

COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 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. It was requested that cell phones either be turned off or put on vibrate.

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, McCullough, Beigle, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Confer

Members Excused: Mayor Stanley Goldman

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

Staff Present: Lori Walker, Finance Director

Guests: Barry Pearce

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of October 17, 2011. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Andrew Hillegass, Post Adjutant, Bellefonte Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1600 requesting help with the Veteran's Day celebration held in front of the Court House on Friday, November 11, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. The request includes permission to close High Street from Spring Street to Penn Street, and Allegheny Street from Howard Street to Bishop Street with the placement of barriers and traffic control being the responsibility of the Bellefonte Fire Police. The barriers will be placed at 10:30 a.m. until approximately 11:30 a.m. Mr. Hillegass also requests the attendance of all Council members at this ceremony.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Mr. Beigle reported that Mr. Bechdel, a member of the Sewer & Water Authority, will be the speaker at this ceremony. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Kerry A. Benninghoff, State Representative, 171st Legislative District, in regard to the prevailing wage legislation that is being reviewed.

- A memo from Ralph Stewart informing Council that Vana Dainty is the current appointee to the Library Board and cannot attend Board meetings due to other commitments. Council is requested to make a new appointment. Because the Borough appropriates a significant amount of money to the Library Board, traditionally a member of Council has been appointed.

- A letter from Sherry Snyder, Paratransit Program Manager, CATA, informing Council members of a Community Involvement Meeting to be held on Friday, November 11, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. in the CATA Board Room located at 2081 West Whitehall Road, State College. The meeting is being held to obtain input on transportation needs, to hear suggestions for improving the CATARIDE program, and to discuss any other concerns or issues related to the program.

- A letter from Jason D. Brown, Project Manager, University Area Joint Authority, thanking the Borough for the brush provided this year for use in their composting facility

- A letter from Susan N. Hochreiter, Corresponding Secretary, Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society, thanking Council for their support of the recent Fall Foliage train rides to Pleasant Gap, Tyrone, and Lock Haven.

- Information regarding a Refuse Violation Notice for a Borough resident.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to change the last section to state “all animal and vegetable refuse must be placed in plastic bags”. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. Mr. DeCusati made a request to revisit the entire wording of the refuse ordinance. Staff does not recommend changing the ordinance. A roll-call vote was taken: Wilson–no; Dainty–no; Taylor–yes; Schneider–no; Provan–yes; Beigle–no; DeCusati–yes; Dunne–no; Halderman–no. The motion did not pass.

- A letter from Sally R. Houser, Event Chair, Bellefonte Victorian Christmas, HBI, requesting assistance for the Victorian Christmas Celebration to be held on December 9, 10 and 11. The requests include: electrical assistance for vendors; signs to be placed by the donated trees on the Diamond and in the Gazebo; CNET coverage – the bulletin board time. Mr. Stewart recommends a condition be added to approval stating the Borough staff is not held responsible for any inadvertent damage to any Bellefonte Victorian Christmas property.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the requests of HBI, Bellefonte Victorian Christmas with the addition of the statement that Borough staff is not held responsible for any inadvertent damage to any Victorian Christmas property. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Kristina V. Tice, Principal, Saint John Catholic School, 116 East Bishop

Street, requesting permission to install banners in the school zone. A few banners would state “school zone” and a few would indicate the name of the school.

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

ORAL

- None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ms. Dainty informed Council that the Centre Clearfield dinner was a success.

Ms. Dainty now sits on the Borough Association Resolution and Policy Committee, which includes legislation. Something that went before the House last weekend that came out of the committee was the impact fee on gas drilling. The legislation would be a good thing, but most people do not realize that there is wording in there that states the gas companies can come in and pre-empt any zoning and dig a well wherever they choose. Ms. Dainty, other people and some Senators are trying to get that wording taken out. She suggests you contact your legislators and ask them to remove that wording.

Legislation that did pass is any bid the Borough has under \$10,000.00 they are no longer required to get a telephone bid for. Between \$10,000.00 and \$18,000.00 they must at least get three telephone bids. Anything over \$18,000.00 they must bid out. Each year that will grow not more than 3.4 according to the gross index.

Ms. Dainty suggested people to contact their Representatives to change the prevailing wage law.

- Mrs. Dunne attended the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting on October 19, which was a Source Water Protection Workshop for Public Water Systems and also that they could apply for technical assistance. The desire is for all communities in the watershed to have source water protection plans.

The budget that was requested needs to be obtained from the Spring Creek Watershed Association.

- Mr. Beigle reported for the Airport Authority. Some final adjustments have been completed. The \$1.5 million energy project is completed. The savings will be reported at a later date. They were the featured speaker at the SEDA-COG meeting attended by Mr. Stewart and Mr. Beigle as well as a presentation by Millheim Borough on the projects that they have been working on.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- There was no report.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

HARB

- Information was provided for a HARB training that was held in Hollidaysburg as well as a draft flyer for a Federal Tax Incentive Seminar sponsored by Weber Murphy Fox Architects and the Bellefonte Borough.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None.

COMMITTEES

Building & Property – Mrs. Dunne reported there will be a meeting on Wednesday, November 9, at 4:00 p.m. on site with Mr. Daughenbaugh and the Little League representatives as well as representatives from Spring Township regarding the Little League neighborhood.

Finance and Government Performance – Ms. Dainty reminded Council members to review budget information and bring any questions to the Council meeting.

Park & Recreation – Mr. Taylor reported that Job Conference No. 5 for Parkview Heights Park Improvements is in the packets for review.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, November 8, at 10:00 a.m., which will be finalization. Mr. Taylor feels everything has been done to the field that was supposed to be done. Currently CPI is in the process of doing the dugouts and the press box. There will be a cleanup thereafter.

There was a meeting with Spring Township, Benner Township, and Walker Township. Things are moving forward and thinking that the possibility if the pool could be expanded to make it a million dollar pool could there be a possibility to create an Authority that includes the townships to borrow the money and make it an amusement park pool such as Welch Pool in State College. After they paid their bills they made a profit of \$80,000.00.

Mr. Holderman stated if that direction of thought is considered for the pool, the townships will probably contribute at least another year.

Mr. Elnitski, Benner Township, stated if an Authority was created and that amount of money was raised he would like to see if it could also be tied in to the Spring Creek Canyon because they have two miles of pathways that could be created into a walkway.

The next meeting will be December 6 or 7.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reported the negotiations committee is preparing times and dates for negotiations.

Safety – Mr. Wilson reported he looked at the proposed parking space for the judge and it is right outside the door that comes out of the Annex. The request is the result of a national meeting. It is felt that a lot of the proposed safety issues are more relevant to urban areas, although it can happen anywhere. The other judges are able to park behind the Courthouse and access their parking area quickly. It was determined that it would not be a good idea to rent or charge the County for the parking space. Mr. Wilson feels the issue should be discussed further.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported the meeting minutes from the November 1, 2011 Authority meeting were in the packet for review as well as the Daily Water Withdrawal Report Form.

Streets – Mr. DeCusati reported the Streets Committee met recently. The paving list for this season is completed. There are some streets that will not be completed because of the weather and the delay for getting started. The contractor agreed they will complete the few streets on the list next year when paving begins again. There were some issues where the curbing was not completed properly so the contractor will be asked to readdress how the curbing was done because it was not done according to bid.

The Water Street sidewalk was patched. Mr. Schneider observed that a good job was done in prepping the areas, although someone went through the wet cement on a bicycle.

Leaf collection has been ongoing and will continue until the first normal snow and will continue closely following the refuse collection schedule. Residents are encouraged to place the leaves along the curb, not in the street.

The school district is studying the possibility of a school zone at the corner of Linn Street and Allegheny Street and determining what grants they would be able to obtain for this. The Borough informed the school if they would pay for the materials the Borough would contribute labor in kind for helping in constructing that school zone.

Additional parts can be obtained for parking meters. In some of the bigger lots there is the possibility of having one central meter rather than multiple meters.

There were complaints from residents regarding the new trash cans being too big. Two hundred smaller trash cans have been ordered. Residents having issues should contact the Borough and request the smaller can.

A request was made regarding a meeting with a resident on West Linn Street regarding signage. Mr. DeCusati stated the signs are gone for the winter and a meeting has not been set up yet.

Borough crews have completed the training with the arborists and are currently on leaf collection. After that, and patching is completed, tree trimming could begin. Mr. Stewart stated currently the needed resources are not available.

The globes on the street lights will be cleaned next year, possibly in the spring.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ms. Dainty reported members have desired to attend conferences; however, reservations are made and fees paid, but the members do not show up. If you cannot attend a conference that you have made a reservation for, you should notify the Borough staff.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Taylor made a motion to establish Courtesy Parking in Bellefonte from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. If your meter expires you will receive a courtesy ticket stating the Borough will take care of your ticket. The next time the officer comes by if your car is still there with an expired meter you will receive a ticket. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to advertise Ordinance #112111-001. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. Beigle made a motion to adjourn the meeting of November 7, 2011 at 9:05 PM. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.