

**BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 10, 2018**

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**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Bell Acres was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 10, 2018, at the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Hall, 1850 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

- Cindy Spencer - 120 Hunt Road  
Informed Council there is an upcoming vote in Franklin Park for a five-year Oil and Gas Drilling Lease in Linbrook Park and concerned that the park is in the back yard of Bell Acres. The vote will take place on December 19, 2018, at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Young stated that Council will look into it.

**REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Young, President of Council, at 7:06 p.m.

**COUNCIL**

- (X) Dennis Young, President of Council
- (X) David Renfrew, Vice President of Council
- ( ) Chris Abell - Excused
- (X) Brock Meanor
- (X) Michelle Veeck
- (X) Greg Wagner
- (X) John Walliser

**MAYOR**

- (X) Kenneth Alvania, Mayor

**BOROUGH ENGINEER**

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

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR**

- (X) Robert Max Junker – Babst Calland

**STAFF**

- (X) Charles Kulbacki, Borough Manager
- (X) Lisa Fleming, Borough Secretary

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor's Report for the month of November has been submitted in writing and made a part of the minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 12, 2018, was made by Mr. Renfrew and seconded by Mr. Wagner. All in favor. Motion carried.

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING**

A motion to approve the minutes of the Budget Meeting held on November 26, 2018, was made by Mr. Meanor and seconded by Mr. Wagner. All in favor. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2018 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$133,546.06 out of the General Fund and \$6,592.73 out of the State Fund, was made by Mrs. Veeck and seconded by Mr. Wagner. All in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**BAMA SEWAGE BOND CAPITAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT**

Mr. Young stated that the Bell Acres Sewage Bond Capital Transfer Agreement is an amendment to support the agreement between Bell Acres Borough and the Bell Acres Municipal Authority (BAMA) to transfer approximately \$179,000.00 that remains in the bond account into the sewage project. This is per the letter request from Gary Irwin, Chairman of BAMA, dated November 7, 2018, for the creation of a capital improvement reserve fund to be used by the Authority solely for current and anticipated future infrastructure fees of the Authority.

A motion to enter into this agreement to return the funds to BAMA to be used for future infrastructure and capital improvements was made by Mrs. Veeck and seconded by Mr. Renfrew. All in favor. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BUDGET & FINANCE – Mrs. Veeck**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12102018 – ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2019**

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12102018 to adopt the 2019 Bell Acres Borough Budget with

- Receipts totaling \$2,095,447
- Expenses totaling \$2,095,447

was made by Mrs. Veeck and seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 297 – TAX ORDINANCE FOR THE YEAR 2019**

**ORDINANCE NO. 297**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019.**

A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 297 of the Borough of Bell Acres, fixing the tax rates for the Fiscal Year 2019 with a millage rate of 4.32 mills was made by Mrs. Veeck and seconded by Mr. Renfrew. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC SAFETY – Mr. Renfrew**

**BIG SEWICKLEY CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Renfrew stated that, along with Mrs. Veeck, they met with the management of the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Department last week. Mr. Renfrew suggested a few things – obtain your attorney, Kim Houser, in finding ways to increase the roles and retention of personnel. Kim Houser says that he can help and the Borough can cover the expense out of the Contingency Fund. If anything else is needed, the department would have to return to Council for authorization. Mr. Renfrew stated that Mr. Houser is a proponent of the volunteer fire department and the right resource. He also noted that membership has gone down in the last few years and is concerned that the fire department will be unable to respond to an emergency. An in-depth discussion took place regarding recruiting younger volunteers.

Mr. Young passed the gavel to Mr. Renfrew so that Mr. Young could make a motion. A motion for Borough Council to expend up to \$3,000 out of the Contingency Fund was made by Mr. Young.

Mr. Wagner made an amendment by consent to the motion that if the fire department has any other ideas, then the fire department would have to return to Council and ask for solutions. Mrs. Veeck seconded the motion.

Mr. Young opened the floor for public comment since the motion was not on the Agenda.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Richard Kulbacki - 147 Hitzel Hill Road  
Expressed his concern and needs people to work with the fire department.
- Lois Fowler Striffler - 101 Lewis Street  
Stated that her family fought many fires. She noted that the fire department started out with five and it's always been difficult to get firefighters.
- Wayne Fortuna - 108 Hamilton Drive  
Described the great relations the fire department has with surrounding fire departments such as Fair Oaks, Leetsdale, and Economy Borough.
- Harry Lavelle - 1673 Big Sewickley Creek Road  
Stated that he lived in the borough for 79 years and at one time there was no fire department. He commented that the men are doing a great job.
- Sam Connelly, EMT - 1650 Big Sewickley Creek Road  
Reported that a lot of the members are members of other departments. He noted that if they receive calls from other areas, they will eventually arrive on the scene.

Mr. Meanor expressed his appreciation to the firefighters and all the work they do.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Fortuna said, "Thank you for the motion, Mr. President."

#### **VFD VOUCHER CARD**

Mayor Alvania stated that the voucher issue has not been resolved and there are eight volunteer firefighters that are qualified to receive a voucher. Mayor Alvania asked if the issue can be resolved.

Another discussion ensued regarding the amount of the vouchers. Mr. Junker cited the Borough Code. Mrs. Veeck stated that Council would like to see how the point system is tightened up. Mr. Fortuna said that the fire department is basically set up for fire and EMT calls. They are now adding personal training that will be reported to Council every month.

A motion to pay \$500 per voucher and any excess money left over in 2018 will be allotted and set aside for the voucher program and put into a savings for 2019 was made by Mr. Renfrew and seconded by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Kulbacki stated that the voucher card is actually going to be a Giant Eagle gift card that can be used for groceries, gas, or other gift cards.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Renfrew announced that Borough Council will hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The Executive Session convened at 7:46 p.m.

**RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING**

Mr. Young called the Regular Meeting back to order at 7:53 p.m.

**CHIEF OF POLICE CONTRACT**

A motion to adopt Kristoffer Korol's Chief of Police contract from January 1, 2019, until December 31, 2022, was made by Mr. Renfrew and seconded by Mr. Walliser. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS – Mr. Abell - Excused**

Mr. Kulbacki reported that the Public Works Committee met and discussed the long-term program for the roads and will have something to present at the next Council meeting.

**PROPERTY & SUPPLIES – Mr. Wagner**

No report.

**GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATION – Mr. Meanor**

Mr. Meanor stated that the QVCOG met twice last month and passed the budget.

**ZONING – Mr. Walliser**

Mr. Walliser announced that there are a couple of items that the Planning Commission presented to Council for consideration and approval.

**WILLIAM & ERIN WHITE LOT CONSOLIDATION PLAN**

A motion to approve the William and Erin White Lot Consolidation Plan was made by Mr. Walliser and seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

**FLORO LOT CONSOLIDATION PLAN**

A motion to approve the Floro Lot Consolidation Plan was made by Mr. Walliser and seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

**DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 298**

**ORDINANCE NO. 298**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 149 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, "SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT" (SALDO), TO REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 147 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT."**

Mr. Walliser stated that the Planning Commission recommends approval of the SALDO draft amendment to bring into compliance with the newly approved Stormwater Management requirements.

A motion to advertise for a Public Hearing and possible adoption at the Regular Monthly Meeting in February 2019, on proposed Ordinance No. 298 was made by Mrs. Veeck and seconded by Mr. Walliser. All in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**LITTLE SEWICKLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Young stated that over the last few months, discussions were held about contributing towards the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Conservation and Stewardship Plan. Mr. Young advised that the Borough could not actually donate to it because it is being handled by the Allegheny Land Trust and the Borough is not permitted to make donations to a land trust. However, the Borough can contribute through the Little Sewickley Watershed Association that will unlock a \$2,500 challenge grant from the Sewickley Valley Community Fund, and match a PA DCNR grant. Mr. Junker cited Section 1202(55) of the Borough Code in which the Borough has the power to "appropriate money to nonprofit watershed associations for watersheds serving the borough. . ." A discussion took place as to the issues regarding the creek and the efforts of the watershed authority.

A motion to contribute \$2,000 to the Little Sewickley Watershed Association to be used for the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Conservation, with the restriction of Section 1202(55) of the Borough Code, was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Walliser. All in favor. Motion carried.

**SWIFT 911**

Mayor Alvania introduced an emergency notification system called Swift911. Mayor Alvania reported that mass emergency notifications can alert the residents with this system. The Mayor met with Chief Korol and he recommended the service. The yearly contract costs \$995 per year, with a one-time setup fee of \$250. Mr. Young requested Mr. Kulbacki to include the literature in next month's packet for Council to review. A discussion took place regarding its usage; whereas, Mr. Young requested Chief Korol and Mr. Fortuna to review their logs to determine when the system could have been used. Mr. Walliser noted that he would like to see something in the agreement that will not sell the information to telemarketers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to transact, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Renfrew and seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Young announced to everyone to have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa J. Fleming  
Borough Secretary