

COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 1, 2011
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CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Council Chair Frank Halderman in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council remained standing for a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dainty, Taylor, Schneider, Provan, Beigle, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman

Members Excused: Wilson

Officials Present: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Mayor Stanley Goldman

Staff Present:

Guests: Stacey Richards, Mike McCraill

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of July 18, 2011. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Nathan P. Black, Chief, Walker Township Volunteer Fire Company, requesting assistance from the Bellefonte Fire Police on Saturday, August 6, from 3:00 PM through 8:00 PM to assist with the annual parade and carnival in Hublersburg.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve this request. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The Fire Chief must be in agreement with this request. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Don Amoriello, CMAA, Director of Athletics, Bellefonte Area School District, requesting permission to use Governor's Park as an alternative training site during the months of September and October for the Bellefonte Area High School cross country team. He

also requests the use of Governor's Park to host a home cross country meet on Thursday, September 8, from 2:30 PM – 6:30 PM.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve this request. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from U. S. Senator Pat Toomey in regard to the Firefighter Grant in response to a letter that was sent to him by Council.

- A letter from Megan Evans, Communications Director, Centre County United Way, requesting permission to install a Centre County United Way thermometer along the main artery on Water Street. The 2011 campaign runs from August 22, 2011 through January 2012. The thermometer would be installed in early September. Last year the thermometer was installed near the Armory. Council members would like to be sure the sign does not deteriorate as it has in previous years.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Senator Jake Corman in regard to the Marcellus Shale issue and the impact fee.

- A letter from Kerry A. Benninghoff, State Representative, 171st Legislative District, in regard to the Marcellus shale impact fee currently under review by the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

- A letter from Scott Webb, North Central Tobacco Free Coalition Coordinator with information for "Young Lungs at Play". Some information from this organization was used previously when a tobacco-free area was established in Talleyrand Park. They would like to expand this area.

- A letter from Mary Watson regarding "Arms for Peace". This organization was interested in placing a memorial in Talleyrand Park but have since decided to place the memorial at the Pleasant Gap American Legion. They are requesting a donation of \$350.00 for plaques that would go with the memorial. The plaque will name the person who has died and the members of his/her family.

This request will be given to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation.

- A letter from Beth Ann Araujo, Borough Secretary, Centre Hall Borough, requesting the help of the Undine Fire Police for traffic control during the 201 Centre County Grange Fair, which is Thursday, August 25 through Thursday, September 1.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve this request. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. The Fire Chief must be in agreement with this request. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Andrea Skirpan, 504 Armour Street, in regard to traffic police enforcement. They appreciate the traffic enforcement that is being done in residential areas.

ORAL

- Stacey Richards, Energy Resource Center Director, SEDA Council of Governments, Lewisburg. She reported that Bellefonte is the poster child for energy reduction and innovative energy use in the entire eleven county SEDA-COG region. She wanted to encourage the Borough to explore the opportunities to use solar energy. She feels it is a good time to procure professional services because the market for solar is down. She said it is also still possible to purchase solar renewable energy credits from outside of Pennsylvania and have that be able to underwrite the cost of solar equipment and installation.

She reported that the Borough's costs between 2005 and 2009 increased by 30% but the total electricity costs during that time only increased by 11%. She said that is because of the investments that are being made in energy conservation. She showed a map of Germany and a map of the United States that shows the density of the solar resource. She explained Germany is a world leader in the production of electricity from solar but yet they have very anemic solar resources. According to the rating system Bellefonte has a good solar rating. It has the equivalent of 4.17 kilowatt per hours per square meter per day. She feels the Borough has the rooftops, space and longevity of the facilities to be able to manufacture solar electricity for free. The systems last for 25 years.

Ms. Richards left information for Council members to read and review.

- Mike McCrail, 509 Willowbank Street, addressed Council on behalf of neighbors surrounding the street behind his home. It was requested that Council pave the road. Tenants and homeowners use the road on a regular basis to gain access to parking and to use it as a turn-around since there is no outlet at the end of Reynolds Avenue. The road is prone to potholes and is cumbersome to shovel. It is maintained by the tenants and homeowners that live in the area. They also would like the Borough to maintain the road if possible.

Mr. Stewart reported there is a lane approximately 100 yards in where you turn to the left. There are five properties that abut it. All the people that signed the petition are either tenants or homeowners with land adjacent to the alley or else they live across the street and use it for a turn-around. There is one location in that garage and several cars park in that area also. There is a partial pave at the front of the alley. It is an unordained right-of-way.

Mr. Halderman turned this over to the Street Committee to review and make a recommendation. If the process gets far enough, the property owners on each side of the alley would need to pay one-third of the paving cost and the Borough would pay the last one-third of the paving cost.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Dunne represented Bellefonte at the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting on July 20. Todd Giddings, hydro-geologist, was away for the summer and not much business was conducted. The Commission plans to hold a Source Water Plan Technical Assistance Program Presentation in October for all the water systems in the Spring Creek Watershed who have not already started on their source water protection plan.

- Mr. Stewart reported the first meeting of the Source Water Planning Steering Committee on Wednesday, July 27. Todd Giddings was at the meeting and contributed greatly with his knowledge on the history of the watershed and the Big Spring.

- Mr. Halderman attended a conference on Thursday, July 21. There are approximately 1,000 changes to the new code coming up on the next year. There are approximately nine meetings scheduled.

- Mr. Halderman attended a board meeting on Saturday, July 30, and reported the present executive director for PSAB is retiring at the end of the year. The new Executive Vice-President was chosen. He will be taking over on January 1, 2012.

The fall conference will be October 21, 22 and 23 at the Nittany Lion Inn.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Goldman is glad Council is happy with the speeding in the Borough that isn't taking place. If residents are happy about it they should tell others and if they are not happy they should tell the Mayor.

Mayor Goldman reported that the Police Department is doing a "whale" of a job.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- The Benner Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment is in the packets for review. Council members did not have any comments on that.

HARB

- An advertisement is in the newspaper for the HARB Consultant. Valerie Magolan's last day will be Friday, August 12.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None.

COMMITTEES

Building & Property – Mrs. Dunne reported there was a Court Order stating Alanroy Realty has violated the Safety and Property Maintenance Code. They have thirty (30) days to rectify the situation.

Mr. Halderman received a telephone call regarding cutting brush on Halfmoon Hill. Mr. Stewart will take care of this.

Finance and Government Performance – Ms. Dainty reported the Selective Insurance quote is in the packet for information. Please address any questions to Ms. Dainty. Because the application for Certification Renewal of the Workplace Safety Committee was approved, Selective was able to provide a 5% workers' compensation premium discount to the Borough.

Park & Recreation – Mr. Holderman reported that Ann Donovan from the Centre County Conservation District came up with some grant funding. Two projects will be done with no cost to the Borough. They include: an extension of the wall next to the falls and stream bank stabilization work to be completed from the playground area on down.

Mrs. Dunne reported that the sign for the Edible Garden is installed. The produce from the edible garden is being given to the Bellefonte Food Bank.

It was requested that the sidewalk by the stream at Talleyrand Park be repaired. Mr. Stewart reported the sidewalk cannot be repaired without examining the wall.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reported that Mr. Stewart will be on vacation from Thursday, August 4, through Friday, August 19.

Safety – Mr. DeCusati questioned whether Chief Weaver could contact the State Police to see if there is a possibility of doing joint operations on state roads within the Borough. Mayor Goldman will check on this.

Several Council members have seen the State Police with vehicles stopped in the Borough.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported that the average daily water withdrawal for the month of June is 2,396,003 gallons.

Mr. Halderman reported he talked with someone who sells water to the gas company for \$20.00 per 1,000 gallons.

The Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 2.

Streets – The Streets Committee met before this Council meeting to discuss several items. The Streets Committee has decided to move forward with the request from the Bellefonte School District to reserve the parking spots that were requested between 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM for school buses to stage loading and departure. Signs will be posted with the hours and months. The Streets Committee will work with the School District to see what they want on the signs. The proposal will reserve the right to reverse that decision for whatever reason.

The Streets Committee is going to talk to the property owner on Thomas Street on the side that is dark and request that they light their property properly. The Committee explored other options to consider.

The Streets Committee is exploring the option to change the three metered parking spots near the Dairy Queen for temporary parking with flashers on for fifteen minutes to increase the availability for people to patronize the stores in that location.

The Streets Committee is examining systems to shut down traffic on Bishop Street in front of the Fire Department when they have a call and need to get the trucks out.

Three paving bids were opened. They were for Monroe St, Deiter Ln, Church Lane, Ardell Lane, Beaver St. and High Street. The bids were as follows:

Glenn O. Hawbaker - \$171,911.60

HRI - \$139,768.00

New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. - \$136,603.50

The bids were turned over to the Street Committee for review and recommendation.

The Sidewalk Bids were opened. The bids were received from:

Stone Valley Construction \$14.50 per sq. ft

Doug Decker Masonry \$8.00 per sq.ft

The bids were turned over to the Street Committee for review. These vendors will be placed on retainer pursuant to the sidewalk ordinance.

Ms. Dainty questioned whether the gas company is going to pave over Logan Street and Pine Street. She was assured that the restoration crew will come in and pave the roads.

The Borough will post a list of approved masons for sidewalk repair. The residents are permitted to choose their own contractor provided they meet the requirements of the Ordinance.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Holderman informed Council that at the next meeting on September 6 the Junior Council Member program will be initiated, and Mayor Goldman will need to swear the individuals in. There are two candidates, Lilith McCullough and Todd Confer. Mr. Holderman will give them an orientation on August 25. Mr. Provan and Mrs. Dunne are invited to the orientation as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Borough received a telephone call regarding sponsoring a C-NET program that is non-borough related. Non-members requesting C-NET coverage must go through a C-NET member so it is recommended that the Borough develop a policy regarding this.

- Information is in the packets regarding a Police Department Records Management System. Chief Weaver will attend the workshop before the September 6 Council meeting to discuss this.

- Mr. Holderman reported that DCED did not receive the 2011 Award Letter contract from HUD regarding the CDBG funding. It is anticipated that it will be received in the next few days. When that is received, the Borough will be required to turn around the application within the next 6-8 weeks. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman will send information via email regarding projects that could be used for that application process.

- Council went into an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Ms. Dainty made a motion to adjourn the meeting of August 1, 2011, at 9:35 PM. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.