



Borough of Bellevue

Incorporated 1867

Borough Council Meeting Minutes

December 27, 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. Hrynda, Ms. Sloane, Mr. Stuncard (via Zoom), Ms. Templeton, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Mr. McAfee, and President Cerminara. Ms. Edmondson was absent. A quorum was established.

Also, in attendance were Mayor Val Pennington, DAS Cindy Bahn, Firefighter Lt. Mark Ford, Police Chief Matt Sentner, DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly, Treasurer Joe Scioscia and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items:

- Joe Scioscia, Jr., 260 Lincoln Avenue: Expressed complaints about budget, budget process, and stated that the Pittsburgh firefighters will no longer serve Bellevue.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Complained about budget process, accused Council members of "blatantly" hiding information.
- Solicitor Matt Racunas addressed these issues, stating his understanding that the budget was available in the Borough office, per the requirements of the Home Rule Charter, that nothing in the Charter prevents changes from being made at any time or adopting a materially different budget. He also noted that the Charter requires the adoption of a balanced budget with revenues equaling or exceeding expenses, and that Council can amend the budget at any time.
- Bri Erskine, 75 S. Euclid Avenue: Stated that in her job, she travels the country and has been to many budget meetings, and that she understands how difficult the process is and is impressed by the budget and how the Borough is able to balance it. Expressed her thanks to Council.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Noted her former service on Council, blamed the tax increase on the decertification of Columbia Hose, complained that Bellevue didn't speak to former managers or prior Council members, and that the Borough "thinks they're better than other municipalities".

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 August 2, 2023 Finance, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Public Works Committee Meetings.
- b. Motion to Accept Minutes of the August 8, 2023 Pre-Council Meeting and August 22, 2021 Council Meeting.
- c. Motion to Accept Minutes of the September 5, 2023 2023 Finance, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and Public Works Committee Meetings.
- d. Motion to Accept Minutes of the September 12, 2023 Pre-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 December 27, 2023 Bill List.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- b. Motion to Adopt Ordinance 23-09, Establishing Salaries and Benefits for Borough Elected Officials and Employees in 2024.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Denton
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- c. Motion to Adopt Ordinance 23-10, Setting the 2024 Rate for Collection of Solid Waste, Recycling, and Hazardous Household Waste.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- d. Motion to Adopt Ordinance 23-11, Establishing the 2024 Borough Sanitary Sewer User Rate.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Ms. Denton
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 8-0.
- e. Motion to Adopt Ordinance 23-12, Setting the 2024 Borough Millage Rate at 5.89 Mills.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
Aye: Ms. Denton, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Templeton, Ms. Sloane, Mr. Hrynda, President Cerminara
Nay: Mr. McAfee, Mr. McKelvey
Motion carried, 6-0-0.
- f. Motion to Adopt Ordinance 23-13, Adopting the 2024 Borough Budget.
Moved: President Cerminara Second: Mr. McKelvey
Aye: Ms. Templeton, Ms. Sloane, Ms. Denton, Mr. Hrynda, Mr. Stuncard, President Cerminara
Nay: Mr. McAfee, Mr. McKelvey
Motion carried, 6-0-0.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Public Safety Committee

Public Works Committee

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Mr. McAfee expressed his thanks to Mr. Kelly and DPW for “salvaging Light Up Bellevue”.
- President Cerminara thanked Mr. Hrynda, Mr. McAfee, and Mr. Stuncard for their service on Council.

Public Contribution on Non-Agenda Items:

- Paul Miller, 105 Grant Avenue: Stated that he heard the “volunteers” signed over a pumper to the Borough that they owned; addressed the DAS, stating, “Ms. Bahn, the work that you do her will take years to recover from”.
- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Complained about Borough employees appearing in public in t-shirts she felt were inappropriate.
- Richard Cummings, 103 Woodlawn Avenue: Addressed a chair that was in the Fire Department and used for a recent fundraising event, stating that the chair should be put in a closet for safety reasons, noting that “it’s our heritage”.
- Jane Braunlich, 27 E. Roseridge Avenue: Stated that citizens are “being disrespected by staff and Council.

- Alisa Scioscia, 260 Lincoln Avenue: Complained about a lack of decorum and respect; that concerns do not receive a response.

Executive Session:

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:48 pm and returned to the Legislative meeting at 8:45 pm; no action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

ATTEST



Jodi Cerminara, Council President

