

## **COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2011**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Council President Frank Halderman in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council remained standing for a moment of silence. It was requested that cell phones either be turned off or turned to vibrate.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

Members Excused: Provan, Mayor Stanley Goldman

Officials Present: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager  
Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

Staff Present:

Guests:

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Daintymade a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting ofFebruary 7, 2011. Mr. Schneiderseconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutesas presented.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **WRITTEN**

- A letter from Timothy Havener, President, Central Chapter, Firearms Owners Against Crime in regard to preemption violations. The letter was forwarded to the solicitor for review and comment.

- A letter from Dennis McDowell, FaithCentre, Inc., requesting permission to hold the annual 5K walk/run on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Parkview Heights area.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Chief Weaver must review the request. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Bellefonte Borough Council Committees are as follows:

Building & Property

Gay Dunne  
Vana Dainty  
Bob Taylor

Water & Sanitation

Joe Beigle  
Gay Dunne  
Walt Schneider

Streets

Paul DeCusati  
Joe Beigle  
Tom Wilson

Energy & Environmental

Walt Schneider  
Dave Provan  
Joe Beigle

Human Resources/Government Performance

Dave Provan  
Paul DeCusati  
Vana Dainty

Finance

Vana Dainty  
Walt Schneider  
Bob Taylor

Safety

Tom Wilson  
Paul DeCusati  
Dave Provan

Parks & Recreation

Bob Taylor  
Gay Dunne  
Tom Wilson

President – Frank “Buddy” Halderman

Vice-President – Vana Dainty

Pro-Tempore – Paul DeCusati

Mayor – Stanley Goldman

- A letter from Doug Hazel, Project Co-Chairman, Bellefonte Lions Club, requesting permission to conduct the annual rib sale fundraiser on the Diamond in the parking stalls adjacent to the brown stone building on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 7:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the request. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The Cub Scouts previously requested permission to use the same area on the second Saturday of each month beginning in April. The Scouts would be willing to use the other side of the Diamond near Dairy Queen or down by Talleyrand Park. The Scouts plan to cook on site.

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the Scouts request to have a

Barbecue fundraiser the second Saturday of April and May in a location by Talleyrand Park. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. This will be a trial period. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Mrs. Kim Gasper, BAHS Cross-Country Coach, requesting permission to hold the Herbie's Hometown Loop 4 mile run/walk and 16 mile (non-competitive) bike ride on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at the Bellefonte Area Middle School. The group would like to meet with the Police Department to discuss the course logistics. The letter will be turned over to the Police Department for Chief Weaver to review.

- Information is in the packet regard to the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization membership. This will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

### **ORAL**

- Mr. DeCusati has received complaints regarding the odors coming from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Stewart stated the issue is being addressed. The odor is from a new mandated process that is resulting in stronger odors than usual. The Authority is aware of the situation and a process of elimination and adjusting different levels and different processes to find the best result is being done.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- The draft Bellefonte Borough Authority meeting minutes from February 15, 2011 are in the packet for review.

- Mrs. Dunne attended the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting. There was a presentation on Act 102 and regulations as opposed to Act 167. A good discussion was held regarding increasing the stringent regulations. In Act 102 the requirements for new developers are that they would need to plan for 1 1/2" of water more than before so they may need retention basins, which would result in the need for more land and could possibly increase urban sprawl. There is no move to develop a Storm Water Authority at the moment, but it is under discussion. An informational brochure on geo-thermal systems and well boreholes will be developed.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- None

### **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- Willowbank Plaza Final Land Development Plan Approval – all conditions put on the plan have been met.

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- None.

## COMMITTEES

Building & Property – Mrs. Dunne had no report. Mr. Halderman would like the Building & Property Committee to examine the retaining wall in Talleyrand Park.

Finance and Government Performance– Mr. Wilson made a motion to file for audit the January 2011 vouchers in the amount of \$628,626.93. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

<u>January 2011 Vouchers</u>		
General	17969 - 18041	\$ 207,296.05
Streetlighting	677 - 682	\$ 2,209.06
Bellefonte Fire Dept.	1094 - 1101	\$ 5,431.28
Fire Equipment	1231 - 1235	\$ 4,745.88
Parks & Recreation	1407 - 1412	\$ 19,233.71
Water	7418 - 7458	\$ 129,616.36
Sanitation	8760 – 8813	\$ 202,670.53
Refuse	2081 - 2101	\$ 34,326.54
Swimming Pool	458 - 459	\$ 127.83
CDBG	-	\$ 0.00
Special Projects	104	\$ 4,355.05
Highway Aid	212	\$ 1,125.77
Capital Projects	-	\$ 0.00
Bulk Water Sales	121-124, 992-993	\$ <u>17,488.87</u>
	Total:	\$ <u>628,626.93</u>

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve payment of an invoice to McQuaide Blasko in the amount of \$2,422.76 for services rendered through January 31, 2011. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Park & Recreation – Mr. Taylor discussed the Parks Ordinance for gun control. According to the ordinance the only person permitted to have a weapon is a law enforcement officer. The solicitor is reviewing the ordinance. Mrs. Dunne suggested PSAB be contacted to obtain their opinion on the gun control.

- There is an Invitation to Bid on the Parkview Heights Park Project. Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 PM local prevailing time on Monday, April 4, 2011 at the Borough Building.

- Mr. Holderman stated the Parks & Recreation Committee will be meeting with the YMCA regarding the Governor's Park issue on Thursday, February 24, 2011. The Y of Centre County is waiting for some decisions to be made by Borough Council.

Human Resources – Council members need to consider an appointment to the C-NET Board. Mr. Stewart will obtain information regarding the meeting dates and times.

- The PELRAS (Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service) 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Interested Council members should talk to Mr. Stewart or Mr. Holderman.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to have Mr. Stewart and/or Mr. Holderman attend the conference. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Safety – Mr. Wilson will have a Safety Committee meeting at which time the letter from Representative Benninghoff regarding Megan’s Law will be discussed as well as the underage use of tobacco in the Borough. Mr. Holderman reported that Officer Brower has offered to sit in on the meeting regarding the underage use of tobacco that he proposed.

The Fire Services Task Force meeting will be Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Task Force will be visiting the Undine Fire Hall at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Holderman reported that the Fire Executive Committee met February 16, 2011. Part of the discussion was establishing policy on the physicals that were approved. That policy will be completed within a few months and the physicals will begin thereafter. Mr. Holderman stated he and Ralph will contact PennDOT to explore the possibility of a stop light by the Undine Fire Department to only be used when they are backing the apparatus into the building after a fire due to disregard of drivers’ awareness of safety issues.

Water/Sanitation –Mr. Beigle reminded Council that the Authority draft minutes were in the packet for review.

- Mr. Stewart reported that the Authority has approved refinancing the 2002 Sewer Bond Issue in search of a minimum net savings of \$80,000.00. The Bond Council that was used in the past is being used now. There will be a meeting to facilitate the refinancing.

Streets –Mr. DeCusati reported the Street Committee met and discussed the proposed Sidewalk Ordinance. Some changes considered as a result of the public comment period is to remove the cost share option. The Committee will compile a list of how owners should handle issues with trees and sidewalks. The redrafted Sidewalk Ordinance will come before Council at a future meeting.

The Committee discussed what to do with crossing signs. Mr. DeCusati and Mr. Stewart will discuss the ideas with Chief Weaver.

The Committee plans to explore options to stop traffic at the Undine Fire Station.

The Committee plans to find an engineer that will help the Committee find ways to improve lighting in the downtown area on Allegheny Street between Howard Street and Bishop Street. Mr. Schneider suggested the Committee discuss the situation with larger lighting companies. He also suggested LED lighting can be directional.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – Mr. Stewart reported that the Authority approved the MOU with Johnson Controls. An initial walkthrough will be scheduled.

- SEDA-COG Energy Resource Center is offering an Energy efficiency retrofit seminar.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- The flashing light at the intersection of Howard Street and Wilson Street is operational and working well.

- RCAP Grant Funds for the Bellefonte Area Industrial Development Authority and the Waterfront Project – the loan is taken care of. The Authority is waiting on the Grant Contract from the state. The Authority has been assured that it will come.

- Mr. Rod Beard is the new solicitor for the Bellefonte Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Frank Halderman serves on the Authority.

- The Bellefonte Borough Authority approved re-financing of 2002 sewer bonds with a net savings of at least \$80,000.00.

- Russell Shuey is doing commercial fire inspections. He is being proactive in finding items that could cause problems in the event of a fire and is addressing the problems.

- Ms. Dainty questioned whether the request from the Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Fair to use Talleyrand Park has been addressed. Mr. Stewart reported that the Borough is awaiting an opinion regarding this from the solicitor.

- Three letters were sent out opposing changes in the Sprinkler Bill.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A Local Urgent Care Company is offering services and rates to the Borough for CDL such as required drug and alcohol testing.

- Mr. Stewart attended a blighted property seminar through the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs that was presented by a consultant from the Harrisburg/Carlisle area. Mr. Stewart felt it was very informative and he is willing to share the information with Council.

- The Bellefonte Fire Department has applied for several federal grants in the amount of \$750,000.00. Mr. Schneider reported there is discussion at the national level that the program will have a funding cut. The request conveyed to representatives and senators at the national level is the desire to have that program remain funded at the level in which it is. It is the Fire Safety and Prevention Program at the federal level.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to convey to the Senators to leave the program funded as is or please refund it as is. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Halderman went to the Bellefonte High School on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, to a Civics class and answered questions about Council and what is happening in the Borough. The questions the students asked were very good. Mr. Halderman informed the class about the Junior Council program. He would like to pursue having a junior Council member.

The students asked if something could be done about Don's Auto because it is an eyesore since it was damaged by a truck.

### **POLICE REPORT**

- There was no police report.

### **TICKET EXONERATIONS**

- There were no ticket exonerations.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Beigle made a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 21, 2011 at 8:57 PM. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.