



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

May 9, 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. Miller, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. McAfee, Mr. Hrynda, Mr. Stuncard and President Cerminara. Ms. Sloane was absent. A quorum was established.

Also, in attendance were Junior Councilperson Andrew Beckas, Mayor Val Pennington, DAS Cindy Bahn, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, Firefighter Lt. Mark Ford, Building Code Official Shawn Jacobs, Code Enforcement Officer Jack Davin, Police Chief Matt Sentner. Treasurer Joe Scioscia, and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Presentation: Team Pittsburgh Dek Hockey

Richard Briggs, In-House Director from Team Pittsburgh Dek Hockey, spoke about their program in anticipation of executing an agreement with Bellevue to manage the Bellevue Dek Hockey rink at Memorial Park. Their current program has expanded to the point where they do not have enough hours to host all the teams. They have already done some maintenance on Bellevue's rink; 12 volunteers re-sited some of the deck panels and added some from their own stock. Their staff and volunteers will continue to maintain Bellevue's rink under the proposed agreement, which they hope will be a long-term partnership. They would also like to make improvements, such as installing lighting and bleachers. Bellevue residents will have priority for use; they currently serve about 20% of Bellevue children and would like to attract more. Team Pittsburgh will install Porta-Johns until the permanent bathroom structure is installed. In response to a question about parking, Mr. Briggs noted that they recently held tryouts for 36 children, and parking was not an issue.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that he is "aggravated" that public contribution is limited to 5 minutes, adding that it violates the 1st Amendment. Further stated that the Borough is "measurably less safe" without the volunteers and asked if the plan is ready for release.
- Wendy Blazier, 532 Highland Avenue: Also wondered if Dek Hockey rink parking would impact parking for the Dog Park, and asked about dedicated spaces, especially in the evenings which is the highest usage for the Dog Park.

Reports

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

- Mayor Pennington had nothing to add to his written report.

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

- Mr. Scioscia stated that his report was as submitted.

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 the Borough is still in need of pool staff, including a manager, lifeguards, and cashiers.
- She also noted that she participated in the Future of Fire Committee meeting with CONNECT Fire Consultant Anthony Terrace.
- The DAS submitted the final ARPA award report for funds received through the program.
- She is working with Jack Davin on revisions to the FEMA/PEMA grant to reimburse the Borough for expenses related to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Ms. Bahn participated in Alcosan Advisory and Local Government Academy Board meetings.
- The Borough hosted a meeting with the Cub Scouts, as well as the QVCOG Board meeting.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Ms. Goodman was unable to be in attendance but reported that she is “excited about the 3 extra parking spaces that will hopefully keep people from creating their own parking spaces”.

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 had nothing to add to the Department's written report.

Fire Department

- Lt. Ford reported that he had nothing to add to the Fire Department's written report.

Police Chief Report

- Chief Sentner reported that he will have monthly statistics by the end of the month.

Northwest EMS Report

- No representative was in attendance.

Engineer's Report

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

Joint Planning Commission

- There was nothing to add to the written report.

Shade Tree Commission

- Mr. Beckas had nothing to report at this time.

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

- Mr. McKelvey reported that Waste Management will be conducting another tour of their recycling facility on June 7 at 10 am. He also noted that the COG has been awarded 2 air quality monitors and that Norfolk Southern will be conducting training for first responders. On May 24, there will be an electric vehicle event at the UPMC event center.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the May 9, 2023, Bill List.
 Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
 All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

2. Discussion: JPC; Applicant for Vacant Seat.

Ms. Cerminara provided an update on the Finance Committee meeting with Bellevue's representatives to the JPC and noted that the Borough needs to appoint a 3rd member to the Commission. The Borough has received one application, and the DAS will advertise the opening on Savvy Citizen and the Borough website, with a vote planned for the May Council meeting. Applicants will be asked to attend that meeting to talk about their interests, qualifications, etc.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair

1. Discussion: Moving "Bark in the Park" Event to Bayne Park.

Mr. Stuncard reported that this came up at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, noting that the event is a fundraiser with food trucks that the Bellevue Dog Woods board proposes to move to the area in Bayne Park where the Farmers Market is set up. The event, now in its third year, will be held September 16 from 11 am to 3 pm. The issue of the prohibition on dogs in Bellevue parks was raised; Wendy Blazier, Bellevue Dog Woods Board President, stated that construction fencing could be installed around the area, dogs will be required to be on-leash and under control, and volunteers will work to keep dogs within the fenced area. This will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.

2. Motion to Authorize the Addition of Three Parking Spaces in Bayne Park.

Mr. Stuncard noted that Mr. Kelly presented a proposal from El Grande Industries, who is paving in Bellevue, to pave 3 parking spaces in Bayne Park near the gazebo at no charge to the Borough. Efforts to prevent parking in this area by the installation of large boulders have not been effective, and by proactively installing the spaces, Mr. Kelly believes that the grassy area will experience less damage. Mr. Kelly responded to several questions about the location and parking logistics before the vote was called.

Moved: Mr. Stuncard Second: Ms. Edmondson

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

3. Motion to Authorize the Purchase of Pool Chemicals from B&R Pools at a Cost of \$4,636.00 (01.452.222).

Mr. Kelly explained that purchasing a pallet of chemicals would save the Borough about \$100 per pail vs. purchasing individual pails in smaller quantities.

Moved: Mr. Stuncard Second: Ms. Edmondson

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

Public Safety Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair Pro Tem

1. Discussion: Granicus Short-Term Rental Monitoring.

Mr. Jacobs reported that Granicus has identified 19 short-term rental properties in Bellevue, while the Borough was only aware of 3. The 2 components of the program Mr. Jacobs recommend are the "Address Identifier" and the "Real Time Monitor", which would cost \$4,050/year. This will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.

2. Discussion: Fire Escape Ordinance

Ms. Cerminara referred this item back to Committee for further discussion.

3. Discussion: Borough Enforcement of Noise Complaints Related to Businesses Serving Alcohol.

The Solicitor summarized the issue and Bellevue's options. He will provide additional information to Council about the process for Bellevue to obtain local control over noise complaints about liquor licenses.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Climatech Quote for HVAC Line Testing for the Borough Building at a Cost of \$2,067.50.

Mr. Kelly reported that Climatech, with whom the Borough has a service contract, provided the quote. He noted that the system is old, and has pinholes, which have resulted in expensive repairs. This will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.

2. Discussion: Keystone Petroleum Equipment Proposal for Installation of New Fuel Pump Dispensing System at a Cost of \$33,206.00.
Mr. Kelly reported that the current system has no provision for user accountability and malfunctions in the summer. In response to a question, he responded that the pump required repairs several times last summer and is no longer repairable. A motion to put the purchase out to bid will be added to the May Council meeting agenda.
3. Discussion: Sale of Unused DPW Equipment, Including Skid Loader Attachments, with Sale Proceeds to be Used to Purchase Attachments for the New Skid Loader.
Mr. Kelly stated that he would like to sell equipment that is no longer used, or can no longer be used, and use the proceeds to further equip the new skid loader. The obsolete equipment includes a skid steer broom that is incompatible with the new skid loader, a tractor and a toolbox that are no longer used. He will provide a list of equipment he proposes to sell for the May Council meeting, and this will be added to the agenda for action.
4. Discussion: Display of the Rainbow Pride Flag During the Month of June.
President Cerminara noted that the Borough has been flying the rainbow flag for the last 3 years; this will be added to the May Council meeting agenda for action.

Unfinished Business:

- Mayor Pennington asked if a motion to appoint another member to the JPC would occur at the May Council meeting and President Cerminara responded in the affirmative.
- Ms. Miller asked about funds for an outdoor display box for brochures related to the Dowden Memorial. Mr. Kelly provided some figures from potential boxes available on Amazon.
- Ms. Edmondson reported that sidewalks on Sprague and Orchard Avenues that were torn up last year have again been torn up. Mr. Kelly responded that Columbia Gas came through to replace the lines, and then WVWA did the same. He further stated that the company doing the sidewalk restoration will not do so until they have 2 weeks' worth of work to do. Ms. Edmondson remarked that all streets seem to be closed at the same time, making travel within the Borough challenging.

New Business: None

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

- Jane Braunlich, 27 E. Roseridge Avenue: Stated that if the number of short-term rentals in the Borough exceeds 16, the Zoning Ordinance is being violated.
- Paul Miller, 105 Grant Avenue: Noted that he doesn't understand why QRS was terminated last month and that he thought the paid drivers were hired for the purpose of fighting fires, providing rescue and QRS services.
- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that he is surprised that Council is comfortable violating the Sunshine Act

Executive Session

- Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:20 pm and returned to the business meeting at 8:43 pm. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

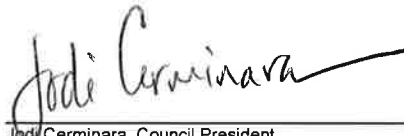
Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy Bahn, Director of Administrative Services, Secretary



Jodi Cerminara, Council President