



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024 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. Mule, Ms. Templeton, Ms. Sloane, Mr. Ellis, Mr. McKelvey, and Ms. Denton and President Cerminara. A quorum was established.

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

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Jane Braunlich, 27 E. Roseridge Avenue: Asked why 2 people were being appointed to the Civil Service Commission and requested that Council appoint a third auditor.
- Joe Scioscia, Jr., 260 Lincoln Avenue: Asked if Cindy Bahn is the staff member who resigned, and if the new volunteer fire department has been established with the required number of members.

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 reported a typo – incorrect month – on the report.

Financial Reports (Budget, Tax and Services reports were included with Council packet)

- No comments were made, or questions asked.

DAS Report

- No report was given.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Ms. Goodman had nothing to add to her report.

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

- Mr. Kelly reported that he has talked with CONNECT about an opportunity to lease roof space in exchange for discounted electric charges.

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

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

Fire Department

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

Police Chief Report

- Chief Sentner reported that the mobile parking program is online, with signage forthcoming; he added that meters in the public parking lot on Hawley Avenue have been labelled.

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.

Joint Planning Commission

- Ms. Dingler reported that Avalon Borough has appointed a new commissioner.
- She requested a letter from the Borough noting her reappointment to the Commission.
- The next JPC meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm in Avalon Council Chambers.

Shade Tree Commission

- No representative was in attendance.

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

- Mr. McKelvey reported that 148 tons of glass have been recycled in the shared bins.
- Meetings have been held to discuss a joint yard waste program.
- He had nothing to report from the Rt. 65 subcommittee.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair

1. Motion to Approve Payment of the January 9, 2024, Bill List.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Sloane
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.
2. Motion to Appoint Denise VanderSal to the Civil Service Commission as a Commissioner, Effective 01.01.2024 through 12.31.29.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Denton
Discussion: Ms. VanderSal introduced herself to Council and highlighted her qualifications for service on the Commission.
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.
3. Motion to Appoint Michael Kernan to the Civil Service Commission as an Alternate Commissioner, Effective 01.01.24 through 12.31.29.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Sloane
Discussion: Mr. Kernan introduced himself to Council.
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.
4. Motion to Approve Resolution 01-24, Hiring an Interim DAS.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Jennie Denton, Chair

1. Motion to Authorize the DAS to Execute a 1-Year Agreement with Team Pittsburgh Dek Hockey to Use and Manage the Memorial Park Dek Hockey Rink.
Moved: Ms. Denton Second: Mr. McKelvey
Discussion: Ms. Denton asked if Mr. Kelly has spoken to Team Pittsburgh Dek Hockey about the issues experienced last year, and Mr. Kelly responded that he had, and that Team Pittsburgh will address the issues. Ms. Templeton asked if the rink is available for residents to use, and Mr. Kelly replied that Team Pittsburgh Dek Hockey will use an online schedule and will make the rink available to Bellevue residents as needed.
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

Public Safety Committee; Amanda Sloane, Chair

1. Motion to Authorize Advertisement of Ordinance 24-01, Recognizing the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Company, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$400. (01.406.341)

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. McKelvey

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

Public Works Committee; Dan McKelvey, Chair

1. Motion to Authorize Advertisement of a Public Hearing, to be Held January 23, 2024 at 6:45 pm, as Part of the Legal Procedures Required under Applicable Law and Ordinances to Carry Out Demolition of the Structures Located at 31 E. Roseridge Avenue, 211 N. Balph Avenue, and 146 Ridge Avenue, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$400. (01.406.341)

Moved: Mr. McKelvey

Second: Ms. Denton

Discussion: Ms. Templeton asked the status of asbestos testing and the grant funding this project. Mr. Kelly responded that asbestos testing can be completed once the hearing has been held; he further noted that the grant is in place and available.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

2. Motion to Authorize Advertisement for Applications to Fill the Position of Mechanic/Laborer in the Department of Public Works, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$400. (01.406.341)

Moved: Mr. McKelvey

Second: Ms. Denton

Discussion: Ms. Templeton asked what the position is and why it is vacant, and Mr. Kelly responded that it's in response to the death of Paul Mammay.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

- Mr. McKelvey asked about the status of the N Jackson retaining wall, and Mr. Arnold responded that the wall is in the design stages; he also noted that a second grant application was submitted to cover the cost of additional restoration beyond the scope of the first grant.
- Ms. Templeton asked Chief Sentner about the status of a traffic study, and the Chief replied that he will try to have it completed before spring if there is a week of forecasted good weather.

New Business:

1. Motion to Appoint Tom Hrynda to the Vacant Ward 2 Council Seat for a Term to Expire December 31, 2025.

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Mr. McKelvey

Discussion: Mr. Hrynda introduced himself and spoke of his qualifications to serve. While interested was expressed by another resident, Charles Duncan, he was not in attendance.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

2. Motion to Appoint Robert Disney to the Vacant Ward 3 Council Seat for a Term to Expire December 31, 2025.

Moved: Ms. Sloane

Second: Ms. Templeton

Discussion: Mr. Disney also introduced himself and spoke of his qualifications to serve, as did Nathan Tyler. President Cerminara thanked both candidates for their time and consideration.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 7-0.

3. Mayor Pennington to Swear in New Councilmembers.

The Mayor administered the oath of office to both new council members, who were then seated.

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

- Jane Braunlich, 31 E Roseridge Avenue: Asked who would be serving as the Interim DAS and President Cerminara responded that former DAS Cindy Bahn would be filling the role.
- Cheryle Cummings, 103 Woodlawn Avenue: Expressed issues others have had accessing Council meetings on Zoom.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

ATTEST



Jim Kelly, Secretary Pro Tem



Jodi Cerminara, Council President

