

COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 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: Wilson, Dainty, Taylor, Schneider, Provan, Beigle, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman

Members Excused: Mayor Stanley Goldman

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Justin Packer, Bill McMullan, Shawn P. Weaver,

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mr. Halderman welcomed Todd Confer and Lilith McCullough as Junior Council members from Bellefonte High School and then proceeded to give them the Oath of Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of August 1, 2011. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. A correction needs to be made in the spelling of the name of the HARB Consultant, Valerie Magolan. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as corrected.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Mary Jane Fisher, Chairperson, Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary Club, thanking the Borough for helping to make the 62nd Bellefonte Children's Fair a success.

- A letter from Neighborhood Property Owners in regard to the conditions of a residence located on the northeast corner of High and McAllister Streets in Bellefonte. Mr. Stewart will check into the complaints.

- A letter from Lisa Herr, Watermarke Christ's Church at Bellefonte, requesting the use of the Gazebo at Talleyrand Park on Sunday, September 25, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a special fall concert/outreach event that will be free to the public.

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

- A letter from the girls and leaders of Girls Scout Group 41541 thanking Council for allowing them to plant a Peace Pole in Talleyrand Park. They would like to have a Dedication Ceremony in the park on September 21 at 6:30 p.m. The Borough crew will install the pole when it arrives.

- A letter from Debbie Hamilton and Vana Dainty, Co-Directors, Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Fair, thanking Bellefonte Borough and Staff for the tremendous amount of support and help prior to and during the fair.

Mr. Halderman received many positive comments about having the fair at Talleyrand Park. Ms. Dainty was amazed by the number of Bellefonte residents who were not aware of how beautiful Talleyrand Park is.

- A letter from Fred Bruno, Chief of Bellefonte Fire Department, informing Council of a 10th Anniversary Remembrance 9/11 Ceremony to be held September 11, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. on the diamond in front of the Courthouse. Chief Bruno requested the closing of Allegheny Street from Bishop Street to Howard Street and the closing of High Street from Spring Street to Allegheny Street from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

- A letter from Karen J. Harvey, 729 E. Bishop Street, asking Council to consider an ordinance that would regulate old-growth trees on private property. This request will be forwarded to the Shade Tree Committee.

ORAL

- None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- There was no report.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- The Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission is requesting that Bellefonte Borough review and update the 2004 Nittany Valley Regional Comprehensive Plan. The Bellefonte Borough Planning Commission reviewed the NVJPC plan at their meeting of July 25, 2011.

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- 1) 116 North Thomas Street—Install wall sign for Jack’s Auto Repair.
- 2) 512 North Spring Street—Replace deteriorating rear stone wall with new masonry wall to match that in front yard.
- 3) 139 West High Street—Remove rear dormers, replace windows and siding on rear shed with wood windows and siding, and replace rear porch roof, to be approved administratively.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve all three Certificates of Appropriateness. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

A letter was received from Janice Stramara, Fiscal & Office Support Services, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of Management Services informing Bellefonte Borough that Robert Keal meets qualification requirements to the HARB Consultant. Mr. Keal is an architect and has sat on HARB for the past three years as the architect representative. An architect replacement is being sought for HARB.

COMMITTEES

Building & Property—Mrs. Dunne reported on a Kepler Pool statement of activity report for the month of July. Attendance overall has been increased over 2009 for all the municipalities and membership is higher than 2009, but less than 2010. It appears that the revenue exceeded the expenses through the month of July.

The YMCA has submitted a grant with Pepsi Refresh. Residents are encouraged to establish an account and vote for Make A Splash For Kids in Bellefonte, PA.

A letter was received from Frank and Tanya Daughenbaugh, 736 North Penn Street, requesting the opportunity to either purchase a strip of land that is approximately 49’ wide or to receive a written document stating they may have use of the right-of-way.

The property abuts the Little League Field, which is owned by the Borough. Mr. Daughenbaugh has used a piece of that property for years as a driveway to the back of his house. Mr. Stewart suggests Building & Property have a meeting with the parties involved as well as with Spring Township.

Mrs. Dunne reported that the Alan Roy Realty property located at 126 South Water Street has retreated from the idea of demolition and has gone wholeheartedly into sealing and painting their building to comply with the Property Maintenance Code. The building is currently unoccupied. Mr. Schneider questioned whether Council could rescind previous action that would permit him from demolishing the property. Mr. Stewart stated the Certificate of Appropriateness that granted him permission to demolish the property could be denied. Mr. Beigle suggested open communication be kept between the property owner and the Borough.

Mr. Wilson requested information on the Haranin Building. Mr. Stewart has talked with the property owners numerous times. The property is for sale. The owners do not want to fix the property up. It was suggested that Council place a deadline to have something done with the property.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion that by January 1, 2012, there must be either a transfer of ownership or serious redevelopment of the property or demolition, and if not, a daily fine will be applied. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Mr. Schneider feels if a new owner took over, it would be impossible for them to follow this time frame. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Schneider amended the motion to state any construction must be completed within 24 months of starting or any demolition must be completed within 180 days. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Finance & Government Performance—Mr. Provan made a motion to file for audit the July 2011 vouchers in the amount of \$639,716.84. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

July 2011 Vouchers

General	18598 - 18705	\$ 223,327.44
Streetlighting	719 - 728	\$ 7,234.63
Bellefonte Fire Dept.	1173 - 1183	\$ 13,048.73
Fire Equipment	130 - 134	\$ 7,396.88
Parks & Recreation	1479 - 1502	\$ 11,355.86
Water	7768 - 7821	\$ 130,839.63
Sanitation	9099 - 9149	\$ 141,383.65
Refuse	2235 - 2263	\$ 82,639.77
Swimming Pool	474 - 479	\$ 1,634.17
CDBG	fee	\$ 2.50
Special Projects	96, 117 - 118	\$ 2,539.65
Highway Aid	221	\$ 259.12
Capital Projects	-	\$ 0.00
Bulk Water Sales	138 - 141	<u>\$ 18,054.81</u>
	Total:	<u>\$ 639,716.84</u>

Ms. Dainty made a motion to pay an invoice to McQuaide Blasko in the amount of \$2,754.97. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Mr. Taylor questioned what Spring Township is doing since most of the items listed on the invoice regard Spring Township. Mr. Stewart

reported the water system belongs to the Borough and most of the calls are related to the water system. The Authority reviewed the numbers and felt it was worthwhile to work out an agreement with Weis. A voice vote was unanimous.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligation, which includes all three pension programs. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Park & Recreation—Mr. Taylor made a motion to pay an invoice in the amount of \$22,139.30 from John Nastase Construction for work done at the Teener League Field with ten percent held back, which would make the payment \$19,925.37. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The earth work is completed and is holding up well. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Holderman reported that the final \$6,100.00 supplement was received from the state.

Human Resources—Mr. Provan reported Human Resources was present in the interviewing of four candidates for the HARB Consultant vacancy. Robert Keal was selected.

The Human Resources Committee has been meeting and reviewing the current Streets Contract and discussing things that seem to work well and things that do not work well in preparation for negotiations that will be held later in the year.

Safety—Mr. Wilson reported that the next Fire Services Task Force meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Mr. Wilson talked with a citizen regarding 329 East Lamb Street, which is a vacant property. Mr. Stewart will discuss the matter with the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Wilson reported there is a Canadian goose problem in Talleyrand Park. There are approximately 50 that seem to have made a permanent home in the park, and it is creating a hazard with the feces on the sidewalk and in the grass. Also, there is a concern with the approximately 300 ducks living in the park.

Skunks are being trapped in the Borough.

Mr. Holderman reported there will be a Fire Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, September 22. With the agreement with the townships the budget discussion will take place at this meeting.

Water/Sanitation—Mr. Beigle reported that the average daily water withdrawal for the month of July is up a little at 2,641,663 gallons.

Coca-Cola provided funds for leak detection. The repairs being done as a result of leak detection are showing.

There will be an Authority meeting on Wednesday, September 7. It will be determined who the engineering firm will be that will take over the engineering of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Johnson Controls will be giving a presentation at the Authority meeting regarding projects they suggest.

Streets—Mr. DeCusati reported the flashing light on Howard Street coming onto Wilson Street is doing the job it was designed to do.

The signs for slowing down vehicles are working.

Mr. DeCusati reported the sidewalks near Talleyrand Park are in bad condition. Mr. Holderman reported they will be patched this fall and the patching is guaranteed to hold three to four years.

Mr. Stewart is not aware of what the deadline is for Columbia Gas to complete street repairs.

Mr. Provan commended the Borough on the job done at the intersection of Howard Street and Wilson Street with the pavement markings and the extra signs. Mr. Stewart gave PennDOT credit for their help with the project.

Mr. Provan questioned how long sidewalks are permitted to be torn out before they are replaced. Mr. Stewart reported the permits are good for a year, and the permit is still valid. The homeowner is installing a heated sidewalk.

Mr. Stewart reported there will be a meeting in regard to the 150 Corridor study with PennDOT at Innovation Park on Thursday, September 29, at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Halderman reported Dan Greene has noticed several trees in the Borough are dying. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman have discussed bringing in Ed Meek to trim the trees correctly. Mr. Schneider suggested the Sidewalk Ordinance be reviewed and that cobblestone and brick be permitted as sidewalk materials.

Mr. Schneider requested the Streets Committee bring a recommendation to the next Council meeting regarding the wishes of the Borough regarding West Linn Street that could be forwarded to PennDOT.

Energy & Environmental Conservation—There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Provan made a motion to approve the Refuse Ordinance Chapter 1048 Refuse Collection and Disposal and to set a \$5.00 fee for rental containers. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Provan commended everyone that worked on this ordinance. A voice vote was unanimous. Mr. Provan reminded everyone in the community that the refuse containers are to

be brought out after 6:00 p.m. the night before designated trash collection and removed by 6:00 p.m. on the trash collection day.

NEW BUSINESS

The PSAB Fall Conference will be held October 21–23, 2011, at the Nittany Lion Inn. Anyone interested in attending should inform Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Holderman thanked the new Junior Council representatives for their willingness to participate in the program.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting of September 6, 2011, at 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.