



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Council Meeting Minutes

April 25, 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. Sloane, Mr. McAfee, Ms. Denton, Mr. Hrynda, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. McKelvey, Mr. Stuncard, and President Cerminara. Ms. Miller was absent. A quorum was established.

Also, in attendance were Junior Councilperson Andrew Beckas, Mayor Val Pennington, DAS Cindy Bahn, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, CEO/Fire Marshal Jack Davin, Firefighter Lt. Mark Ford, Firefighter Lt. Bill Hartman, Treasurer Joe Scioscia, and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Ray Lichauer, 65 Sheridan Avenue: Distributed an open letter from a former resident to the Mayor and Council; he also suggested mediation.
- Glenn Pritchard, 545 Forest Avenue: Stated that it's been a month and he has not heard from anyone on Council, added that "public safety is in danger" then suggested "let's talk and mend things" and "let's contract with the City".
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Noted that the Council she was on 3 years ago hired a mediator to help with the "power struggle between the paid and volunteer" firefighters. Stated that Council is taking advantage of mutual aid.
- Paul Miller, 105 Grant Avenue: Reported that he witnessed a fire several days ago and that the "paid guys helped undo our volunteers".
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Stated that "you guys have made your decision – let's move on". Asked why Mr. Davin is answering calls in a Borough vehicle at a car crash and asked "how much is this costing"?
- Jane Braunlich, 27 E. Roseridge Avenue: Asked how many people are responding to calls now. Suggested that the Borough "get rid of the paid guys, contract with the city, call it a day".
- Jason Troia, 16 N. Fremont Avenue: Thanked the Mayor and Council for their services, and stated, "what's going on with fire service is an atrocity". Asked that Council reconsider and "do the right thing".
- Ryan McCreary, 512 Highland Place: State that he is at the meeting as a volunteer firefighter and a taxpayer, and that the paid firefighters are "kind of useless, they go to a fire and don't do anything". Added that Bellevue should pay the City for fire services.
- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that Bellevue has done what "no other community has ever done – decertified a functioning fire department". Suggested that the Borough work it out with the volunteers and added that Council has "shafted every community in our neighborhood".

Consent Agenda

Items of business and matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and noncontroversial and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired by Council Members, that item is to be identified and removed from the Consent Agenda, and will be considered separately at the appropriate place on the Agenda.

- a. Motion to Accept Minutes of the November 1, 2022, Finance, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Public Works Committee Meetings.
- b. Motion to Accept Minutes of the November 9, 2022, Pre-Council Meeting and November 25, 2022, Council Meeting.
- c. Motion to Accept Minutes of the December 13, 2022, Pre-Council Meeting and December 27, 2022 Council Meeting.
- d. Motion to Accept Minutes of the January 3 Finance, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Public Works Committee Meetings.
- e. Motion to Accept Minutes of the January 10, 2023, Pre-Council Meeting and January 24 Council Meeting.
- e. Motion to Accept Minutes of the February 7, 2023, Finance, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Public Works Committee Meetings.
- f. Motion to Accept Minutes of the February 14, 2023, Pre-Council Meeting and February 28, 2023, Council Meeting.
- g. Motion to Accept Minutes of the March 7 Finance, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Public Works Committee Meetings.
- h. Motion to Accept Minutes of the March 28, 2023, Council Meeting.

Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0

Agenda Items

Finance Committee:

- a. Motion to Approve Payment of the April 25, 2023, Bill List.
 Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Sloane
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- b. Motion to Adopt Applications for Street Closures and Street Banners for Borough Events.
 Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- c. Motion to Adopt Resolution 02-23, Appointing Representatives to the Congress of Neighboring Communities.
 Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- d. Motion to Adopt Resolution 03-23 Providing for the Refund of Real Estate Taxes as a Result of Changes in assessed Values and/or Overpayments.
 Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Edmondson
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

Parks and Recreation Committee:

- a. Motion to Install, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$100, a Brochure Holder and Plaque in Memory of Rachel Dowden at The Center of Bellevue (01.409.326).
 Moved: Ms. Denton Second: Ms. Edmondson
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

Public Safety Committee:

- a. Future of Fire Ad Hoc Committee
 Ms. Sloane reported that the Committee is in the process of re-crafting the Personnel Systems to include provisions for a Fire Chief position. The Borough has secured 5 Air Paks, and has a list of equipment items to procure. The Borough is trying to arrange dates and times for CHHL to return equipment belonging to the Borough that was erroneously removed, and for CHHL to collect remaining items belonging to them. Ms. Sloane also reviewed the time frame for the City's recent response to a structure fire, noting that it was both timely and effective. She noted that there was an issue with Lt. Hartman's radio, so PBF took control of the scene.

Public Works Committee:

- a. Motion to Authorize the Purchase of a Sewer Line Camera and a GIS Line Locator from Pow-R Mole Sales, LLC, at a cost of \$12,910.00 and \$11,690.00, Respectively. (08.428.721)
 Moved: Ms. Edmondson Second: Ms. Sloane
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Public Contribution on Non-Agenda Items

- Jane Braunlich, 27 E. Roseridge: Asked who is on the Future of Fire Committee and who represents the Borough at CONNECT.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Commented on the Borough's current procedures relating to the adoptions of Ordinances and Resolutions.
- Glenn Pritchard, 545 Forest Avenue: Stated his belief that the Borough does not have a plan for the provision of fire services, and noted that there are now no QRS services. Went on to say that it was "negligence" for Lt. Ford to not respond to calls in Stowe Township.
- Ryan McCreary, 512 Highland Place: Stated his belief that the communication issues on the recent structure fire are because the career firefighters can't speak on Pittsburgh channels. Told Lt. Hartman to "tell the truth".
- Cheryl Cummings, 103 Woodlawn Avenue: Remarked that Jack Davin is retired, but still "running to fires".
- Paul Miller, 105 Grant Avenue: Noted that there are no dollars for Christmas lights and concerts in Bayne Park. Commented on the Treasurer's salary cut.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Asked where money is coming from to purchase equipment for the fire department. Added that "mediation is what other Councils have decided on" and that she "never had complaints about the volunteer firefighters.
- Diane Hoffman, 675 North Avenue: Stated that she wanted transparency, told the Mayor to "wake up".
- Brittany Erskine, 75 S. Euclid Avenue: Stated that she loves Bellevue and is deeply concerned by what she hears, especially the fear mongering and the insults being thrown about. Noted that she "has faith that the elected officials will protect me".

Executive Session

- Council moved into Executive Session at 7:55 pm to discuss a personnel matter and returned to the regular meeting at 8:57 pm. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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 8:57 pm.

ATTEST

Cindy L. Bahn, Secretary


Jodi Cerminara, Council President