



2nd Floor Council Chambers

- a. Motion to Ratify the Email Vote of March 16, 2023 to Authorize the Andrew Bayne Memorial Library to Purchase StoryWalk Frames from Barking Dog StoryWalk Solutions at a Cost of \$4,334.00, to be 100% Grant Reimbursed. Email motion made by President Cerminara, seconded by Ms. Denton; Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Sloane, President Cerminara, Ms. Denton, and Mr. Stuncard voted "Aye", there were no "Nay" votes or abstentions. Motion carried 5-0-0).
- Moved: Ms. Denton Second: Ms. Edmondson
- All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- b. Discussion: Lifeguard Incentives.
- DAS Bahn stated that the incentives that were offered last year were successful in retaining lifeguards; 6 guards came back for the last weekend so that the pool could be open for Labor Day weekend. Two of those 6 came back from college to work that weekend. The borough paid for Red Cross Lifeguard Certification for 6 guards, 4 of whom have indicated that they would like to return this summer. The total cost of the incentives was \$3,700 in 2022. Ms. Bahn recommends that the Borough offer the same incentives again this year.

c. Discussion: Bayne Park Amenities.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has discussed the installation of a splash pad and/or a basketball court. Mr. Kelly reported that the Borough will be applying for a grant to install bathroom facilities at Bayne Park; the structure would also include an enclosure for the dumpster and would be in a style compatible with the architecture of the Library. There will be a Resolution to accompany the grant application for approval at the April Pre-Council meeting so that the application can be submitted by the deadline.

Public Safety Committee:

a. Motion to Permit the Closure of Lincoln Avenue from Jackson Avenue to Balph Avenue and Hawley Avenue from Lincoln Avenue to Citizen Way from 3-10 pm on August 19, 2023, for the "Rhythm and Brews" event.

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. Hrynda

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

b. Motion to Approve the Payment of \$2,298.57 to Scarlett Transportation for Repairs to the Borough's Engine Truck. (01.411.251).700)

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. Hrynda

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

c. Motion to Extend an Offer of Employment to Mark Mikulan as a Part-Time Firefighter in the Borough of Bellevue Fire Department.

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. Hrynda

Discussion: Ms. Miller referenced an email sent by CHHL Fire Chief Glenn Pritchard just before the start of the meeting. President Cerminara stated that she reviewed the email, and that the Borough needs an additional part-time firefighter. Lt. Ford noted that Mr. Mikulan lives in the Borough and is familiar with Borough streets. The Solicitor weighed in on the procedure, noting that this may not be the only way to hire a part-timer, and that the Borough has demonstrated a need.

Motion to rescind the Motion to Extend an Offer of Employment to Mark Mikulan, pending a discussion at Executive Session.

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. Hrynda

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

d. Discussion: Upcoming Zoning Hearing Board Hearings.

Mr. Jacobs reported that there are 3 hearings scheduled for 6pm: 33 Greenough Avenue, Short Term Rental; 120 S. Bryant Avenue, Short Term Rental; 64 N. Jackson Avenue, Garage. He stated his opinion that the 2 properties proposed for use as a short-term rental do not have the required number of parking spaces available, adding that the Borough requires 2 spaces per unit of off-street parking. The Solicitor noted that the Borough can intervene as a party to the proceedings. President Cerminara stated that they are both in Ward 1. Ms. Denton remarked that LLCs purchase properties, the owners do not live in the Borough, and they create parking issues. Mr. Racunas notes that the Borough could intervene, and he would argue that the 5 requirements for a variance do not exist.

e. Report, Future of Fire Committee.

The Committee, comprised of Council members Jodi Cerminara, Jennie Denton, Tom Hrynda, and Chair Amanda Sloane, has been meeting since July of 2022. Ms. Sloane read the Committee's report with its findings, and recommends that Council vote to decertify Columbia Hose, Hook & Ladder for the reasons stated in the report, which will be posted to the Borough's website.

Motion to Amend the Agenda to Include a Motion to Decertify Columbia Hose, Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 of Bellevue, Effective Immediately, and Appoint Lt. Bill Hartman as Acting Fire Chief.

Moved: Mr. Hrynda

Second: Ms. Edmondson

Public Contribution:

- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Objected to the motion.
- Glenn Pritchard, 545 Forest Avenue: Agreed with Mr. Scioscia.

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

Motion to Decertify Columbia Hose, Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 of Bellevue, Effective Immediately, and Appoint Lt. Bill Hartman as Acting Fire Chief.

Moved: Mr. Hrynda

Second: Ms. Edmondson

Public Contribution:

- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Asked what the cost would be to bring in PBF.
- Glenn Pritchard, 545 Forest Avenue: Stated that it was shady to do this without the knowledge of the volunteers, and that the planned merger of volunteer departments is a good thing.
- Jack Davin, 460 Teece Avenue: Thanked Council and noted that he has 31 years as a career firefighter and is a life member of Columbia Hose and has been bullied by Chief Pritchard.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Stated that she was completely stunned and that this is malfeasance.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Stated that the Borough doesn't appreciate the volunteers and that "this is insane".
- Zach Cummings, Columbia Hose, Hook & Ladder: Reported that he has asked to meet to try to fix things, and that he was the one who provided the reports requested by Council after years of Council not receiving them.
- Jenn Slavicek, Columbia Hose, Hook & Ladder: Stated that this is the reason she resigned from Council; recognizes that there are problems with the volunteer department, but they are here for the residents.

Council Discussion: Ms. Sloane noted that this Council has inherited a lot of these issues, and that the Borough should have a professional department, the same as the police department. Added that the decision to recommend decertification did not come lightly. Mr. McKelvey asked why this was kept under wraps. Ms. Denton stated that this was obviously a very serious decision and didn't want to make a recommendation until the Committee was certain of what the recommendation would be. Mr. McKelvey wanted more time to digest the Committee's report. Ms. Miller felt that she was blindsided and that this was a "stunt". Ms. Sloane reported that many of the issues raised in the report were going on since before she became a Council member. She added that nothing will change in terms of fire response – the career firefighters will continue to respond with mutual aid, and with automatic aid from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire for structure fires. Mayor Pennington noted that talk of the last minute decision from CHHL is ironic because funding requests from CHHL have always been last minute; added that he dealt with the same issues outlined in the report when he was on the Public Safety Committee as a Council member. President Cerminara pointed out that Council is charged with making decisions that benefit residents, even if those decisions are not popular. Ms. Sloane reported that Council was blind sided by the reports of the merger with Ben Avon. Ms. Denton stated that these issues have been "powder kegs" for decades, going back to before the first independent review was completed in 2002. Mr. Hrynda added that he has been in the middle of this for a long time, and he is tired of the "BS".

Aye: Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Hrynda, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Denton, Ms. Sloane, President Cerminara.

Nay: Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Miller

Motion carried 6-2 with no abstentions.

Public Works Committee:

- Ms. Denton asked if there is an update on regionalization, and the DAS responded in the negative.
- Mr. McKelvey asked what would happen if someone hit the Borough's new mobile lighted sign, and Mr. Kelly responded that the Borough's insurance would cover the damage if the driver's carrier did not or if the motorist was uninsured. He added that he is impressed by the data from the sign and the sign itself.
- Mr. McKelvey asked about the status of paving with WVWA, and Mr. Kelly responded that there is no real answer.

Unfinished Business

- Ms. Miller asked about the status of the Dowden Memorial and Ms. Denton responded that that a design is in progress.
- Ms. Miller noted that the QVCOG is working on a plastic bag ban Ordinance for members; she also noted that the COG is working on a grant to reconnect communities impacted by the construction of SR 65, and holding discussions about railroad safety, the frequent electric outages, and an Emergency Management Coordinator cohort group.

New Business

- a. Both candidates for the vacant Ward 1 Council seat, Sean McAfee and Matt Roberson, addressed Council, outlining their interest in serving on Council and their qualifications to do so.

Motion to Appoint Sean McAfee to the Vacant Ward 1 Council Seat for a Term to Expire December 31, 2023.

Moved: Mr. McKelvey

Second: Ms. Edmondson

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

Public Contribution on Non-Agenda Items

- Lindsay McBreen, Avalon: Works as a nurse at a geriatric center and notes that residents were relying on transportation provided through the YMCA now feel isolated.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Asked if Council would be having an Executive Session, and Mr. Racunas responded that they would be, to discuss a personnel item. She then asked about the Bellevue Post Office, and President Cerminara responded that this is not in the Borough's purview as it relates to a federal agency.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Stated that she is familiar with an organization that delivers boxes to senior residents and suggested that Ms. McBreen reach out to the Salvation Army.

Executive Session

- Council moved into Executive Session at 9:22 pm and returned to the regular meeting at 9:38.

Motion to Extend an Offer of Employment to Mark Mikulan as a Part-Time Firefighter in the Borough of Bellevue Fire Department.

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. Hrynda

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 9:40 pm.

ATTEST


Cindy L. Bahn, Secretary


Jodi Cerminara, Council President