

BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Bell Acres was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024, 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 6:01 p.m.

COUNCIL

(X) David Renfrew - President of Council
(X) Brock Meanor - Vice President of Council
(X) Christopher Abell
(X) Charles Kulbacki
(X) Gregory Molchen
(X) Michelle Veeck
(X) Kenneth Alvania - Mayor
(X) Richard Shoup - Borough Engineer
(X) Anna Skipper Jewart - Babst Calland

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Harry Lavelle 1667 Big Sewickley Creek Road

Mr. Lavelle would like the Road department going forward to display the flags at the memorial at the Borough Park. Mr. Lavelle did the flag display for many years and he is 92 years old. Mr. Lavelle has decided to pass this on to the Road department. Mr. Renfrew thanked Mr. Lavelle for his veteran service and his flag service display for all these years.

Matthew Rickrode 710 Camp Meeting Road

Mr. Rickrode has concerns of the speed limit on the road – he does not believe that folks are going only 35 miles per hour. Mr. Rickrode would like to know if Camp Meeting Road is the busiest road in the borough, and if so, why is it not patrolled more often. Mr. Kulbacki pointed out receives a Mayor's report with traffic stops and roads they traffic and where the most traffic and speeding occurs. Mr. Rickrode asked why the speed limit is 35 mph and how long has it been 35 mph. Can anything be done to maybe get this lowered possibly a traffic study. Mrs. Fleming reported that Allegheny County is conducting a traffic study for a stop sign and for a speed limit.

Sergeant Tresky also reported of how the police are trafficking the area of concern near Mr. Rickrode's house, and the difficulty of trying to conceal their car so no one can see them. They do monitor this area as often as possible.

Invited Guests

Matthew Horton – Candidate for Open Council Member Position

Mr. Horton 245 Summerlawn Drive Mr. Horton lived in the area for over 15 years. Mr. Horton is a civil/environmental engineer and has worked with many different municipal governments in a variety of different roles. Mr. Horton worked with private and municipal client representation and consultant coordination during plan approval and permitting processes. Various projects of grant management, specifications/bid document preparation. Mr. Horton believes he has a great perspective on how residents have different needs he worked with projects from his varied roles with consultant and managerial roles.

Finn Johnson – Candidate for Open Council Member Position

Mr. Johnson 8 Fairway Drive -Mr. Johnson has lived in the area for 20 years. Mr. Johnson held a position on the Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Johnson took an initiative to help the Planning Commission with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Johnson is now the Chair of the Planning Commission and is also helping the Borough office with his website expertise, advising and designing a new Borough website.

Chris Popovic – Candidate for Open Council Member Position

698 Little Sewickley Creek Road – Mr. Popovic has lived in the area for 6 years. Mr. Popovic is on the Environmental Advisory Council and a member of the Little Sewickley creek Watershed Association. Mr. Popovic reported a strong understanding of public administration of community needs, involved with maintenance and care of community trails in the Bell Acres Borough. Working a lot with civil service.

MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor’s report for the month of May 2024 has been submitted in writing and made part of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 13, 2024, 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 as submitted for May 2024 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$162,538.82 out of the General Fund \$330.01 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

Opening a Money Market Savings Account at PNC Bank

Mrs. Fleming- met with PNC to open a Money Market to generate a higher interest rate with 4.5%. Our general fund rate is 2.75%. Thought it is best to move funds in and out of a money market account in order to accrue more interest. Mrs. Fleming had PNC do some research and follow the borough codes.

A motion to open a Money Market Savings Account at PNC Bank in Sewickley, PA was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Meanor. 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 301.101 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. Meanor, seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Works – Christopher Abell

Cargill, Inc. - Second Contract Amendment – Storage Offer for Remaining Rock Salt to be Purchased for the 2023-2024 Winter Season

A motion to accept the Cargill Second Contract Amendment to extend the time to meet the minimum eighty percent (80%) purchase requirement for the remaining rock salt to be purchased for the 2023-2024 Winter Season was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Abell is concerned about the area near side door at the Public Works garage. This was constructed many years ago and is beyond repairs at this point. This is a small area where the Road department stores some used equipment and other supplies. Mr. Abell would like to put in the budget to fix this area. – and it is beyond repair – we will need to budget.

Also Mr. Abell talked with Mr. Bohn and he would like to have a couple of months ahead of time to be able to do the work required of the Bell Acres Road Department to be ready for the paving of Witherow and Dilworth from Youngblood, Inc. Shoup Engineering will get the details of when this will start.

Property & Supplies – Charles Kulbacki
 DCNR Grant – Borough Park – Phase I – Approval of Gate Change Order

A motion to approve a Change Order from Shrock Fence Co. to furnish and install one (1) 20 ft. x 4 ft. high double swing gate with posts at the Borough Park in the amount of \$3,093.00 was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Alvania asked if there is a phase II with the park. Mr. Kulbacki stated there will be. Mr. Renfrew also stated that the park should be opened after the installed of the fence and the new gate.

CDBG Grant Update – Borough Park - ADA Parking

Government & Legislation

No report

Zoning – Gregory Molchen

No report

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT – COUNCIL MEMBER

Discussion of Candidates and Conduct Nomination Process

Mr. Meanor nominated Chris Popovic; Mr. Renfrew seconded
 Mr. Molchen nominated Matthew Horton; Mr. Meanor seconded.
 Mr. Kulbacki nominated Finn Johnson; Mr. Abell seconded.

	Majority Vote		
	Chris Popovic	Matthew Horton	Finn Johnson
Mr. Meanor	Yes	Yes	No
Mr. Abell	No	No	Yes
Mr. Kulbacki	No	No	Yes
Mr. Molchen	No	Yes	No
Mrs. Veeck	Yes	Yes	No
Mr. Renfrew	Yes	Yes	Yes

Chris Popovic–3 Yes votes, 3 No votes; Matthew Horton - 4 Yes votes, 2 No votes; Finn Johnson – 3 Yes votes, 3 No votes. *Matthew Horton has the majority with 4 yes votes.*

Resolution No. 06102024 - Appointment – Council Member

Due to the resignation of Council Member, Lane Grafton, on May 13, 2024, in accordance with Section 901(a.1) of the Borough Code – Vacancy by Resignation, Council must appoint a person to fill the vacancy on June 10, 2024. A request for applicants was administered to the public and three residents submitted letters of interest. Council can appoint either Matthew Horton, Finn Johnson, or Chris Popovic by inserting one name in the vacancy Resolution.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 06102024 - A resolution of the Borough of Bell Acres, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, appointing Mr. Matthew Horton to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Council Member Lane Grafton was made by Mr. Molchen, seconded by Mr. Meanor. The motion carried with Mrs. Veeck, Mr. Meanor, Mr. Renfrew and Mr. Molchen yes, Mr. Kulbacki – No and Mr. Abell abstained from the vote. Votes: 4 Yes; 1 No, 1 abstained. Motion carried with the majority of 4 yes votes.

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. Meanor, seconded by Mrs. Veeck. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill A. Palko
Borough Secretary