



# **Borough of Bellevue**

Incorporated 1867

## **Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes**

January 14, 2025, 7:00 pm

Municipal Building

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers

### **Call to Order**

President Cerminara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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, Mr. McKelvey, Ms. Denton, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Disney and President Cerminara. Absent was Ms. Mule. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Mayor Val Pennington, Solicitor Matt Racunas, DAS Jim Kelly, ADAS Andrea Contes, Engineer Dan Barna, Police Chief Matthew Sentner, Sgt. Matthew Lucas, DPW Superintendent Joe Wright, Library Director Ellen Goodman, Fire Chief Bill Hartman, BCO Shawn Jacobs and JPC Representative Dionisia Dingler.

### **Public Contribution on Agenda Items**

- Joe Scioscia 260 Lincoln Avenue - EV is a bad financial decision. They cost more to operate, purchasing electric vehicles is a bad financial decision and bad for the environment.

### **Reports**

#### **Mayor's Report** (written report provided to Council)

- Mayor Pennington had nothing to add to the written report. There were no questions.

#### **Treasurer's Report** (written report provided to Council)

- No comments were made, or questions asked.

#### **Financial Reports** (written report provided to Council)

- No comments were made, or questions asked.

#### **DAS Report**

- DAS Kelly reported that the Borough received a donation of \$200.00 from Mike Joyce, Joyce Towing for the DARE Program.
- DAS Kelly advised an annual report from the Civil Service Commission has been added to the Council packet for review.

#### **Library Report** (written report provided to Council)

- Director Goodman reported library circulation was up 8% for 2024.

#### **Public Works Report** (written report provided to with Council)

- No comments were made, or questions asked.

#### **Code Enforcement Report** (written report provided to Council)

- President Cerminara asked if there were any pending zoning hearing issues. BCO Jacobs advised that nothing was scheduled.

#### **Fire Department** (written report provided to Council)

- No comments were made, or questions asked.

**Police Chief Report**

- Chief Sentner reported there were 5712 calls for 2024 and property violations went down 1%; however, theft is up 8% locally and nationally. Mr. McKelvey asked for the report to be submitted for review.

**Northwest EMS Report**

- No comments were made or questions asked.

**Engineer's Report** (written report provided to Council)

- Engineer Barna reported that they are looking at a grant to cover the planning and design of the balance of the Streetscape Project.

**Joint Planning Commission** (written report provided to Council)

- Ms. Dinger reported there is a special meeting to discuss short-term rentals on January 22, 7:00 pm at the Bellevue Borough building. JPC's next meeting is January 27, 7:00 pm at the Avalon Borough Building.

**Shade Tree Commission**

- No report submitted.

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

- Mr. McKelvey reported all 15 communities have signed the Rt 65 Improvement Plan Project Agreement and they will be looking to hold a meeting to discuss in the near future.

**Committee Reports****Finance Committee; Jodi Cerminara, Chair**

1. Motion to Approve Payment of January 14, 2025, Bill List.  
Moved: President Cerminara  
Second: Mr. Hrynda  
All present voted in favor of the motion.  
Motion carried, 6-0.

**Parks and Recreation Committee; Jennie Denton, Chair**

1. Discussion – Pavilion rental alcohol permit.
  - Mr. Disney asked us to add verbiage to include civil liabilities if a permit holder is in violation.

**Public Safety Committee; Tom Hrynda, Chair**

1. Discussion – Replacement of Patrol SUV at a cost of \$67,947.43.
  - Discussion was had concerning the current fleet and life expectancy. DAS Kelly will work on getting a fleet list with life estimated life expectancies to Council.
2. Discussion – replacement of Police Department base radio at a cost of \$6009.28.
  - President Cerminara asked to clarify the quote and wanted to confirm the warranty.
3. Discussion – start Civil Service testing to fill open position in the Police Department.
  - Chief Sentner would like to have the application fee waived for applicants. Mr. Disney asked if we could look for local applicants.
4. Discussion – Replace code Enforcement vehicle with new EV Blazer at a cost of \$55, 556.02.
  - Discussion was had referring to EVs and the use in the code Department.
5. Discussion – Emergency Management Plan.
  - Mr. Hrynda advised we need to approve the Emergency Management Plan every two years. Please review for approval at the Council meeting.

6. Discussion – Purchase or rental of vehicle barricades for large events in the Borough.
  - Discussion on the need for and use of barricades during borough functions. Some rental options are available, we should start with the purchase of 12 large concrete blocks.
7. Motion to Authorize the advertising of Ordinance 25-01 amending Ordinance 93-20 parking fees. At a cost not to exceed \$400.00 from acct 01.403.341.  
Moved: Mr. Hrynda  
Second: Ms. Denton  
All present voted in favor of the motion.  
Motion carried, 6 -0.

**Public Works Committee; Dan McKelvey, Chair**

1. Discussion – replacement of Admin vehicle with EV Silverado at a cost of \$55,330.52.
  - Discussion followed, including verification of factory warranties.
2. Discussion – replacement of DPW Dump/Plow truck with new Ford F550 at a cost of \$111,928.00.
  - Discussion as to the equipment being replaced and sale of replaced vehicle.
3. Mr. Disney asked if the parking change in effect on N. Sprague for the wall construction could be permanent. He was advised that it would return to prior parking when work is complete.

**Unfinished Business:**

- DAS Kelly advised the property on Forest Avenue is at a standstill with other liens on the property. Mr. Racunas confirmed we can't do much at this point and will continue to monitor the situation.
- DAS Kelly advised on the status of property and lack of cooperation from CHHL. We need to move forward with the property left behind and find a solution for the FEMA transfer of the Pierce Engine. DAS Kelly has reached out to Representative Chris Deluzio's office for assistance. Mr. Racunas will work on drafting a letter to finalize the property left behind and the property not returned.

**New Business:**

1. Motion to Accept the resignation of Amanda Sloane.  
Moved: President Cerminara  
Second: Mr. McKelvey  
All present voted in favor of the motion.  
Motion carried, 6-0.
2. Discussion – Appointment to open Ward 1 Board seat.
  - Discussed the opening in both Ward 1 and Ward 3. Currently the Borough has three applications and will place information on the Boroughs web page as well as Savvy Citizen to advise of the open positions to be filled at January's Council meeting.
  - Dionisa Dingler spoke of her desire to represent Ward 1.
  - Brendan Rodger spoke of his desire to represent Ward 3.
  - Joe Scioscia spoke of his desire to represent Ward 1.

3. Motion to Appoint Dan McKelvey Vice President of Council.

Moved: Mr. Disney

Second: Mr. Hrynda

All present voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried, 6-0.

4. Motion to Remove Amanda Sloane and Joseph A. Scioscia Jr. as signers on all financial documents of the Borough, and to Authorize Jodi Cerminara President of Council, Dan McKelvey Vice President of Council, James Kelly Director of Administrative Services, and Andrea Contes Treasure as the signers on all financial documents of the Borough.

Moved: President Cerminara

Second: Mr. Ellis

All present voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried, 6-0.

5. Director Goodman would like to advertise to fill the vacant Library Assistant position.

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

- Dionisia Dingler 45 S. Bryant Avenue - advised of an EV program called "Charging Smart" to assist with grants and the overall process.
- Joe Scioscia 260 Lincoln Avenue - stated a social worker would cause confusion to a 911 operator because the operator would not know what needs to be dispatched. He commented that the borough should make sure when buying the new truck; if it is going to carry salt, it will need to be properly undercoated. He commented that he felt that the barricades were unnecessary and would not help. He said the borough should get the type that are filled with water, as they are easier to move and could be filled by the Fire Department. Electric happy money will be gone next year.

**Executive Session:**

- There was no Executive session.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Cerminara adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
James Kelly Director of Administrative Services

  
Jodi Cerminara, Council President

