



Borough of Bellevue

Borough Pre-Council Meeting Minutes

August 11, 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. Edmondson, Ms. Hause, Mr. Pritchard, Mrs. Pikul, Mr. Stuncard, Ms. Cerminara, Ms. Sloane, Mr. DiTullio, and President Pennington. A quorum was established.

Also in attendance were Mayor Emily Marburger; Treasurer Joe Scioscia, Director of Administrative Services Cindy Bahn; Financial Services Administrator Andrea Contes; Engineers Ben Gilberti and Bryan Churilla; and Solicitor Matt Racunas.

Public Contribution on Agenda Items

- Kristin Bruno, 326 W. Riverview Avenue: Stated that the pool is an important part of summer and requested that Bellevue not close it.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Commented that a lot of money was put into the pool, and that it's a service to the community and a place for children; advised that the Borough advertise widely and conduct a "real search" for a qualified person for the Building Code Official position.
- Lynn Tennant-Heffley, 206 N. Jackson Avenue: Expressed her concern that no action has been taken to date on repairs to the pool, which makes Bellevue special.
- Moniqueka Barron, 653 Tingley Avenue: Reported that she drove past 202 Taco and watched a blind man walking by who hit his head on an umbrella.
- Alisa Maylo, 114 Cedar Avenue: Stated that the pool is an important part of the community, as it's affordable and not everyone has a lot of backyard space.
- Ronald Alioto, 110 Peony Avenue, Ross Township: Reported that as he was pulling into Pizza Hut on Lincoln Avenue, he cracked his oil pan on a dip in the road. Stated that there is a 7" dip in the road.

Review of Minutes

- There were no corrections or changes to the minutes of the July 14, 2020 Pre-Council Meeting or the July 28, 2020 Council Meeting.

Reports

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

- Mayor Marburger noted that she officiated a small COVID-safe wedding on August 2, 2020.

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

3. Discussion: Memorial Park Pool

President Pennington stated that this was part of a small conversation at the Committee meeting from Ms. Bahn, who suggested that Council formally commit to maintaining the pool as a community amenity. Mrs. Pikul stated that this is service to residents, and that the decision not to open this year was abhorrent. Ms. Hause agreed, stating that nothing has been done with repairs, and she was opposed to closing the pool this summer. She added that the pool's hours in the past were not friendly to working adults, and stated that the Forest Hills pool is open from noon to 8pm. Ms. Hause suggested that the repairs be made and that the Borough look for ways to increase attendance. Ms. Cerminara also agreed, noting that the pool provides a major benefit to the community. She suggested change the rates or the hours to help defray the costs of operating the pool. Ms. Edmondson stated that she is 100% in agreement with Ms. Hause, Ms. Cerminara, and Mrs. Pikul. Ms. Sloane also agreed. Mr. Pritchard asked for the status of the water pipe. Mr. Gilberti responded that he has put together an engineering services proposal for Council approval; after evaluating the waterline, the costs to repair exceed PA's bid threshold, so the project will need to be formally bid. Mr. Pritchard asked for a ballpark cost estimate, and Mr. Churilla responded with \$30,000 to \$40,000 for a 4" line. Mr. Churilla noted that a request for bids could be ready for advertisement in 2 weeks.

Motion to approve the proposal from HRG Engineering to complete the bid package for a Memorial Park water line repair in the amount of \$9,620.00.

Moved: Mr. Pritchard Second: Mrs. Pikul
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0

Public Safety Committee; Anya Pikul, Chair

1. Motion to Advertise, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$250, for the Position of Relief Firefighter

Moved: Mrs. Pikul Second: Ms. Cerminara

Discussion: Mr. Pritchard stated that in the Personnel Code, the terminology is "part-time", not "relief". President Pennington noted that these are emergency, as-needed personnel, but they have always been referred to as "part-time". The Solicitor noted that he is examining the Personnel Code and that Council may want to clean it up. While he doesn't want to make too big a deal of it, he does want it to be consistent. He stated that the union suggested this term, even though they are not part of the bargaining unit, but he is comfortable with using "relief" firefighter.

The motion was revised to read "Part-Time Firefighter".
All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried, 9-0

Public Works Committee; Jillian Edmondson, Chair

1. Discussion: Leaf Blower Purchase

DPW Superintendent Jim Kelly reported that Public Works rented a walk-behind leaf blower several times last year, at a cost of about \$500 each time. He has found a similar piece of equipment at a cost of \$2,225 which would likely last for years. He estimated that we are 3 to 4 weeks before "leaf season". Ms. Cerminara moved the purchase of a walk-behind leaf blower at a cost not to exceed \$2,225, but withdrew her motion and requested that it be added to the agenda for the Council meeting.

2. Discussion: 622 Tingley Avenue Basement Flooding

On Saturday, 08.08.2020, a pipe broke and DPW and the Fire Department were called to the scene. Public Works excavated the site to stop the water flow. Insight Pipe was on site 08.10.2020 to evaluate the storm and sanitary lines and found that both pipes could be lined; if they are not, Insight believes that they will collapse. Mr. Kelly requested a quote from Insight to perform the lining, which in his opinion is an emergency matter. The location of the lines precludes Public Works from undertaking this repair.

3. Discussion: Memorial Park Pool
Mr. Kelly reported that he spoke to the previous DPW Superintendent, who had only been able to identify 2 companies who expressed an interest in repairing or replacing the lining. The quotes range from \$110,00 - \$300,000 and are warranted for 10 years.
4. Discussion: Salt Spreader
Mr. Kelly noted that he needs to replace the salt spreader that was damaged in an accident and no longer usable. The Borough has already received an insurance check in the amount of \$1,576.92, which includes a deduction for the deductible. Mr. Kelly has priced a new spreader at \$3,732.00 which he would like to purchase. Ms. Edmondson requested that this be put on the agenda for the Council meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Mr. Racunas reported that both he and Mr. Gilberti have approved the land development plan for 51 Lincoln Avenue.
2. Building Code Official Position: Ms. Bahn will ensure that this is advertised widely, and will request a quote from the Post-Gazette to run the ad.

New Business

1. Discussion: Food and Beverage Service on Borough Sidewalks
President Pennington stated that he is not satisfied with the configurations of sidewalk tables outside 3 of the 4 restaurants impacted by the temporary waiver of setback requirements: 202 Hometown Tacos, 565 Grille, and Joe's Rusty Nail. A lively discussion ensued, with the consensus of Council being that the restaurants being reminded of what they agreed to, and follow-up by Code Enforcement to ensure that they are adhering to those agreements. Mr. Pritchard raised the issue of other Borough ordinances that he believes need to be addressed by Council.

Motion to temporarily waive Code § 235.19 related to the serving of alcohol at outside seating to permit the same, subject to any state requirements.

Moved: Mr. Pritchard Second: Ms. Edmondson
Aye: Ms. Cerminara, Mr. Stuncard, Mr. Pritchard
Nay: Mrs. Pikul, Ms. Sloane, Mr. DiTullio, Ms. Edmondson, Ms. Hause, President Pennington
Motion failed, 3-6.

Motion to temporarily modify Code §235.20 to permit the service of alcohol by restaurants from 7 am to midnight 7 days/week.

Moved: Mr. Pritchard Second: Ms. Cerminara
Aye: Ms. Cerminara, Mr. Pritchard
Nay: Mr. DiTullio, Ms. Sloane, Ms. Hause, Ms. Edmondson, Mrs. Pikul, President Pennington
Abstain: Mr. Stuncard
Motion failed 2-6 with 1 abstention.

By consensus, these will be discussed at the August Council meeting.

2. President Pennington requested volunteers for 2 ad hoc committees to negotiate new collective bargaining agreements for the Department of Public Works and the School Crossing Guards. He asked that Council members email him within the next 24 hours regarding their participation.

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

- Connie Rankin, 116 Arch Avenue: Stated that this is the third time she has informed Council that the Personnel Code has not been legally amended as the ordinance was not advertised post-adoption.
- Linda Woshner, 137 S. Euclid Avenue: Noted that the Borough has a "Personnel System", not "Personnel Code". She believes that the sidewalk waiver was not properly handled, and expressed disbelief that Mr. Kelly did not bring up the need for a leaf blower prior to this meeting.
- Lynn Tennant-Heffley, 206 North Jackson Avenue: Thanked Council members for listening to residents and stated that if Council votes at Pre-Council meetings, residents do not have a chance to participate.
- Moniqueka Barron, 653 Tingley Avenue: Stated that there is a pattern happening at meetings and it's not a controlled space where it's safe to speak up without being personally attacked.
- Sabrina (no last name given), 89 Sumner Avenue: Reported that she felt disrespected at the last meeting when, after urging everyone to work together, Mr. DiTullio behaved in an offensive and unprofessional way and there should be consequences for his disruptive behavior.

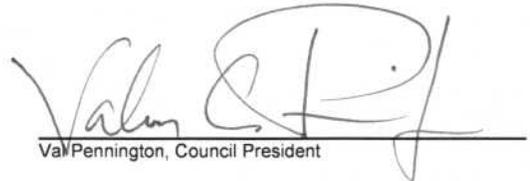
Adjournment

There being no further business, President Pennington adjourned the meeting at 9:29 pm.

ATTEST



Cindy L. Bahn, Director of Administrative Services/Secretary



Val Pennington, Council President

