

**BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 11, 2019**

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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, November 11, 2019, at the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Hall, 1850 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mr. Young asked that we take a Moment of Silence for the Veterans who fought and sacrificed for us to live in America.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

- Harry Lavelle - 1673 Big Sewickley Creek Road  
Mr. Lavelle shared that on the War Memorial Monument 77 names were in World War II and a couple names that have a star didn't make it back home. Mr. Lavelle was in the Korean War. Mr. Young commented, "Thank you for your service, Pap."
  
- Robert Powner – 124 Barley Road
  - Mr. Powner announced he has two issues. First, he inquired about the election signs that are still erected throughout the Borough. Mr. Kulbacki offered for the road department to take care of it.
  
  - Secondly, Mr. Powner spoke on behalf of him and his wife. He is opposed to the 5% reduction. He stated that with his past experience, a lot of effort came from this Council. Because of the concerns regarding the proposed new school, he believes that we really need to address Gianni Floro, a school board representative of Bell Acres. Mr. Young shared his concerns and assured him that we will make the budget what it needs to be for the Borough.

**5 MINUTE RECESS**

At 7:07 p.m. Mr. Young announced that a 5-minute recess would be taken so our Mayor and Borough Manager could move their vehicles.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION CONTINUATION**

The Public Discussion reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

- Mrs. Veeck stated that she believes the School Board needs to be brought to bear. She stated it will be our recommendation, at the end of this evening, for the school board to address us and have a conversation with us.
  
- Mr. Abell reported that he called the school's communication department. They informed him there will be a Fall Public Forum where the public will be invited. They also informed him that the best case scenario for a student to walk into the new high school would be in 2026. The new superintendent is trying to move things along.
  
- Mrs. Veeck also announced that Quaker Valley School Board is having a meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Edgeworth Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. She highly encouraged people to attend.
  
- Mr. Powner also reported that Attorney Houser met with the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Department to review the bylaws and made some suggestions. Over the last six months they added four new members.

**REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Young, President of Council, at 7:17 p.m.

**COUNCIL**

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

**MAYOR**

- (X) Kenneth Alvania, Mayor

**BOROUGH ENGINEER**

- (X) Scott 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 October 2019 has been submitted in writing and made a part of the minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to adopt minutes, as corrected, of the Regular Meeting held on October 14, 2019, was made by Mr. Renfrew and seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2019 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$261,052.54 out of the General Fund and \$16,653.71 out of the State Fund, was made by Mr. Meanor and seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TURKEYFOOT ROAD LANDSLIDE**

Scott Shoup addressed Council regarding the Turkeyfoot Road Landslide situation. Mr. Shoup met with contractors regarding the logistics and timing. In a meeting with Dr. Alvi of GeoMechanics, it was discussed that a more realistic cost to erect a retaining wall would be approximately \$600,000, plus the cost of the design; not the \$120,000 to \$150,000 that was previously provided. He further explained that the second idea would be excavation of the shoring of the slide. Mr. Shoup, along with Mr. Kulbacki, met at the site with Lew Hopkins, a local contractor. We discussed creating a "wedge" of stable compacted material. Moving forward, three quotes were obtained as follows:

Camp Meeting Excavating	\$175.00/Hour	\$ 7,000/Week
Frey Excavating	\$215.00/Hour	\$ 8,600/Week
Meyer Excavating	\$270.00/Hour	\$10,800/Week

Mr. Hopkins estimated it would take approximately three (3) weeks. Mr. Hopkins could begin work in January and the road would have to be shut down for one week. In addition, the Borough would supply certain materials and support from the Borough's Road Department. Mr. Shoup felt it was important to bring this back to Council to readdress the situation. Several questions were posed by Council Members to Mr. Shoup and Mr. Junker. Further discussions ensued.

Mr. Meanor suggested that a grant may be available through the Growing Greener Grant Programs. Mr. Shoup stated he has not heard of Growing Greener Grants given for slides; however, he will look into it. Mr. Meanor stated the grant application is due on December 20, 2019. Mr. Walliser advised that you must make justification that you're improving water quality. Mr. Meanor will forward the grant application to Mr. Shoup.

A motion to engage Camp Meeting Excavating at an estimated cost not to exceed \$20,600 for work directed by the Borough Engineer, with the Borough supplying materials and loaning our Road Department, as needed, to improve the landslide on Turkeyfoot Road was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Abell.

Mr. Young opened the floor for public discussion. There was no public comment. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **ROAD DEPARTMENT/BOROUGH OFFICE RADIOS**

Mr. Wagner reported that the meeting was cancelled the day before and they are trying to reschedule it.

#### **OTHER OLD BUSINESS**

#### **CAMP MEETING ROAD LANDSLIDE**

Mr. Young inquired about the County updates on the Camp Meeting Road landslide, particularly since there is an exposed 8" water main. Mr. Young asked Mr. Kulbacki to contact the office of Cindy Kirk, Allegheny County Council Representative, and remind her they spoke about this issue at the Harvest Festival.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **BUDGET & FINANCE – Mrs. Veeck**

#### **2020 BOROUGH BUDGET**

A motion to advertise and hold the Budget Meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building for the annual Budget Workshop was made by Mr. Renfrew and seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY – Mr. Renfrew**

No Report

#### **PUBLIC WORKS – Mr. Abell**

No Report

#### **PROPERTY & SUPPLIES – Mr. Wagner**

No Report

#### **GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATION – Mr. Meanor**

Mr. Meanor's report was given during the Turkeyfoot Road Landslide discussion.

#### **ZONING – Mr. Walliser**

Mr. Walliser discussed the Planning Commission's recommended changes to the draft Zoning Ordinance.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**REVIEW PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 165 IN THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, "ZONING", TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS IN ARTICLE VI ON "SIGNS" AND TO ADD A NEW PROVISION ON THE EXPIRATION OF CONDITIONAL USES.

The proposed ordinance was discussed under Mr. Walliser's Zoning Report.

**BARLEY ROAD**

Mr. Young reported that Shields Paving performed asphalt repairs for Columbia Gas on Barley Road. However, after the repairs, the water has not been draining into the storm basins. Mr. Young asked Mr. Kulbacki to take a look and see if we need to have Shields Paving return to address this.

**HITZEL HILL ROAD**

Mr. Young asked Mr. Kulbacki to call PENNDOT and address the drainage problem at the bottom of Hitzel Hill Road.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**EARTH DISTURBANCE INSPECTION REPORT**

Mr. Abell reported we've received 45 Earth Disturbance Reports and this is the first time there were no violations.

**PROPERTY TAX CHART**

Mr. Renfrew thanked Mrs. Fleming for creating the Property Tax Chart.


**QUAKER VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD**

Mrs. Veeck requested a letter be sent to the School Board Members who represent Bell Acres Borough, and invite them to the December Council Meeting, in order to address our concerns. Mr. Young asked Mrs. Fleming to compose a letter for Mr. Young's signature and request their attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to transact, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Renfrew. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa J. Fleming  
Borough Secretary