



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023 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. Denton, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Miller, Ms. Sloane, Mr. Hrynda, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. McKelvey, and President Cerminara. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Mayor Pennington, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn, Library Director Ellen Goodman, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, Code Enforcement Officer/EMC Jack Davin, Firefighter Lt. Mark Ford, Police Sgt. Matt Sentner, Treasurer Joe Scioscia, Engineers Rob Arnold and Dan Barna, and Solicitor Rick Monte (for Matt Racunas).

Recognizing Officers James Dold and Michael Blair

Mayor Pennington read a Commendation recognizing officers Blair and Dold for their quick action and efforts to resuscitate former Council member Grant Saylor; Mr. Saylor's wife, Lisa also thanked the officers for their lifesaving actions.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- There was no public contribution at this time.

Reports

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

- Mayor Pennington had nothing to add.

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 announced that Bellevue was again recognized as a "Banner Community". She also participated in a Regionalization meeting with the Borough's engineers and Alcosan, and attended Representative Kinkad's Open House.
- She and Ms. Contes met with the Executive Director of DCED's Governor's Center for Local Government to discuss the Borough's needs and how the Governor's Center can be of assistance.
- Ms. Bahn noted that there will again be an ACHD Overdose Prevention Pop-up Event at The Center of Bellevue on Wednesday May 17 from noon to 4 pm. reported that she is working with the Civil Service Commission on firefighter testing, and getting Mr. Davin settled in as the new Code Enforcement Officer.

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 at this time.

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

- Mr. Jacobs reported that he had an item for discussion under New Business.

Fire Department, Columbia Hose Hook & Ladder

- Lt. Ford reported that he had nothing to add to the Fire Department's written report.
- Chief Pritchard stated that he does not have compete data.

Police Chief Report

- Chief Sentner noted that he had nothing to add to his written report.

Northwest EMS Report

- No representative was in attendance.

Engineer's Report

- Mr. Arnold and Mr. Barna had nothing to add to their written report, but have items to discuss on the agenda.

Joint Planning Commission

- No representative was present.

Shade Tree Committee

- No representative was present.

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

- Mr. McKelvey noted that the Board will be meeting 02.15 and that glass recycling is again being discussed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the February 14, 2023, Bill List.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Sloane
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
2. Motion to Accept the Resignation of Councilperson Jennifer Slavicek.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Sloane
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
3. Information Sharing: Tri-COG Land Bank
President Cerminara reported on the presentation by An Lewis, Executive Director of the Tri-COG Land Bank. She noted that the Land Bank is a blight remediation tool, one of several that can be used to address issues related to vacant and tax-delinquent properties. The Finance Committee will continue to explore this program over the next few months.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair

1. North Hills Community Outreach 5K Run/Walk, August 12, 2023.
Erin Gratner read prepared comments on behalf of NHCO and the Northgate Cross Country Boosters. She noted that this is the main fundraiser for the Boosters, and the funds raised through this event are shared evenly with NHCO. Last year, 200 people participated and ranged in age from 6 – 74; the event raised nearly \$8,000. They are requesting a full closure of the route, which is the same route as was used last year. This will be an action item on the February Council Meeting agenda.
2. Information Sharing: Potential Seed Bank at the Bayne Library.
This was referred back to Committee for further discussion.

3. Information Sharing: Spotted Lanternfly Traps – Possible Workshop at Bayne Library.
Mr. Stuncard noted that Bellevue is a hot spot for these invasive insects, and he expects that the situation will get worse. The Library could host workshops including Scouts, the Shade Tree Committee and other local organizations. This was referred back to Committee for further consideration.
4. Information Sharing: Summer Music Concert(s); Mark Helbling has Offered Assistance.
The concerts over the previous couple of years, following the close of the Farmers Market, have not been well attended. Mr. Helbling has suggested a Saturday event, and the suggestion has been made to include food trucks, which Ms. Sloane noted need to be booked now. President Cerminara referred this back to Committee for a more detailed framework for the event.
5. Discussion: Agreement with Team Pittsburgh Dek Hockey.
Mr. Kelly spoke of this meetings with Team Pittsburgh regarding their management and operation of Bellevue's Dek Hockey rink. He noted that the potential agreement was based on that used by Richland, with tweaking by himself and the DAS, and review by the Solicitor. Team Pittsburgh will operate from March through December, and will handle all maintenance. This will be added to the February Council meeting agenda for action.
6. Discussion: Park Amenities – Basketball Court, Spray Pad.
Mr. Stuncard reported that the Committee considered the possibility of a full or half-size basketball court at either Bayne or Gillott Park. Mr. Kelly stated that Bayne Park does not have space for both a basketball court and a spray pad. President Cerminara questioned whether one could be installed in Bayne Park and the other in Gillott, and Mr. Kelly responded that a half-size court could be installed at Gillott Park but wondered about security issues in light of comments that have been made about the security issues that seemed to happen with previous courts. Mayor Pennington asked what those security issues were, and Mr. Kelly responded that there are no cameras at Gillott Park, and he has spoken to the Police Chief about the possibility of installing one there. Mayor Pennington asked about the status of the practice field at Gillott, and both Mr. Kelly and President Cerminara replied that it's not used much. This will be referred back to Committee.

Public Safety Committee; Amanda Sloane, Chair

1. Discussion: Outfitting the Borough's Engine with Rescue Equipment.
Lt. Ford reported that he does not yet have updated quotes but there is mainly one source for this equipment. Ms. Sloane asked about the urgency of doing this, and Lt. Ford responded that action should be taken ASAP because of production times. President Cerminara noted that this was discussed at budget workshops, and as long as Lt. Ford is able to obtain 3 quotes, Council can take action on this at the February meeting.
2. Discussion: Proposed Fire Escape Ordinance.
Mr. Davin explained that a fire escape is required for structures with 3 or more living units so that there is more than 1 means of egress in the event of a fire; he stated that the Fire Code requires a secondary means of egress to avoid injury or death. He noted that the Borough cannot require one as the Code currently reads. Lt. Ford remarked that property owners have an option to install a sprinkler system instead. Council would need to approve the Ordinance before it's sent to PA Labor & Industry for their approval, and then it can be implemented. This was referred back to Committee.
3. Discussion: Closing Hawley Avenue from Lincoln to Citizen Way from 10 am to 11 pm on June 10, July 15, and October 7 for Lincoln Avenue Brewery Events.
Chief Sentner stated that this is the same as in previous years. This item will be added to the February Council meeting agenda for action.
4. Discussion: Purchase of New Parking Meter Heads.
Chief Sentner clarified that new housing is not needed, just the "innards". With the addition of 4 parking spaces in Citizen Way, and the non-functioning meters, he proposes to purchase 12 at a total cost of \$2604.00 plus shipping. This will be on the Council Meeting agenda for action.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Alcosan Regionalization – Transfer of Sewer Lines.
Mr. Arnold stated that the Borough needs to adopt a non-binding resolution if it plans to move forward with transfer of the nearly 3 miles of trunk lines. He noted that the Borough's Consent Order ties in with Alcosan's Wet Weather Consent Order. Adoption of the ordinance allows Alcosan to move forward with their due diligence. This will be added to the February Council meeting agenda.
2. Discussion: Electric Vehicle Charging.
Mr. Kelly reported that West Mifflin is using EV charging stations for their employees. The total cost of installation is \$73,000 and the Borough would be reimbursed for all but \$16,000, which represents the pre-paid network and maintenance fees for 5 years. The Borough has the option to pay the entire \$16,000 up front, or to split it over 5 years, in payments representing 3 years/1 year/1 year. For 5 years, the Borough would get all the charging fees. Ms. Edmondson stated that people are not currently purchasing electric vehicles because they don't have a place to charge them. Mr. Kelly stated that the meters would be left in place and still be operational. This will be an action item on the February Council meeting agenda.
3. Discussion: Revising Road Restoration Requirements for WVWA Lead Line Replacement Work.
Mr. Kelly reported that WVWA has requested amnesty from the curb-to-curb restoration requirement in the Borough's street opening ordinance. They stated that having to pave curb to curb means fewer homes will get their lead lines replaced because the replacement is grant-funded and there is a finite amount of money to do the work. This was referred back to Committee.
4. Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase of a New Pickup Truck.
Ms. Edmondson stated that DPW needs a new truck, and it was included in the 2023 budget. Mr. Kelly reported that Chevy is the only manufacturer accepting orders right now, and that there is an 8-month turnaround time. The cost is about \$2,000 less than was budgeted. Mr. Kelly stated that he expects to see new electric options in 2025. This will be added to the February Council meeting agenda for action.

Unfinished Business

1. Mr. Arnold reminded Council of their interest in touring East and West Bellevue Stations, and confirmed that Fridays seem to be the best day. He will email some potential dates.
2. Ms. Miller reported that The Center of Bellevue was willing to permit the Borough to install a kiosk with information about domestic violence on their property. President Cerminara suggested that this be referred back to Committee to finalize a design.
3. Mr. Davin raised the issue of BIU being the only 3rd party inspector for the Borough. He noted that the Borough has a deadline for approving plans, and BIU is sometimes taking too long. President Cerminara stated that it benefits residents to have a choice. The Solicitor raised the issue of the Borough's contract with BIU; the DAS will pull and review the agreement.

New Business

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

- Joe Sciosica, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Stated his opinion that electric cars are a bad idea, and commented that the Borough will face a class action lawsuit if Council forces people to install a fire escape.
- Glenn Pritchard, CHHL Fire Chief: Expressed concerns about outfitting the Borough's engine with rescue tools. A complaint was received from an unknown resident participating via Zoom about trash pickup on Washington Avenue.

Executive Session

- Council did not adjourn to Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy Bahn, Director of Administrative Services, Secretary



Jodi Cerminara, Council President

