This will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.
5. Discussion: September 10, 2022, Closure of Lincoln Avenue from Florence to Balph Avenues From 4 pm to 10 pm for an Art & Wine Crawl.
Ms. Miller noted that this is the 8th year for this event, which will feature an Artists Market and wine tastings. Chief Sentner will notify the Port Authority so buses can be re-routed. This will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.

6. Discussion: Mayor Pennington's Program at Bellevue Elementary School.
Mayor Pennington would like Council approval to spend up to \$250 to begin a "Mini Mayor" program for about 20 children in grades 3-6 at Bellevue Elementary. Students will write essays and engage in activities to help them learn about local government. The funding will be used to purchase nameplates. This will be added to the May Council agenda for action.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair

1. Discussion: Bayne Park Summer Concert Series.
Several people have provided contact information for bands to Ms. Goodman. Mr. Stuncard noted that planning for this event has become difficult for Ms. Goodman and recommended that it be taken off her plate in future years.
 2. Discussion: Flying the Pride Flag During the Month of June.
Mr. Stuncard noted that this item is on the agenda as a heads up, and it will be on the May Council agenda for action.
 3. Discussion: Summer Lifeguards.
DAS Bahn reported that despite extensive advertising, the Borough does not have sufficient lifeguards to open the pool. This is a problem nationally as well as locally and is reflected in reduced hours or days of operation. Several options were discussed, including a sign-on bonus, paying for certification, and providing a bonus for guards who commit and stay for the season. This could be done on a prorated basis, because some guards are in college and return to school before Labor Day, the traditional end of the season. Mr. Kelly suggested a \$100 bonus for guards who remain until August 1, \$250 for guards who remain until August 15, and \$500 for guards who remain until the pool closes. A motion to offer up to \$500 as an incentive for lifeguards to work for the Borough will be on the May Council meeting agenda for consideration.
 4. Discussion: Dowden Memorial, Lincoln Avenue at Sheridan Avenue.
Mr. Stuncard asked Ms. Miller if she had reached out to the family, and Ms. Miller responded that she has contact information for the mother and sister so far. This will be sent back to Committee for further discussion.
 5. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement Requesting Bids to Repair the Exterior of the Bayne Memorial Library at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250. (01.406.341)
Moved: Mr. Stuncard Second: Mr. McKelvey
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
 6. Motion to Authorized an Expenditure of Up to \$150 for Recognize Vietnam Veterans at the 2022 Memorial Day Observance at Bayne Memorial Park. (01.451.268)
Moved: Mr. Stuncard Second: Ms. Slavicek
- Mr. Hrynda asked about 4th of July events, and DAS Bahn responded that the Borough has contributed to the cost of July 3rd Community Day fireworks, and plans to offer free admission to the pool on July 4th.
 - President Pennington asked about the plaque on the pool building, and Mr. Kelly responded that it was removed in order to scrape and paint the building.

Public Safety Committee; Amanda Sloane, Chair

1. **Discussion: Face Masks at Public Meetings.**
Ms. Sloane suggested that the Borough adopt a threshold for requiring masks, in light of the recent school closures and increasing rates of Covid-19. Suggestions to use the County's "medium" and "high" rates of transmission were suggested. A motion to require masks at public meetings when Allegheny County's transmission status reaches the "high" level will be added to the May Council agenda for action.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Paying for Videoing of Sewer Lines When Trunk Lines are Not at Issue.
Mr. Kelly reported that the Borough spends nearly \$4,000 each time we call out the truck to video sewer lines, even if the Borough's trunk lines prove not to be the cause of residents' sewer issues. The Solicitor suggested handling this on a case-by-case basis.
2. Discussion: Orchard Paving
Mr. Kelly has obtained 4 different estimates, ranging from \$25,000 to \$85,000 depending on how much is paved and the paving material (brick vs. asphalt). Ms. Edmondson suggested that people will drive faster if it's paved with asphalt. Chief Sentner suggested raised crosswalks or other PennDOT-recommended traffic calming measures. While several Council members expressed a desire to maintain the brick surface, Mr. Kelly stated that bricks are becoming hard to find, and when they can be purchased, cost about \$8.00 each. An informal poll suggested that most Council members are in favor of paving with asphalt. Mr. Kelly will have more information for the May Council meeting.
3. Discussion: VPRP Application for N. Bryant Avenue
Ms. Denton noted that the applicant has done good work in the Borough, and is not simply acquiring properties to flip them. This will be on the May Council meeting agenda for action. 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.
4. Discussion: Demolition of 255 Tingley Avenue and Dakota Townhouses; Possible Evacuation of Neighbors.
A suggestion was put forth to house impacted neighbors on these 2 "party wall" demolitions; Mr. Churilla noted that he is not recommending this, but it could be an optional courtesy.
Ms. Sloane said that none of the work would be done while people were sleeping, and that this would be going down a slippery slope. Mr. Jacobs stated that demolition near the party wall would be done by hand.
5. Motion to Authorize the Purchase of 375' of Safety Green Film for the Production of Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs from Custom Products Corporation at a Cost of \$1,689.00. (01.433.249)
Moved: Ms. Edmondson Second: Ms. Slavicek
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0

Unfinished Business

1. Code of Conduct: Ms. Slavicek noted that §8, Conflict of Interest, could impact her as a member of the VFD, and Ms. Denton suggested revising it to exclude volunteers. The Solicitor suggested having the language mirror that of the PA Ethics Code. This will be added to the June Pre-Council meeting agenda for discussion, and Council members are asked to read the document and provide concerns to Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Sloane, Ms. Denton and the Solicitor. 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 3 applications have been received; this will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.

New Business

- There were no items of new business to discuss.

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

- Jon Miller, 89 Sumner Avenue: Commented on the May Committee meetings and the behavior of several Council members.
- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Suggested that an ethics code is unnecessary, and that Council should read Roberts Rules of Order; recommended paving with asphalt on Orchard.
- Dan McKelvey, 640 Orchard Avenue: Wants to see all Council members treated with respect.
- Moniqueka Barron, 653 Tingley Avenue: Stated that she is disappointed and that Council weaponized the police and ought to be ashamed.

- Sabreena Miller, 89 Sumner Avenue: Stated that last Tuesday was unacceptable, and that Ms. Sloane, President Cerminara and Mayor Pennington should be ashamed of themselves.

Executive Session

- Council did not adjourn to Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy Bahn, Director of Administrative Services, Secretary



Jodi Cerminara, Council President

