



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 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 Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Templeton, Ms. Sloane, Mr. McAfee, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. Hrynda, and President Cerminara. A quorum was established.

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

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Joe Scioscia, III, 256 Lincoln Avenue: Asked who is promising that the Borough will not be charged for automatic aid as the 2nd Class City Code requires that Pittsburgh be reimbursed for costs incurred; also asked why Borough is sending fire trucks to active fires when the firefighters cannot fight fires.
- Joe Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that the Borough cannot make ends meet without dismissing employees and suggested dismissing the fire department.

Reports

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

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

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

- Mr. Scioscia stated that his report was as submitted, and requested that the Borough not spend any dollars unnecessarily.

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 will be meeting with Susan Stabnau tomorrow to discuss Light Up Bellevue plans.
- She also noted that she will be presenting the Firefighter Resolution at CONNECT's Legislative meeting on September 14.
- Last week, the DAS attended a workshop related to incorporating more play-based learning activities in public settings. She will be participating in a follow-up meeting and there is an opportunity to apply for a micor-grant to test a project idea.

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 stated that his report was "as submitted".

Fire Department

- Lt. Ford reported he had nothing to add to his written report.

Police Chief Report

- Chief Sentner stated that he had nothing to report at this time, but would be posting Police Department numbers shortly.

Northwest EMS Report

- No representative was in attendance; Ms. Bahn noted that she just received the written report earlier today..

Engineer's Report

- The engineers had nothing to add to their written report.

Joint Planning Commission

- The next meeting will be held 09.25.2023 at 7:00pm at the Avalon Borough Building.

Shade Tree Commission

- Mr. Beckas stated that he had nothing to report.

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

- Mr. McKelvey reported that the GEDTF application period opened last week; he also noted that the Michael Baker Company completed their transportation study of Route 65..

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the September 12, 2023, Bill List.

Moved: President Cerminara

Second: Ms. Sloane

Discussion: In response to a question from Mr. McKelvey related to an item on the bill list for vests and carriers, Chief Sentner responded that per the Police CBA, vests must be replaced every 5 years, and that the costs are not included in Officers' uniform allowance. The costs are partially covered by a Federal Grant through the Department of Justice.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.

2. Discussion: Proposed 2024 Budget Calendar.

Ms. Bahn noted that this was presented at Committee and follows the same format as in 2022. Mr. McKelvey requested an additional workshop at the beginning of the calendar, and Ms. Sloane requested that calendar invites be sent for each of the workshops. President Cerminara noted that the Financial Services Administrator completed training, and that communications between the FSA and auditor had reached an impasse. Ms. Sloane stated that the audits were behind prior to the hiring of the FSA. Mr. McAfee noted that he agreed that communications were egregious, and that there seems to be systemic issues. The Solicitor stated that he will provide a sample RFP and the DAS will distribute it to Council when it is received.

3. Discussion: Issuing an RFP for a Professional Auditor.

The DAS noted that this came up in relation to council concerns with the current auditor. Mr. McKelvey stated that he spoke with the current auditor who stated issues were not on their end

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair

1. Discussion: Bayne Memorial Library Internet Child Safety Policy.
Mr. Stuncard noted that a Federal law requires that the Library's policy be discussed at a public meeting, and that was the reason for posting this to the agenda. Mr. McAfee asked if the policy adopted by the Library is a "model policy" and the Library Director responded that the adopted policy came originally from the Allegheny County Library Association and was then tweaked to more fully fit with the needs of Bellevue. Ms. Goodman went on to state that PA law requires a public discussion, and that under the policy, computers are filtered. She will submit the agenda in response to the requirement for a public discussion.
2. Motion to Authorize the Installation of a Sign Designating "Loch Field" at Gillott Park.
Moved: Mr. Stuncard Second: Ms. Sloane
Discussion: Mr. Stuncard reported that he was approached by BAGAA about installing the sign, and they would like to have it in place by September 17. President Cerminara noted that it is the same size as other panels there, and Mr. Kelly responded that it appears to be, but that it can be adjusted in the future. He also stated that DPW may repaint the sign next year to match those currently in place. Ms. Sloane stated that the sign was discussed last year, but no further action was taken, and a completed sign was brought to Council last month.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
3. Motion to Adopt Resolution 16-23, Authorizing the Filing of an Application with RAAC in the Amount of \$317,657.00 for the Bayne Park Restroom Project.
Moved: Mr. Stuncard Second: Mr. McAfee
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
4. Motion to Adopt Resolution 17-23, Authorizing the Filing of an Application with RAAC in the Amount of \$257,225.00 for the Memorial Park Playground Equipment Project.
Moved: Mr. Stuncard Second: Mr. McKelvey
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.

Public Safety Committee; Amanda Sloane, Chair

1. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of the Bellevue Fire Chief Position, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250. (01. 406.341)
Moved: Ms. Sloane
Second: Mr. Hrynda
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
2. Motion to Direct the Civil Service Commission to Initiate the Process for Police Officer Testing Resulting in an Eligibility List.
Moved: Ms. Sloane
Second: Mr. McKelvey
Discussion: Chief Senter reported that a current officer will be resigning and moving out of state, and he would like the CSC to begin the process now so that the Department is not down an officer. Ms. Edmondson asked if Bellevue PD is still assisting Avalon and the Chief responded that we are, and that he will not compromise Bellevue safety. He also suggested waiving the \$50 application fee to make Bellevue more competitive. The latter will be added to the September Council meeting agenda for action.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.
3. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$300, Ordinance 23-05, Providing for Changes to the Administrative Code, as Revised, and Ordinance 23-06, Providing for Changes to the Personnel Code, as Revised, and Hearings for Both (01.406.341)
Moved: Ms. Sloane
Second: Mr. Hrynda
The Solicitor noted that this is a matter of housekeeping, and that he checked with the Department of Elections regarding a Bellevue referendum; there is a conflict between the Home Rule Charter and the Administrative Code.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0.

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Lincoln Avenue Holiday Decorations.
Ms. Edmondson reported that she requested this to be put back on the agenda after learning that Mr. Kelly had spoken with Bona Fide Bellevue, who is soliciting contributions for the snowflake decorations. Susan Stabnau, Executive Director of Bona Fide Bellevue, plans to attend a Council meeting to discuss the fundraising and plans for Light Up Bellevue. This will be added to the September Council agenda for action.

Unfinished Business:

- Mr. McKelvey asked the Solicitor about the status of payments for the emergency demolition on Forest Avenue from the property owners. Mr. Racunas stated that no one has ever done this and he is starting from scratch. He will start with a demand letter. Mr. McAfee asked about a statute of limitations, and Mr. Racunas said that the SoL would run out in April of 2024.
- Mr. McKelvey asked the Police Chief about the status of the parking meter application, and Chief Sentner responded that it's ready to go.
- He also requested an update from the Future of Fire Committee and Ms. Cerminara responded that the Committee had not met recently.
- Mr. McKelvey asked if the engineers could update Council on the remediation of the Bellevue Stations. Mr. Barna responded that he located a copy of the letter from DEP, sent in September of 2016, and that the Borough had run into a problem acquiring the related property.

New Business:

- Ms. Denton noted that the Borough is approaching budgeting very quickly and that in 2022, Council discussed eliminating the Treasurer position, which she said is obsolete and that tasks outlined in the Home Rule Charter are no longer being completed by the current Treasurer. The Solicitor noted that the HRC stated that Council "may" appoint a Treasurer, and that the position is not required.

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

- Joe Scioscia, III, 256 Lincoln Avenue: In regards to eliminating the Treasurer position, stated that it is not a massive expenditure and is intended to provide oversight.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy L. Bahr, Director of Administrative Services, Secretary



Jodi Cerminara, Council President

