



**Borough of Bellevue
Council Minutes
March, 24, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Rosemary Heflin Council Chambers**

I. Call to Order

At 7:00 P.M., President Helbling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

II. Roll Call

Councilperson Coder, Heffley, Helbling, Lenard, Menosky, Scisciani, Senvisky, Woshner, DAS Borczyk, Mayor Cusick, Solicitor Racunas, Department of Public Works Supervisor Olczak and Treasurer Scioscia were present. Councilperson Camello was absent.

III. Public Contribution (5 minutes per person)

Linda Carroll of North Howard Avenue spoke about the alcohol referendum. She urged Council to form a Committee to set up procedures for licensing. Ms. Carroll also informed Council that BIGr is organizing a Live, Worship, and Shop Tour of Bellevue on Saturday May 9th 2015 from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M.

Michelle Smith of Enjoy Bellevue asked that the Bellevue, Avalon, Ben Avon Planning Commission be permitted to review the Bellevue sign ordinance. Councilperson Coder stated that the document was that of the City of Pittsburgh Ordinance. Scott Keener stated that the Tri-Borough Planning Commission would be “fool hearty” to address anything that does not address Bellevue concerns.

Catherine Tulley from J.P.C. would like to send meeting minutes via email to DAS Borczyk.

Scott Keener, Joint Planning Commission, informed Council that the Steering Committee has been in place since December, 2014. The Comprehensive Plan should be complete by December of 2015 and will include Ben Avon Heights. They are anticipating adoption by the Spring of 2016. The plan will include signage, fencing, noise abatement, fixed types and blind cross references.

Connie Rankin of Arch Avenue informed Council that Avalon will be contracting sidewalk repairs in order to offer a standard/positive value to their residents. Ms. Rankin urged Bellevue to follow this procedure. It was suggested that this be placed on the DPW Committee Agenda.

Adam Ravenstahl informed Council that he was opening a district office at the Avalon Borough Building, 640 California Avenue. Representative Ravenstahl also announced that his staff would be in Bellevue and Avalon to assist residents with their rent rebate applications.

Mayor Cusick mentioned that he would appreciate any information on the Alcohol Referendum. Representative Ravenstahl suggested the LCB conduct a public hearing for the residents.

IV. MOTION: 7th Annual Classic Car Cruise

Councilperson Woshner made a motion to approve to close Lincoln Avenue to hold the 7th Annual Classic Chevrolet Car Cruise being held on May 17, 2015 from 11:00 A.M. till 6:00 P.M. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and was carried via unanimous voice vote.

V. Review of Prior Meeting Minutes

Councilperson Woshner made a Motion to review the prior Committee Meeting Minutes of the March 3, 2015 Public Safety Meeting as well as the March 3, 2015 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Heffley and carried via unanimous voice vote.

VI. Reports

a. Mayor's report

Mayor Cusick reported that \$15,795.28 was collected by the police for the month.

b. Treasurer Tax Collector's Report

Treasurer Scioscia reported that all bank statements were fully reconciled.

c. Jordan Tax Service Collector

Councilperson Woshner asked for that Jordan Tax Service provide Bellevue with the collection rate, and ask that they be invited to a future meeting.

d. Library – Written report to be submitted

Cultural and Library Director Ellen Goodman reported that Library Reports had been submitted and were somehow not received by the Borough office. The situation would be investigated and corrected.

VII. Committee Chair Reports

a. Finance

i. MOTION Turnkey Taxes, Inc. Contract

Councilperson Coder made a Motion to approve the Turnkey Taxes, Incorporated contract as drafted by the Borough Solicitor. Councilperson Woshner asked that the collections only go back seven years. Solicitor Racunas believes that it is better to go back further. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and was carried via unanimous roll call vote.

ii. MOTION: Joe Nolan; Tax Certification Fee Increases

Councilperson Coder made a Motion to approve tax certification fee increases as requested by Tax Collector, Joe Nolan. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Senvisky and carried via unanimous roll call vote.

b. Parks and Recreation

i. MOTION: Young Lungs at Play

Councilperson Coder made a Motion to approve the Young Lungs at Play, the banning of smoking in all Borough Parks. Solicitor Racunas was instructed to create an Ordinance. Many questions arose from this topic. Councilperson Coder asked if it would only apply to Bayne Park, Councilperson Woshner asked if this is enforceable. Councilperson Lenard asked about self-enforcement, that we shouldn't ignore 95% who support a

smoking ban. Councilperson Scisciani agreeing that only a small amount wish to smoke in the parks. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and carried via roll call vote of 7 yes and 1 no (Heffley).

ii. Bellevue Memorial Park Electrical Work Bidding

Department of Public Works Supervisor Olczak spoke about the bidding for electrical work needed at Bellevue Memorial Pool. DPW Supervisor Olczak has three other companies that are willing to quote the work, including the current estimate by Sergeant Electric Company.

c. Public Works

i. West Riverview Wall work update

Email copy provided to Council by HRG. DAS Borczyk was instructed to ask if the grant mentioned would permit the work to be done and reimbursement if grant is secured.

ii. MOTION: HRG Engineers Inc. to pursue a CFA Grant on W. Riverview

Councilperson Woshner made a Motion to authorize HRG Engineers, Incorporated to pursue a CFA Grant for work on the West Riverview Wall. It was noted that the grant would be awarded in November. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Heffley and carried via unanimous voice vote. This Motion was then withdrawn until further conversation with HRG about service was completed.

iii. MOTION: 2015 Sewer Project to bid by HRG Engineers, Inc.

Councilperson Woshner made a Motion to authorize the 2015 Sewer Project to be bid by HRG Engineers, Incorporated. (Budget Line Item No. 08.429.721). Councilperson Coder expressed concerns about the level of service by HRG and concerns paying for training of a new engineer. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and was carried via unanimous voice vote. Councilperson Woshner then withdrew her vote until completion of discussions with HRG about service moving forward. DAS Borczyk was instructed to send an email to HRG with the concerns that had been raised by Council about service.

Councilperson Woshner made a motion to approve purchase of supplies for the emergency sewer line collapse on North Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$ 5,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and carried via unanimous roll call vote.

Councilperson Woshner made a motion to approve the purchase of a “Billy Goat” vacuum style sidewalk cleaner at a cost not to exceed \$ 1,900.00. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and carried via unanimous roll call vote.

d. Public Safety

i. MOTION: Open Burning Permit Ordinance

Councilperson Scisciani made a Motion to take from the table, for the first reading, the revised Open Burning Permit Ordinance as drafted by the Borough Solicitor. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Heffley and carried via unanimous voice vote.

ii. MOTION: Fire Department Hose not to exceed \$4,000.00

Councilperson Scisciani made a Motion to purchase a Large Diameter Hose for the Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. (Budget Line Item Number 01.411.242) The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Woshner and carried via unanimous roll call vote.

iii. MOTION: Part-Time Fire Fighter Advertisement

Councilperson Scisciani made a Motion to authorize the DAS Borczyk to advertise for a part-time fire fighter, at a cost not to exceed \$150.00. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Woshner and carried via unanimous roll call vote.

iv. MOTION: New Police Vehicle

Councilperson Scisciani made a Motion to authorize the purchase a vehicle for the Police Department, with a three year lease (Budget Line Item Number 01.471.350). The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Woshner and was carried via unanimous roll call vote of 6-0 (Councilperson Coder not present at the time of the Motion). A new transmission for the current S.U.V. should be priced to determine future use to the Borough.

v. MOTION: Merging Police Departments

Councilperson Lenard made a Motion to pursue the possibility of merging Police Departments. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Senvisky and carried via unanimous voice vote. Much discussion on the topic followed. . A letter from Josh Klicker (Avalon) posed questions about whether a majority favored a merger. Does the Home Rule Charter permit or do we need a referendum? In 2005, a referendum passed allowing Bellevue to merge with specific Communities. Can we incur long term debt from point of consolidation?

Mayor Cusick asked Councilperson Helbling to schedule a SRO Meeting for March 25, 2015.

IX. Resolutions:

i. MOTION: Resolution No. 03-15 (2015 Fee Schedule)

Councilperson Woshner made a Motion to approve Resolution No. 03-15 to approve the 2015 Fee Schedule, with the exception of the Rental Fees. Councilperson Woshner voiced concerned about the increase cost to landlords. Councilperson Scisciani seconded the Motion and was carried via roll call vote of a 7-1 vote. (1 no; Woshner) Councilperson Woshner is concerned about the increase of cost to landlords and asked that a cost analysis of a rental inspection be prepared.

ii. MOTION: Resolution No. 06-15 (Real Estate Tax Refunds)

Councilperson Woshner made a Motion to approve Resolution No. 06-15 to approve refund of a real estate taxes due to a change in assessed value. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Menosky and carried via unanimous roll call vote. Councilperson Lenard expressed a problem with Councilperson Woshner voting, stating she has personal interest and should abstain from voting. Councilperson Woshner replied, there was a previous ethics ruling and she is entitled to vote.

X. Ordinances:

i. MOTION: Ordinance No. 15-01 (Sign Ordinance)

There was no vote on Ordinance 15-01. Councilperson Coder asked that the Tri-Borough's Planning Committee be given the opportunity to review as per their request, but, that 60 days be the time period. Mayor Cusick informed Council that merchants had many concerns and he will veto this Ordinance. Councilperson Woshner commented that the Ordinance did not document the differences between Ohio River Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue.

XI. Old Business

The Engineering charges on the West Riverview Wall were given to Councilperson Coder.

Act 205 Analysis and Reporting - Receipt of bids on such was discussed.

XII. New Business:

i. Possible Borough attendance at the ALOM Spring Conference: April 9th – 12th, 2015.

Councilperson Coder mentioned that she could attend the ALOM Conference on behalf of Bellevue Borough. DAS Borczyk was instructed to make the appropriate reservations.

ii. Publication of names for delinquent tax accounts.

DAS Borczyk submitted a draft notification letter that was similar to one written in 2009.

Councilperson Heffley received several emails about the lack of cleanliness of Lincoln Avenue. DAS Borczyk was asked to send letters to business owners encouraging cleanliness and maintenance of their storefront areas.

Councilperson Heffley also asked if the Police Department could “tag” garbage bags that were placed at the curb prior to pick up day.

Councilperson Helbling asked if Streetscape Landscape could be addressed/improved. He asked if DPW Supervisor Olczak program could come up with a program.

Councilperson Coder asked about a possible Bellevue Farmer’s Market. She was informed that all farm vendors contacted in the past were committed to other events in other communities.

Councilperson Coder also expressed concern over the format of HRG Engineer’s invoicing. She recommended the format of invoices similar to that of our Solicitor. Councilperson Woshner asked if DAS Borczyk could ask other communities for copies of their Engineering invoices to examine their format.

Councilperson Coder also notified Council of the CONNECT Congress on April 2, 2015 and encouraged attendance to represent the Borough.

DAS Borczyk informed Council that Duquesne Light had installed all thirty-seven (37) of the new Cobra head Street Lights on Lincoln Avenue.

Councilperson Woshner announced the Intergovernmental Committee Breakfast, scheduled for March 31, 2015 at the Northgate High School Cafeteria. Councilperson Heffley acknowledged that she planned to attend.

XIII. Motion to Approve Payment of the March bill list

Councilperson Woshner made a motion to approve the March Bill List. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and carried via unanimous roll call vote.

XIV. Public Contribution (2 minutes per person) - None

XV. Executive Session - There was a short Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

XVI. Adjournment

Councilperson Heffley made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 P.M., the Motion was seconded by Councilperson Scisciani and the meeting was adjourned.