

BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 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, September 9, 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 6:02 p.m.

COUNCIL

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's report for the month of August 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 August 12, 2024, 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 as submitted for August 2024 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$219,054.31 out of the General Fund and \$270.72 out of the State Fund was made by Mr. Meanor, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

PENNDOT Maintenance Agreement Fee Increase Discussion

Mr. Junker wanted this posted and, on the agenda, as acknowledged.

Resolution No. 09092024 – QVCOG Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Improving the Route 65 Corridor

RESOLUTION NO. 09092024

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVING THE ROUTE 65 CORRIDOR

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 09092024 Authorizing an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Improving the Route 65 Corridor was made by Mr. Molchen, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Budget & Finance – Michelle Veeck

No report.

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. Molchen. All in favor. Motion carried.

Part-Time Police Officer Employment Offer

A motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Ronald Wilson, Jr. as a Part-Time Police Officer, as recommended by Chief Kristoffer Korol, at the hourly rate of \$23.00 per hour was made by Mr. Meanor, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Works – Christopher Abell

Mr. Shoup, Mr. Bohn, Mrs. Fleming and Mr. Abell will meet to discuss the 15-year road improvement plan. Witherow and Dilworth should be completed by September 10, 2024. Mr. Renfrew spoke of the road; the crew did a terrific job. Mr. Bohn, was very happy with Youngblood, Inc. the contractor who won the bid for this project.

Mr. Abell is concerned of Camp Meeting Road where the brush is growing up between the guard rails. Mrs. Fleming placed a road maintenance request call to Allegheny County for the County to start mowing along the sides of Camp Meeting Road.

Mr. Henderson of the road department will be deployed next year 2025 – from April through October. Our road department will have someone part time as needed.

Mr. Abell spoke to Mr. Patrick Connors President of the QVCOG regarding Backbone Road and what Bell Acres can do regarding possibly a push for a grant. Mr. Abell noted that it is Sewickley Heights issue however, it affects the residents of Bell Acres. What we can hope for is grant and help Sewickley Heights get the grant with letters and our voices heard.

Nothing going on with the Villas this year as stated in the meeting minutes from the Bell Acres Municipal Authority.

Property & Supplies – Charles Kulbacki

Act 152 – 109 North Avenue Blight Remediation Project 2023-BRP-001

QVCOG advertised the project on July 11, 2024, and July 18, 2024. Public Bids were electronically received and opened via the online electronic bid service PennBid (Pennbid.net) by the QVCOG on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 10:01 a.m.

A motion to authorize QVCOG to award the 109 North Avenue Blight Remediation Project No. 2023-BRP-001 to J.R. Moran Contracting, Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$10,000, as recommended by Shoup Engineering, Inc. was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 09092024A – Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) Grant Application

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 09092024A authorizing the filing of a Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund (GEDTF) application for grant funds with the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) in the amount of \$500,000 for the Borough Park Improvements – Phase II was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Fleming thanked Mr. Meanor for his assistance in attaining the support letters from State Representative Valerie Gaydos office and Suzanne Filiaggi's District 2 office.

Government & Legislation – Matthew Horton
No report.

Mr. Meanor wanted to announce the mail-in ballots will be mailed out sometime beginning of October.

Zoning – Gregory Molchen
Discuss Possible Revisions – Ordinance No. 306 – Regulate Fencing – Section 165-52.1. B. (11) – Temporary Fencing

A motion to direct the Planning Commission to review Ordinance No. 306 – Regulate Fencing, in particular, Section 165-52.1.B.(11) – Temporary Fencing was made by Mr. Molchen, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) of \$105,487.00 for the Police Pension Plan was made by Mr. Meanor, seconded by Mr. Kulbacki. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) of \$27,351.00 for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was made by Mrs. Veeck, seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) of \$17,877.00 for the Non-Uniformed Money Purchase 401(a) Plan was made by Mr. Abell, seconded by Mr. Molchen. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resignation of Marjorie Skrabut from the Civil Service Commission effective immediately
A motion to accept the resignation of Marjorie Skrabut as a member of the Civil Service Commission effective immediately was made by Mr. Kulbacki, seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kulbacki announced Mrs. Skrabut serviced as secretary of the Borough part-time and served on the Borough Council, along with the Civil Service Commission.

Discuss Code Enforcement of Property Maintenance Issues

Anna Hosack, solicitor noted that the Borough does have provisions within its ordinances to enforce where if something becomes a public nuisance, if there truly is a health or safety issue, too much garbage, vermin problems, the borough would be able to act upon with an ordinance. However, with such private issues like this one, with large brush or small tree with a smaller nature, placing a property maintenance ordinance would not necessarily help.

Mr. Renfrew stated property issues have come up several times in the past at our Council meetings this issue has been discussed and Council decided to not put forth any Ordinance for Property maintenance.

The conclusion is to ask our residents to keep their property well-kept if possible. If there are too many complaints or calls being received, we will have Mr. Shoup, borough engineer and code enforcement officer send letters out as necessary.

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 Mr. Kulbacki. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill A. Palko
Borough Secretary