

BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Bell Acres was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Hall, 1850 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Renfrew, President of Council, at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL

- (X) David Renfrew - President of Council
- (X) Brock Meanor - Vice President of Council
- (X) Christopher Abell
- () Lane Grafton - *Excused*
- () Carmee Murphy-Horton- *Excused*
- (X) Charles Kulbacki
- (X) Michelle Veeck

MAYOR

- (X) Kenneth Alvania, Mayor

BOROUGH ENGINEER

- (X) Richard Shoup – Shoup Engineering, Inc.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR

- (X) Robert Max Junker – Babst Calland

STAFF

- (X) Lisa Fleming – Borough Manager
- (X) Jill Palko – Borough Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Meanor Vice President of Council summarized the new parking ordinance and the steps that Council wants to take. Mr. Meanor is on the Public Safety committee for the Borough as well as Council. Mr. Meanor met with Chief Korol in October, 2022 to address some parking issues in Hawthorn Acres. There is concern for an elderly resident of having no access for any emergency vehicles to get through because cars park along both sides of Hamilton Drive block a large part of the road. Chief Korol spoke with some of the residents who are parking on the road, they were not neighborly about the issue and this is a concern. Mr. Meanor and Chief Korol spoke about this parking issue at the October Council meeting. Chief Korol recommended that no parking on either side of several Borough streets and no parking on certain sides of some streets would be advised, after he did the Traffic Study. The Council limited this to where the issues ensued with many complaints to the Borough office regarding very hazardous throughway for any emergency vehicle to be able to get through the narrower street.

In order to have an ordinance and take action, we first needed a traffic study completed by Police Chief Korol. Second to draft and propose an Ordinance to Council and enact upon this Ordinance. This was completed on April 10, 2023. The next step is to place No parking signage around the most problematic streets within the Borough. We are not pursuing the signage at this time and hoping the neighbors will comply with the Ordinance as it stands without the signs. We hope they come to realize that parking on the streets can be hazardous and will result a sign to be posted. Officers cannot enforce the Ordinance without signs posted.

This Ordinance is a mechanism for the Borough that if parking issues continue Council will take the proper action to solve the issue, which would entail placing no parking signs in the problematic areas. This Ordinance will allow Council to begin and assign as to what streets in the Borough need signage of “No parking” where the Borough has difficulty with parking problems. **Currently there will be no signs posted.**

Mrs. Nicole Steele 98 Lewis Street

Mrs. Steele expressed her concerns regarding the new Ordinance for No Parking and stated that the ordinance does not really meet her issue in the Sands plan. The Ordinance states at the intersection of Lewis and the Sands plan. Mr. Meanor made it clear that if there is an issue and folks are complaining, we now have the mechanism to have signs place in targeted areas. Mr. Junker also reiterated that through process and procedure in order to have a traffic Ordinance/Parking Ordinance put in place. Three items needed: Traffic Study, which can be done by the Police, an official Ordinance with the restrictions in place and lastly the no parking signs in areas where needed.

Ms. Kate Csallner 107 Lewis Street

Ms. Csallner wanted to speak out regarding the parking ordinance and stated that Lewis Street in her area – there are no problems or issues with parking on the street. Ms. Csallner had most of the folks on Lewis Street sign a petition to negate the no parking signs. Mr. Meanor stated that we are not planning at this time to place any signage on Lewis Street. Ms. Csallner is asking Council to take Lewis Street off the list of streets as a potential street to have no parking signs, or at minimum have no parking on one side of the street.

Mr. James Dixon 118 Hamilton Drive

Mr. Dixon stated he is in the process of remodeling his home. He knows of some issues of neighbors complaining about he and other construction vehicles parking on the street, but assured that emergency vehicles can get through, as he believes there is plenty of space. Mr. Dixon is not in favor of the parking ordinance and believes most of the residents on Hamilton Drive are not upset with several cars parked along the street. Mr. Dixon stated he is trying to fix up his home and wants it to look nice and he apologizes that some vehicles and large triaxles are on the street, but stated that any emergency vehicle could get through. Mr. Meanor stated if Council does decide to restrict parking on Hamilton Drive, a letter with information as to what should be done and if they can be neighborly to one another to avoid the no parking signage. We are not trying to overregulate; we are just trying to have solutions to issues.

INVITED GUESTS

Sewickley Heights Golf Club Representative – *did not attend*
Requesting permission to have a Fireworks Display on Sunday, May 28, 2023.

MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor’s Report for the month of April 2023 has been submitted in writing and made part of the minutes. Mr. Renfrew asked regarding what type of car the police are planning to get with the grant money we received. What is the status of the car. Mrs. Fleming stated the Chief did reach out to ask for several quotes from different car dealerships. Mr. Renfrew stated this is from the awarded grant money.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 10, 2023, was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report for April 2023 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$110,916.91 out of the General Fund and \$151.72 out of the State Fund was made by Mr. Meanor, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE - MICHELLE VEECK

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY – BROCK MEANOR

We are continuing negotiations on our full time Police Officers’ contract. There is an Executive session to discuss in further detail after tonight’s Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS – CHRISTOPHER ABELL

Cargill, Inc.- Contract Amendment – Storage Offer for Remaining Rock Salt

This contract allows the Borough to store our salt capacity to the end of December 2023, instead of end of June, 2023. Cargill, Inc., is aware of most boroughs not having the capacity to store the salt they ordered. A motion to approve the Cargill, Inc. Contract Amendment for Storage Offer for the Remaining Rock Salt to be Purchased for the 2022-2023 Winter Season was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Abell and Mr. Renfrew went to inspect the Camp Meeting slide project. The project is finally coming to an end. It will be milled and paved by mid-May. The guardrail is to be delivered by May 22, 2023, and once it is installed the road will be opened. The road should be opened before Memorial Day weekend.

PROPERTY & SUPPLIES – CHARLES KULBACKI

New Bell Acres Borough Signs

Mr. Kulbacki reported that years ago, Bell Acres ordered signs to post at the starting points of the Borough – some of these signs got lost or stolen and we are in the process of wanting to replace the signs.

Amendment to Agenda

A motion to amend agenda was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. Public comment: none. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the design and purchase of ten new Bell Acres Borough signs in the amount of \$3,250.00 as proposed by Blue Fire Signs & Graphics was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATION – CARMEE MURPHY-HORTON - excused

Mr. Meanor announced that the Primary election will take place on Tuesday May 16th at Big Sewickley Creek Fire Hall from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. Get out and vote!

ZONING – LANE GRAFTON- excused

No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There are other items that should be noted but do not need action at this time.

Amendment to Agenda

A motion to amend the agenda was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Meanor. Public comment: none. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to have the Borough Manager make a \$500.00 donation to the Leetsdale Fourth of July Committee was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discuss was held to address the Police Officers’ contract.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kulbacki seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill A. Palko
Borough Secretary