



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023 7:00 pm

Municipal Building

2nd Floor Council Chambers

Call to Order

President Cerminara called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm; she noted that a Budget Hearing was held prior to the meeting.

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. Hrynda, Ms Sloane, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Templeton, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Mr. MacAfee, and President Cerminara. Ms. Edmondson was absent. A quorum was established.

Also, in attendance were Junior Councilperson Andrew Beckas, Mayor Val Pennington, DAS Cindy Bahn, Firefighter Lt./Interim Fire Chief Bill Hartman, Firefighter Lt. Mark Ford, Library Director Ellen Goodman, BCO/Zoning Officer Shawn Jacobs, Code Enforcement Officer Jack Davin, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, HRG Engineers Rob Arnold and Dan Barna, and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Joe Scioscia Jr., 260 Lincoln Avenue: Asked if the budget can be passed this year if it was not properly advertised.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Stated that it's the 3rd consecutive year that the budget was published without a summary.
- Brie Erskine, 75 S. Euclid Avenue: Reported that she attended a recent JPC meeting and was very excited about their plans for 2024.

Reports

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

- Mayor Pennington had nothing to add to the written report, which was distributed via email.

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

- Mr. Scioscia stated that the Borough is up \$1.2 million and he has never seen it this high before.

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 submitted the 2024 Banner Community Application to ALOM; ALOM set an earlier deadline to permit successful municipalities to more easily take advantage of the registration scholarship for the annual spring conference.
- She also noted that she participated on the interview panel with Fire Chief candidates earlier today.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Ms. Goodman was unavailable.

Public Works Report (written report was included with Council packet)

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

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

- Mr. Jacobs stated that his report was also as submitted.

Fire Department

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

Police Chief Report

- Chief Sentner was unavailable for tonight's meeting.

Northwest EMS Report

- No representative was in attendance; no questions were asked about the report.

Engineer's Report

- The engineers had nothing to add to their written report.
- Mr. McKelvey asked about asbestos testing for the 3 properties to be demolished, and Mr. Arnold responded that proposals are due December 15 and one has been received to date.

Joint Planning Commission

- Ms. Dinger reported that the final meeting of the year was held, and 2024 meetings have been set; the Commission generally meets on the 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm
- She reported that officers were elected, and that there will be some turnover in 2024. Ms. Dinger will be serving as Vice-Chair.
- The final JPC meeting of 2023 will be held in Ben Avon on 12.11.23 at 7:00 pm.

Shade Tree Commission

- No report; Ms. Bahn reported that she has received meeting dates for the first 6 months of 2024, and was trying to obtain dates for the remaining 6 months so that they could all be advertised together.

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

- Mr. McKelvey stated that the QVCOG will be working with Attorney Dan Cohen on the Verizon Franchise Fee Renewal.
- Mr. McKelvey will participate on the Rt. 65 subcommittee.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the December 12, 2023, Bill List.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Templeton
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
2. Motion to Ratify the Email Vote to Authorize the Advertisement for Applications for the Position of Director of Administrative Services, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$400. (01.406.341)
Email motion made by President Cerminara, seconded by Ms. Edmondson.
Voting Aye: Ms. Cerminara, Ms. Edmondson, Mr. McAfee, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Ms. Templeton, Mr. Stuncard.
Voting Nay:
Motion Carried, 7-0-0.

Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
3. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of a Date Change for the December, 2023 Council Meeting, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250. (01.406.341)
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Templeton
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.

4. 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.)

Each of the following will be advertised together, at a total cost not to exceed \$900. (01.406.341)

- a. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of 2024 Dates for Committee Meetings, Pre-Council Meetings, and Council Meetings.
- b. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of Ordinance 23-09, Establishing Salaries and Benefits for Borough Elected Officials and Employees in 2024.
- c. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of Ordinance 23-10, Setting the 2023 Rate for Collection of Solid Waste, Recycling, Bulk Pick-Up and Hazardous Household Waste.
- d. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of Ordinance 23-11, Setting the 2024 Rate for Sewage.
- e. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of Ordinance 23-12, Setting the 2024 Borough Millage Rate,
- f. Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of Ordinance 23-13, Adopting the 2024 Borough Budget.

Moved: President Cerminara

Second: Ms. Templeton

Discussion: It was noted that item e. did not include a provision for the public hearing prior to the adoption of the proposed millage rate. The Solicitor noted that because this change was de minimus, with no additional financial burden to the Borough, the consent agenda could be amended by Council vote.

Motion to Amend the Consent Agenda, item e, to read, "Motion to Authorize the Advertisement of Ordinance 23-12, Setting the 2024 Borough Millage Rate, and Public Hearing Related to Same".

Moved: President Cerminara

Second: Mr. McKelvey

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

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

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jeff Stuncard, Chair

Public Safety Committee; Amanda Sloane, Chair

1. Motion to Authorize Payment to Premier Safety, a COSTARS Vendor, in the Amount of \$15,000 for Air Monitoring Equipment. (01.411.260, grant funded)

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. Hrynda

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

Public Works Committee; Dan McKelvey, Chair Pro Tem

1. Motion to Authorize Payment to Frew Plumbing, Heating and AC, Inc., in the Amount of \$9,600.00 for Plumbing Related to Installation of the Memorial Park Rest Room Facility. (30.451.000)

Moved: Mr. McKelvey

Second: Ms. Sloane

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

Unfinished Business:

- Mr. McKelvey asked the Solicitor if there was any new information on the Forest Avenue emergency demolition in terms of trying to recoup the Borough's expenses. Mr. Racunas responded that he sent a demand letter and will file a complaint after the holidays.
- Mr. McAfee asked what the statute of limitations is on the demand, and Mr. Racunas replied that it's 2 years.

New Business: None

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

- Jane Braunlich, 31 E Roseridge Avenue: Expressed her dismay with the Borough's decision to cut down a tree in Memorial Park to use as the Christmas Tree.
- Joe Scioscia Jr., 260 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that it's a "material defect" if the town didn't alert citizens to the tax increase.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Offered "kudos to whoever figured out that you need a public hearing for a millage increase".
- Paul Miller, 105 Grant Avenue: Commended Mr. Kelly on the snowflake lights along Lincoln Avenue.
- Joe Scioscia III, 256 Lincoln Avenue: Stated that in other Boroughs, reports are posted to the backs of agendas, and asked if the Borough would do the same.
- Dionisia Dingler, 45 S. Bryant Avenue: Asked Chief Sentner about the changes to traffic by Bellevue Elementary.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Remarked that she "can't believe" the Borough's assertion that its ISO rating will improve with "two decrepit trucks" and added that there are no aerial trucks and not enough firefighters. Stated that in the 8 months since CHHL was decertified, no steps have been completed. Added that the Borough needs an aerial truck, not a 20-year-old fire truck.

Executive Session:

- Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:34 pm and returned to the Legislative meeting at 8:28; no action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

ATTEST



Jodi Cerminara, Council President

