

BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 11, 2023

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REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Bell Acres was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 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. Renfrew President of Council, at 6:04 p.m.

COUNCIL

- (X) David Renfrew - President of Council
- ( ) Brock Meanor - Vice President of Council - *excused*
- (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

None.

INVITED GUESTS

Jeffrey Lipton - President, Quaker Valley Recreation Association (QVRA)

Michael Riordan - President, Quaker Valley Softball & Baseball (QVSB)

Mr. Lipton discussed the plans for the Quaker Valley Ball Park. This park has been in discussion for several years. The Quaker Valley Recreation Association (QVRA) received a \$500,000 grant for renovations to the ball park. This is a matching grant. Mr. Lipton proposed Bell Acres Borough allow in the budget to give 1% of the budget for the next several years.

This park is essential for all students and residents in the area, including all of Quaker Valley School District. The school district is helping this initiative by having an engineer work with the QVRA at the School's expense. ~~Mr. Riordan is on the Quaker Valley School Board.~~ The ball park is a big part of the school district and believes it will eventually be a big part of the surrounding neighborhoods including Bell Acres.

**CORRECTION: Mr. Riordan is President of the Quaker Valley Softball & Baseball (QVSB). Mr. Riordan is not on the Quaker Valley School Board.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's Report for the month of November 2023 has been submitted in writing and made part of the minutes. Mayor Alvania stated the new police car will be upfitted and hopefully ready by early February 2024.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

## APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 20, 2023, was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted for November 2023 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$199,272.03 out of the General Fund and \$144.39 out of the State Fund was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

### BUDGET & FINANCE - MICHELLE VEECK

Budget and Finance – Michelle Veeck

On November 20, 2023, the proposed 2024 Bell Acres Borough Budget was prepared, filed, and subsequently advertised with:

- Receipts of \$2,254,563.00, carryover of \$133,447.00
- Expenditures of \$2,388,010.00

### Resolution No. 12112023 – Adoption of Budget for Year 2024

#### RESOLUTION NO. 12112023

#### ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12112023 for the adoption of the Borough Budget for the Year 2024 was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Resolution No. 12112023A – Tax Resolution for the Year 2024

#### RESOLUTION NO. 12112023A

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12112023A – Fixing the Tax Rates for the Fiscal Year 2024 was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

*Mr. Renfrew, President of Council added that there is no tax increase for the residents of Bell Acres Borough.*

### Repeal Ordinance No. 316 – Fixing Annual Compensation for Members of Council

#### PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 325

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 316 AND REINSTATING ORDINANCE NO. 279, CONTINUING ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

A motion to enact Proposed Ordinance No 325 – Repealing Ordinance No. 316 and reinstating Ordinance No. 279 was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

*Mr. Abell asked about the Planning Commission – Mr. Junker stated the Planning Commissions compensation in the Borough Code cannot exceed Borough Council compensation. We are establishing the Planning Commission will be paid as they were in previous years. Planning Commission will be reinstated for compensation going forward.*

## PUBLIC SAFETY – BROCK MEANOR - excused

### Proposed Ordinance No. 322 – Amending the Police Pension Plan to add a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)

ORDINANCE NO. 322

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING THE POLICE PENSION PLAN TO ADD A DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN (DROP)

A motion to advertise Ordinance No. 322 – Amending the Police Pension Plan to Add a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for potential enactment at the January 2, 2024 Reorganization meeting was made by Mr. Renfrew, seconded by Mrs. Veeck.

*Mr. Junker stated to yield the gavel to tally the votes as Mr. Renfrew, President of Council made the motion. There not being a Vice President at the meeting to take the tally, another member of Council Mrs. Veeck announced to tally the votes. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Full-Time Police Officers' Contract

A motion to approve a three (3) year contract with the Full-Time Police Officers effective January 1, 2024, until December 31, 3026, was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 12112023B – Eliminating Contributions by Members of the Police Department into the Police Pension Fund for the Year 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 12112023B

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ELIMINATING CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT INTO THE POLICE PENSION FUND FOR THE YEAR 2024.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12112023B was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 12112023C – Part-Time Police Officers

RESOLUTION NO. 12112023C

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM E. DREYER, BRIAN M. JAMESON, THOMAS A. LIBERTY, MATTHEW J. PICCININI AND LARRY K. VIERLING, AS PART-TIME OFFICERS; SETTING FORTH THEIR RESPECTIVE TERMS OF OFFICE, COMPENSATION, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12112023C was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 12112023D – Recognizing the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc. as the Borough's Fire Company, authorizing payment of the proceeds of the Tax on Foreign Fire Insurance Premiums, and requiring annual budget and financial reports prior to disbursement of Fire Tax funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 12112023D

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, RECOGNIZING THE BIG SEWICKLEY CREEK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC. AS THE FIRE COMPANY WHICH RENDERS SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS AND INHABITANTS OF THE BOROUGH, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT BY THE BOROUGH TREASURER OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE TAX ON FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUMS RECEIVED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO THE RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE BIG SEWICKLEY CREEK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC., OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS THE BOROUGH COUNCIL SHALL DETERMINE, PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECEIPT OF FUNDS GENERATED BY THE FIRE TAX, FOR THE YEAR 2024.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12112023D was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS – CHRISTOPHER ABELL

Our salt needs to be delivered to our Borough Road Department in the salt shed. Mr. Bohn placed the order, as it needed to be in by year's end. We are hoping to store this in our salt sheds.

2023 Road Improvement Final Retainage Payment to Independent Enterprises, Inc. Although the ponding water is not completely eliminated, the repairs did limit the ponding to an acceptable level as approved by the Borough Engineer.

A motion to approve the final retainage payment to Independent Enterprises, Inc. for the 2023 Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$10,130.46 that was held by the Borough until the Borough Engineer inspected the repair work that was made by the contractor to rectify an area of ponding water on Grouse Lane near the intersection with Backbone Road, was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

PROPERTY & SUPPLIES – CHARLES KULBACKI

None

GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATION – CARMEE MURPHY-HORTON – excused

ZONING – LANE GRAFTON – Excused

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 12112023E – Administer and Enforce the Borough Construction Code, the Uniform Construction Code, and the Pennsylvania Construction Code; to retain Professional Code Services, Inc. as the municipal code consultant and construction code official.

RESOLUTION NO. 12112023E

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DESIGNATING THE METHODS BY WHICH THE BOROUGH WILL ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE THE BOROUGH CONSTRUCTION CODE, THE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE, AND THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSTRUCTION CODE AT WITHIN THE BOROUGH

*If Council takes action:* A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12112023E was made by\_\_\_\_\_, seconded by\_\_\_\_\_ This was tabled until January Council meeting.  
Tabled to next meeting – January 2, 2024.

Resolution No. 12112023F - Reappointment of Bradley Semonik to a 3-year term as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board

RESOLUTION NO. 12112023F

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING BRADLEY SEMONIK AS A MEMBER OF THE ZONING HEARING BOARD.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 12112023F to reappoint Bradley Semonik to a 3-year term as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2026, was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reappointment of Gregory Molchen to the Planning Commission

A motion to reappoint Gregory Molchen to a 4-year term as a member of the Planning Commission beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2027, was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resignation of Finn Johnson from the Environmental Advisory Council

A motion to accept the resignation of Finn Johnson from the Environmental Advisory Council at the end of his term of December 31, 2023, was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Appointment of John Walliser to the Environmental Advisory Council

A motion to appoint John Walliser to a 3-year term as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2026, was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reappointment of Wayne Fortuna to the Bell Acres Municipal Authority

A motion to reappoint Wayne Fortuna to a 5-year term as a member of the Bell Acres Municipal Authority beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2028, was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reappointment of Addie Sochats to the Bell Acres Municipal Authority

A motion to reappoint Addie Sochats to a 5-year term as a member of the Bell Acres Municipal Authority beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2028, was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

*Announcement of the Reorganization Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Borough Building.*

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 Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mrs. Veeck. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel and Pension Plan issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill A. Palko  
Borough Secretary