



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020, 7:00 pm
Via Zoom Teleconference

Call to Order

President Pennington 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. Pikul, Ms. Sloane, Mr. DiTullio, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Cerminara, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Hause, Mr. Pritchard, and President Pennington. A quorum was established.

Also, in attendance were Mayor Emily Marburger; Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn; Financial Services Administrator Andrea Contes; Police Chief Matt Sentner; Library Director Ellen Goodman; Engineers Ben Gilberti and Bryan Churilla; and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- There was no public contribution on agenda times

Review of Minutes

- There were no changes to the minutes of the following: February 25, 2020 Council Meeting; April 28, 2020 Council Meeting; May 5, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting; May 5, 2020 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting; May 5, 2020 Public Works Committee Meeting; May 5, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Reports

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

- Mayor Marburger noted that the Borough received 4800 cloth face masks from Bella+Canvas clothing manufacturer through the US Conference of Mayors "Masks for Mayors" program.

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

- No comments were made.

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

- DAS Bahn stated that she will work with Council to identify what financial information would be most useful for Council to make informed decisions.

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

- No comments were made.

Library Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- Library Director Ellen Goodman noted that the Allegheny County Library Association will be holding a meeting with Library Directors on May 14 to discuss reopening plans.

Public Works Report

- DAS Bahn reported that 3 Public Works employees are out, one because he is at high risk for coronavirus, one because of a personal health issue who expects to be out 2 to 3 weeks, and the third because of an off-duty injury; the latter does not know how long he will be out. Because of this, Ms. Bahn suggested that Council reconsider their decision not to hire seasonal laborers.
- DPW employees are completing demolition work at Memorial Field in advance of construction, and are mowing.

Director of Administrative Services Report (written report was included with Council packet)

- DAS Bahn reported that there are concerns with our Workers Compensation insurance, as claims have exceeded the premium paid over the last 3 years. There is a chance that our current carrier will not renew, and that we may have difficulty finding another carrier.
- The Borough Building will serve as the only voting site for Bellevue as the County is having difficulty finding poll workers to staff sites during the pandemic. Council members suggested signage at the sites used in the past for voting, redirecting voters to the Borough Building, as well as communicating in as many ways as possible.

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

- Mr. Gilberti reported that he had an on-site meeting with DAS Bahn and 2 DPW employees at Memorial Park to discuss the planned improvements. He will set up a pre-construction meeting.
- He will also schedule a pre-construction meeting for the 2020 sewer lining project.
- 2020 Road projects will be advertised in the coming week.
- The manhole project will involve replacing flusher valves and lampholes in the 025 and 018 sewersheds so make future repairs easier and less expensive.
- The Gillott Park improvement project requires County approval for the relocation of the playground equipment and then Council can accept the single bid received for this project.
- Mr. Gilberti will work with the DAS to submit a Multi-modal Transportation grant for to address issues at Riverview Avenue and Rte. 65; proposals are due July 31.
- He will also seek grant dollars for East and West Bellevue Station projects.

Northwest EMS Report (written report attached)

- No comments were made.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee; Jodi Hause, Chair

1. Delinquent Tax Collector Proposals
 - Ms. Hause would like to have a vote on this matter at the May Council meeting.
2. Appointment to the Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission
 - Tom Hrynda, who submitted a letter of interest in this appointment, stated that he has been a member of the Joint Planning Commission since its inception 15 years ago. Prior to that, he served for 10 years on Bellevue's Planning Commission.
 - Catherine Tulley is employed as a data analyst at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and served on the Joint Planning Commission from 2014-2017. She has also submitted a letter of interest.
 - No action was taken on an appointment.
3. Appointment to the Bellevue Zoning Hearing Board
 - Alfred Gusew's term expired 12.31.2019, and he has submitted a letter indicating his interest in reappointment; an alternate member also needs to be appointed.
 - No action was taken on an appointment.

4. Auditor Appointment
 - David Gillingham, Tom Hrynda, and Linda Woshner have each submitted a letter of interest in this position.
 - Mr. Hrynda stated that he is interested because at the time, there was only 1 other person who expressed an interest.
 - Ms. Woshner stated that she is qualified because of her familiarity with Bellevue's finances and because of her financial background.
 - No action was taken on an appointment.
5. Opening of Bellevue Pool for Summer, 2020
 - A decision was deferred to the May Council meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee; Val Pennington, Chair

1. Status of Summer Concert Series at Andrew Bayne Memorial Library
 - The Library Director does not have any new information, but believes that bands should be given 2 weeks' notice about the Borough's intentions. She further stated that the Library will be opening in mid-June.
2. Summer 2020 Pavilion Rentals
 - The Solicitor stated that PA has not provided guidance on pavilion rentals as they have on other cultural and recreational activities, and suggested that Council play it by ear.
3. Gillott Park Improvements
 - The proposed relocation of the playground equipment was discussed.
 - Mr. Pritchard asked when the parks are going to reopen, noting that trails and the dog park are going to reopen. Chief Sentner is checking into signage indicating that people using the parks do so at their own risk, as well as how to provide hand sanitizer or hand washing facilities.

Public Safety Committee; Anya Pikul, Chair

1. National Night Out Date Change
 - Chief Sentner noted that the National Night Out organization has recommended that communities change the date of their events to October 6. The Police Department has started planning for the event.
2. Multimodal Transportation Grant for Starr Avenue
 - This was discussed at the Committee, and the project could either be a separate grant or combined with the grant application for Riverview Avenue and Rte. 65
3. Traffic Signal Maintenance
 - Chief Sentner is researching companies who handle traffic signal repair and maintenance to be on call for issues with signals in the Borough. He will contact Sargent Electric.
4. Small Open Fire Permits
 - The Solicitor was asked if he had something from a year or so ago addressing commercial grilling at an event if approval was obtained from Council, and if the amendment to the 2018 Ordinance was ever formally adopted. Mr. Racunas suggested reaching out to Jeff Wissner of the Fire Department. Mr. Pritchard stated that changing the current Ordinance will post a "big problem".

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Manhole Installation
 - The proposal from April 28, 2020 will be moved for a vote at the May Council meeting.
 - The current setup of flusher valves and lampholes prevents putting a camera through the line or lining it. A manhole installation will permit maintenance and allow for pipe lining to avoid collapse.
 - This is in the 2020 sewer budget.
2. Hiring of Seasonal Laborers
 - Will be discussed at Executive Session

