

**COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012**  
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**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 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. Members were asked to turn off their cell phones or put them on vibrate.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Wilson, Dainty, Brown, Provan, Beigle, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, McCullough, Confer

Members Excused: Schneider,  
Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

Officials Present: Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mayor Goldman

Staff Present: Chief Weaver  
Officer Ruggiero

Guests: Commissioner Exarchos;

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of January 16, 2012. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Under the Park & Recreation Committee report a change needs to be made to say ...Master Gardeners, New Leaf Initiative, Feasibility Studies, Sustainability Office at Penn State.... A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as corrected.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**WRITTEN**

- A letter from Dennis McDowell requesting permission to conduct the annual Faith Centre run/walk on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at 10:00 AM.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve that request. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Hugh A. Mose, General Manager and John C. Spsychalski, chairman, CATA inviting local elected officials to an orientation breakfast on Thursday, February 9, at 7:30 a.m. at the administration facility located at 2081 West Whitehall Road in Ferguson Township.

- A registration form for The Course in Zoning Administration to be held at the College Township Municipal Building, 1481 East College Avenue, State College, which will be held February 27 and March 5 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. The course is from the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute.

- The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) sponsors the Robert C. Edwards Scholarship Foundation. The application deadline is May 4, 2012. All applicants must be from a Borough which is a member of the PSAB and must have been accepted for admission to an accredited College, University or School which offers a 2- or a 4-year degree/certificate program. The scholarship is for the first year (freshman) at the College, University or School.

- A letter from Nick Schipanski, Water Resources Coordinator, ClearWater Conservancy regarding the Watershed Cleanup Day, which will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to designate April 23 as the official Watershed Cleanup Day. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Jacqueline K. Sheader, MBA, CATA Marketing Manager, regarding exterior bus advertising. They would like Council to provide comments regarding whether the program should continue. Mr. Holderman would like all comments forwarded to the Borough office so they can be forwarded in one document from Bellefonte Borough.

- The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) will conduct newly elected municipal officials training at various times from January 20 through March 3 at various locations.

- A letter from Tina M. Spaulding regarding handicapped parking in the three spaces near Dairy Queen.

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

## **ORAL**

- Mayor Goldman presented Letters of Commendation to Chief Weaver and Officer Ruggiero. Officer Ruggiero has been with the police department for three years.

Chief Weaver informed Council that he is working with Maxine Ishler, the Commissioners, the Sheriff, and Tim Boyd to prepare for a media circus on Friday, February 10, for the Sandusky hearing. There will be 20-22 satellite trucks coming into town on Thursday. They will be kept at CPI until Thursday evening. There will be no street closings. The trucks will be parked at various locations throughout the downtown. All media trucks will be assessed a fee to cover any lost costs in the downtown parking area. Chief Weaver informed

Council that Centre County residents are very fortunate to have approximately eight police forces that work together for events such as this.

- Chris Exarchos introduced himself to Council as the “new old County Commissioner.” He looks forward to working with the Borough.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mrs. Dunne reported on the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting that was held on January 18, 2012. It was a reorganization meeting. An election of officers was held. Mrs. Dunne will serve as vice-chair of the Commission. She will be arranging programs that will be on C-NET. The February meeting will have a representative from the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association. She will circulate the C-NET viewing times for that. This is the second wettest year in 116 years. The wettest year in the past 116 years was 1996.

- Mr. DeCusati reported that the Coordinating Committee of the CCMPO met on January 24, 2012. The Coordinating Committee is comprised of municipal officials and the Technical Committee is comprised of staff or people that work out more of the project issues. Whatever is discussed in the Technical Committee will come up in the Coordinating Committee. The CCMPO accepted the reorganization that was in place. Ken Roan is the Coordinating Committee representative for the first three years and Dallas Gallo is the representative for the Technical Committee. His alternate is Don Franson.

Mr. DeCusati discussed Item #8 on the report that is the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). This contains projects that are discussed. He feels the representatives on the committee should keep watch on the projects that will go on in our region. The Route #144 Betterment Project was started and will continue. They are exploring funds to complete the project. They are discussing a Route #26 Jacksonville Road Betterment Project. A project has been put in to fix the wall on Route #44 on Linn Street to fix the wall. The final project is Route #150, the Congested Corridor Project. Mr. DeCusati wants to be sure these projects don't get put on the side so other projects can get funded.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Goldman had nothing to report.

### **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- 1) 108 North Allegheny Street – Install wood-framed fire escape from third floor to grade. Stair will extend over the existing roof. A portion of the existing garage roof will be removed for the new stair. A stair is required by code for a second egress from third floor apartments.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A letter was received from Harry J. Burd, Building Official, clarifying the approval of this egress. A voice vote was unanimous.

**COMMITTEES**

Building & Property – Mr. Holderman will set up a meeting with the Building & Property Committee to discuss a piece of land for sale near the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Finance and Government Performance – Mrs. Dunne made a motion to file for audit the December 2011 vouchers in the amount of \$971,857.50. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

December 2011 Vouchers

General	19097 - 19242	\$ 284,340.83
Streetlighting	762 - 774	\$ 12,876.68
Bellefonte Fire Dept.	1219, 1231 - 1249	\$ 15,878.63
Fire Equipment	151 - 154	\$ 4,695.88
Parks & Recreation	1582 - 1591	\$ 402.65
Water	8089 - 8179	\$ 138,625.37
Sanitation	9368 - 9458	\$ 185,362.24
Refuse	2368 - 2404	\$ 102,088.60
Swimming Pool	495 - 497	\$ 267.19
CDBG	-	\$ 0.00
Special Projects	102 – 103, 110, 128 - 133	\$ 181,983.74
Highway Aid	223	\$ 4,000.00
Capital Projects	-	\$ 0.00
Bulk Water Sales	996, 997, 155 - 162	\$ 41,335.69
	Total:	\$ <u>971,857.50</u>

The December 2011 Budget vs. Actual; Current vs. Prior; and Treasurer’s Report are in the packet for review.

Park & Recreation – Mrs. Brown reported there was an information meeting at CPI with invitations given to all townships surrounding Bellefonte regarding forming a Pool Authority. Mrs. Brown would like to gather more information, having a meeting with the Park & Recreation Committee on Monday, February 20, at 6:00 p.m. and then provide the information to Council with a recommendation.

Mrs. Brown reported she and Mr. Wilson were the Bellefonte Borough representatives at the Weis Market on Saturday, February 4. They accepted a check for the Borough in the amount of \$1,000. Mrs. Brown reported they gave money to other organizations throughout the Borough as well.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Weis Market will be Sunday, February 26, at 6:45 a.m. Weis Markets would like representatives from Borough Council to attend this ceremony.

Mr. Holderman reported Mr. Stewart, Bill Comly, Chris Berger, Bob Dorman and other people in Public Works put in a lot of effort for the pump house at the Weis Store.

The wall refurbishment project at the Big Spring is complete. The second part in front of the Sculpture Garden is completed also. The wall extension near the falls will begin in the next month. County funding has been provided for that project.

Mrs. Dunne reported the Edible Landscape Garden is on the Bellefonte Borough website under Parks & Recreation.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reported work on contract language for the contract between Bellefonte Borough and the Streets employees is continuing. A discussion regarding position descriptions occurred Friday, February 3. They will continue to jointly develop new contract language for the next couple months.

Safety – Mr. Wilson made a motion to charge the County the same amount, in fairness, that is charged to the Bellefonte Area School District for the use of the meter for the Judge. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A sign will be installed at the meter stating the times you cannot park there. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wilson stated a decision needs to be made regarding whether the skunk removal program will continue. Last year \$3,800 was spent to get rid of skunks. He feels because of the mild weather there will be more skunks this year. Mr. Wilson feels you should probably continue the program for a third year to help reduce the population to a more manageable level. Approximately 35 skunks were caught last year. The Borough paid for the service because Mr. Halderman stated it was a public safety issue.

Ms. Dainty suggested the Borough keep traps and loan them out to residents. If a skunk is caught then someone would go out to get the skunk.

Mr. Wilson will explore options to keep the cost down for the Borough and will bring a recommendation to Council. He also would like the constituents to provide suggestions about what to do.

The Fire Executive Committee meeting was held on January 26, 2012. The committee approved accepting a bid for the Undine Power Ladder truck in the amount of \$35,000. A bid was received and approved for the delivery truck that the Borough had in the amount of \$1,000.

There were 62 physicals given in 2011 and everyone passed them. This amount included the core group of firefighters from both departments.

The ISO (Insurance Services Organization) meeting was held to explain to the fire companies and Borough Officials how insurance premiums are determined for Boroughs and Townships due to various regulations the fire departments must comply with. They check fire fighting apparatus, the water system, the buildings, the number of fire fighters and hours of training and the communication system to assess insurance premiums.

Council members would like the ISO to do another audit to see if the premiums could be lowered. It was suggested this not be done until after the 911 System is upgraded, although an internal audit could be done.

Water/Sanitation – There was no report.

Streets – Mr. DeCusati addressed the concern of a resident regarding the salt residue after spreading salt. With all the rain the salt is gone.

A streetlight at the intersection near the high school has been repaired.

The Streets Committee will be meeting to discuss various issues.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to submit the application for a permit to install and operate flashing warning devices. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. This is for a flashing signal on Allegheny Street near the elementary school to create a School Zone. If the permit is granted and the flashing lights are installed, the Borough will have to maintain them. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Brown received a telephone call regarding an accident on Wilson Street and High Street. The resident that lives there states there are quite a few accidents at that intersection and questioned whether something could be done there. The resident stated vehicles travel very fast. There is a dead tree there that the resident feels may impair some vision.

Mr. DeCusati stated that Wilson Street has many safety issues and residents should travel slower and carefully until a comprehensive solution can be found.

Council members would like the Police Department to spend more time in that area.

Mr. Holderman reported three lights in the Diamond Area have been cleaned to provide better lighting.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

Junior Council Report – Ms. McCullough reported the Bellefonte Boy's Swimming Team completed their second undefeated season.

In the Fine Arts Department quite a few musicians attended District Band and Chorus Festival. Two choir students and three band students are moving on to regional levels.

There will be a district Jazz Band concert next weekend for a minimal cost of \$5.

The drama club is rehearsing for their spring production of Grease.

Mr. Confer reported that Mock Trial will compete on Tuesday evening, February 7.

Mr. Halderman invited the Junior Council members to attend Committee Meetings. He also congratulated the Swimming Team for their undefeated season.

Mayor Goldman reported the high school has a track team and no track and a swimming team and no pool.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- The PSAB Spring Conference will be held April 29–May 2.
- The small refuse containers were received and delivered to residents. The final segment of distribution will be the grass and brush containers sometime in March. If a resident would like a small container, they should contact the Borough office.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mrs. Brown announced the Chamber of Commerce will host a Volunteer Fair on Saturday, March 3, at Lambert Hall in Hyde Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fair is free. The intent is for organizations in the community to gather more volunteers for their organization.

- Mr. Beigle thanked the Borough employees for spending their time upgrading the Council Chambers.

Ms. Dainty thanked the Airport Authority for donating the carpet.

Mr. Holderman thanked Sue Hannegan for her excellent color choices. Ms. Dainty stated the color choice was hers.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 6, 2012, at 8:50 p.m. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.