



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

October 11, 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, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton (via Zoom), Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Miller, Mr. Stuncard, and President Cerminara. Ms. Slavicek was absent. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Mayor Val Pennington, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn, BCO/Zoning Officer Shawn Jacobs, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, Library Director Ellen Goodman, Police Chief Matt Sentner, Lt. Firefighter Jack Davin, Lt. Firefighter Mark Ford, Engineers Rob Arnold and Dan Barna, Treasurer Joe Scioscia, and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- There was no public comment at this time.

Reports

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

- Mayor Pennington had nothing to add to his report.

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.

DAS Report

- Ms. Bahn reported that she participated in the Police Department contract negotiations.
- She met with Mr. Kelly, Ms. Contes, and representatives from Avalon to discuss potential shared pool services.
- Ms. Bahn and Lt. Davin continue to meet with representatives from FEMA and PEMA to secure a grant reimbursing the Borough for Covid-related expenses.
- The Borough is hosting a flu shot clinic on October 27, but no details are available yet.
- Work on the 2023 budget is ongoing.

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 had nothing to add to his written report.

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

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

Fire Department, Columbia Hose Hook & Ladder

- The Fire Department had nothing to add to their report.
- Columbia Hose Hook & Ladder did not provide a report.

Police Chief Report

- Chief Sentner reported that the hiring process is proceeding with 2 remaining candidates; he expects to have a report for the October Council meeting.

Northwest EMS Report

- No representative was in attendance; Ms. Bahn noted that she received a written report today and it is available on the Council shared drive.

Engineer's Report

- Mr. Arnold and Mr. Barna had nothing to add to their written report.

Joint Planning Commission

- No representative was present.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Report (Executive Director's written report provided to Council)

- Mr. McKelvey reported that CDBG 49 applications are being reviewed.
- The Michel Brothers facility in Reserve Township is accepting yard waste Tuesdays through Fridays from 7 am to 4:30 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm.
- He noted that Ms. Miller attended the QVCOG annual dinner.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the October 11, 2022, Bill List.

Moved: Ms. Cerminara

Second: Ms. Edmondson

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

- ## 2. Discussion: Legal Advertising.

DAS Bahn noted that the Post-Gazette strike is continuing, and publication is irregular. She provided costs from Borough advertisements in other outlets. The QVCOG is spearheading a multi-municipal effort addressing municipal legal advertising. HB 955, addressing alternatives for legal advertising, has been stuck in the Local Government Committee since March 17, 2021. Council members are advised to reach out to Jerry Knowles, the Republican Committee Chair and Robert Freeman, the Democratic Committee Chair to urge them to move this bill out of Committee.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair

- ## 1. Discussion: Halloween Events in the Borough.

Trick or Treat will be held October 31 from 6-8 pm. The Halloween Parade and subsequent events in Bayne Park are being spearheaded by Tamra Kirk from 202 Tacos; she would welcome additional volunteers to assist with parade registration and children's activities in the park post-parade. The Borough will again purchase small pumpkins for children to decorate and take home. Information will be shared via Savvy Citizen.

- ## 2. Discussion: Barrier at the Retaining Wall in Gillott Park.

Mr. Kelly was informed by the BCO that a barrier is required atop the retaining walls that exceed 3 feet for safety purposes. DPW is in the process of installing small boxwood shrubs to provide such a barrier.

- ### 3. Discussion: Dek Hockey Rink

Mr. Kelly reported that discussions with Team Pittsburgh Dek Hockey are going well; he has Pine Richland's agreement to serve as a template for the Borough's agreement with Team Pittsburgh, and will have it reviewed by the DAS and Solicitor.

Public Safety Committee; Amanda Sloane, Chair

1. Discussion: Code Enforcement Officer
President Cerminara requested that this item be moved to Executive Session.
2. Discussion: Truck Traffic on Borough Side Street.
Chief Sentner noted that this is an issue primarily with car carriers on Union Avenue, and a couple of other streets. He reviewed ordinances from other municipalities, and recommends that the Borough adopt an ordinance that creates a route for heavy trucks (by class, not weight) and names streets where heavy trucks are prohibited. This information would be communicated to Google and other GPS providers. The proposed Ordinance would prohibit trucks Class 7 and above (18 wheelers are Class 8 and above; Bellevue's plow trucks are Class 5 and 6). An exception would be made for delivery and moving trucks. This will be returned to the Committee for further consideration.
3. Discussion: Fire Department Intern.
Lt. Ford provided a "Draft Program Guide" related to the intern program; the Guide will be forwarded to the Solicitor for review and will be added to the October Council meeting agenda for action.
4. Motion to Close Hawley Avenue from Lincoln Avenue to Citizen Way on October 22, 2022 from 10 am to 7pm for a Fundraising Event to Benefit the Saylor Family.
Moved: Ms. Sloane Second: Mr. Hrynda
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Purchase of a Traffic Advisory Board
Mr. Kelly saw this board at the recent Public Works Conference he attended. It's portable and can be mounted on the back of a pickup truck or on a stand. The board can be programmed with up tot 3 lines of messaging, and could be used to direct traffic when there are accidents, or to promote events. He proposes purchasing out of the DPW Capital line item. Chief Sentner added that a device to monitor speed can be added, and suggested that the cost be shared between DPW and the Police Department. Mr. Kelly believes that this will provide additional safety for public works staff, rather than the orange cones that are currently used. This will be added to the October Council agenda for action.
2. Discussion: 2023 Paving Program.
Columbia Gas approached Mr. Kelly regarding 2023 paving; if the Borough can provide a bid prior to the end of this year, Columbia Gas would pre-pay the Borough for their share of paving costs in 2023. Mr. Arnold has prepared a proposal to prepare bid documents. This will be added to the Council meeting agenda for action.
3. Motion to Ratify the 6-0 Online Vote to Authorize Emergency Sewer Repairs on Kendall Avenue.
Moved: Ms. Edmondson Second: Mr. McKelvey
Motion carried, 7-0; Ms. Miller abstained because she did not feel she had enough information to vote on the matter.

Unfinished Business

- Mr. McKelvey noted that he spoke to the Finance Committee about recouping the costs of the emergency demolition on Forest Avenue. The Solicitor is conducting an asset search and reported that the owners have offered the property to the Borough, perhaps to be used as a park.]
- Mr. McKelvey asked about the status of the Police body cameras, and Chief Sentner responded that they are fully operational and training has been completed.
- Ms. Miller noted that there is a tripping hazard in front of the Rusty Nail, and Mr. Kelly replied that it's been patched and DPW will monitor.
- She also asked about the Borough's brick streets and suggested that 5 worth preserving be identified as "historic" and make them assets. President Cerminara asked that this be addressed in the Public Works Committee, and Mr. Kelly noted that there will be issues on brick streets where large trucks and buses travel.

- Ms. Miller reported that she has spoken to the victim's mother about the memorial honoring Ms. Dowden, and that the plans are for a bench and educational materials. She is meeting with Mr. Stuncard and Ms. Denton for further consideration.

New Business

- Ms. Sloane questioned Mr. Kelly about the Orchard Avenue work, and Mr. Kelly responded that it should be completed in 2 weeks. Accessibility is being provided via ramping for emergency vehicle access, and residents can park on Virginia Avenue. Chief Sentner said he will post the detour.
- In response to Ms. Miller's question about the Junior Councilperson still serving, Ms. Bahn replied that he is.
- The DAS will distribute the budget calendar.

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

- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Reported that he was contacted by the realtor for the Knights of Columbus building and recommended that the Borough purchase the property because it adjoins the Park..

Executive Session

- Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:07 pm to discuss a personnel matter, and returned to the meeting at 9:03 pm. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy Bahn, Director of Administrative Services, Secretary



Jodi Cerminara, Council President

