

**BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 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, September 11, 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. Meanor Vice President of Council, at 6:05 p.m.

COUNCIL

- () David Renfrew - President of Council - excused
- (X) Brock Meanor - Vice President of Council
- (X) Christopher Abell
- (X) Lane Grafton
- () 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

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's Report for the month of August 2023 has been submitted in writing and made part of the minutes. Mayor Alvania announced Trick or Treat will be on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 14, 2023 was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE CORRECTED AMENDED AGENDA

A motion to approve the corrected amended agenda of the Regular Meeting held on held on August 14, 2023 was made by Mrs. Veeck seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 14, 2023 was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2023 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$135,312.29 out of the General Fund and \$142.52 out of the State Fund was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE - MICHELLE VEECK

State Liquid Fuels Account Funds Transfer to General Fund for Expenditures of the 2023 Road Improvement Project.

A motion to authorize the Borough Manager to appropriate the use of the State Liquid Fuels Account Funds in the amount of \$62,000 in budget line item 392.100 – Interfund Transfer – Liquid Fuels for the expenditures of the 2023 Road Improvement Project was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY – BROCK MEANOR

Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Department

Authorization for Monthly Distribution of Fire Tax Funds

A motion to authorize the Borough Manager to disburse \$10,000 from budget line item 392.300 to be deposited in the FDIC bank account maintained by the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Department in accordance with Section 153-54 of the Borough of Bell Acres Fire Tax Ordinance was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Amendment to Agenda

A motion to amend the agenda was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell

Public comment: None All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to authorize the Borough Manager to disburse \$48,000 set aside for the SCBA's for the Fire Department and \$12,000 from the fire tax we would set aside this year for the SCBA's was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. Public comment: none. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS – CHRISTOPHER ABELL

Mr. Abell raised concerns regarding the paving of Grouse Lane. The milling of the road was done very well. However, the paving was poorly done and therefore, pooling of water near the stop sign is of great concern as the colder weather is coming this will create ice and cause sliding. Mr. Abell stated this is an on-going open issue and hopefully Independent Enterprises will correct this under our total supervision, until that happens, we are still withholding the rest of the payment they are due.

Mr. Abell asked if in the future if we have this same contractor, is there a way to forgo and not take their bid. Mr. Junker stated there is a pre-qualification provision for work definitive bidding. It is an advantage that boroughs have over municipal authorities.

It is the responsibility of the borough to award to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. However, if there is a question about responsibility provided that is addressed up front and documented while also checking other references and it is your past experience. They may meet the pre qualifications and submit a bid and is the lowest bidder, there could be a process to disqualify them based on responsibility and being responsive to issues of projects supposedly complete.

PROPERTY & SUPPLIES – CHARLES KULBACKI

Discuss the CD 48-7.4a Borough Park ADA Parking Project Bid through the QVCOG that was bid on August 31, 2023.

Mr. Kulbacki stated we are slowly moving ahead with the renovations of the Borough Park. The Pavilion will be delivered by mid-December. Bids were placed for the asphalt parking lot. We received a \$20,000 grant; the bid came in at \$34,288. The decision is to eliminate the southeast Lot and the installation of handicap signs; this will take the project down to \$24,438.00.

A motion to authorize the Quaker Valley Council of Governments to award the Bell Acres Borough Park ADA Parking Project #CD-48-7.4a to Stefanik's next Generation Contracting Company in the amount of \$24,438.00 was made by Mr. Kulbacki and seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATION – CARMEE MURPHY-HORTON – excused

Mr. Meanor pointed out a letter from Representative Valerie Gaydos office – Town Hall Meeting to discuss efforts to establish landslide insurance and Assistance Program. Please check the Borough website at www.bellacres.org and click on the Town Hall Meeting for more information.

ZONING – LANE GRAFTON

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) of \$105,032 for the Police Pension Plan was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) of \$29,378 for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discuss proposed Fireworks Ordinance No. 323.

A discussion was proposed to have a Fireworks Ordinance Mr. Meanor stated there are several neighbors complaining of the loud and disruptive fireworks being set off in the evening.

Mr. Junker stated that from 10:00 am from 10:00pm – no fireworks are permitted to be set off. However, on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and New Year’s Eve – fireworks are permitted. The display fireworks would require a permit issued and proof of insurance, the permits would need to be made available at the borough office.

Council decided to table this Ordinance and have the Police department give more detail of complaints they have received from the past several years.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Veeck seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Labor Negotiations - Police

Respectfully submitted,



Jill A. Palko
Borough Secretary