

COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 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. Those in attendance were asked to either turn their cell phones off or put them on vibrate.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: McCullough,

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

Staff Present:

Guests: R. Thomas Berneir; Nathan Elliot; Sally Houser; Holly Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of November 19, 2012. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A copy of a letter from Russell D. Shuey, Building Code Official, to Kathryn & Allison J. Iadarola regarding the Garman Theatre. The building has been determined to be structurally unsafe. There has not been a response to the letter. Dominic DeCecco is an attorney with his own law firm and is representing the bank.

ORAL

- Nathan Elliot, Mount Nittany Medical Center, Community Health Needs Assessment, informed Council that they have taken a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment. This is partially because of IRS requirements but is also something done for the benefit of Mount Nittany Medical Center. There will be a web based community health survey completed. They requested help finding the best channels in the community to distribute the survey to get the best possible feedback.

January 14, 2013, they will be hosting, in cooperation with Centre County Partnership of Community Health, a county-wide health needs summit. They would like at least one delegate from Council to participate in that event.

Mrs. Dunne verified that the survey will be completed online. The question was raised whether people will have use of that technology. Mr. Elliot stated there will also be paper versions of the survey available for those without internet access. There will also be a few surveys taken outside the Centre County area.

- Sally Houser, Victorian Christmas Chair, invited Borough Council and the residents of Bellefonte to the Bellefonte Victorian Christmas celebration this weekend. There will be a Gala on Thursday, December 6. The opening ceremony will be held on Friday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. The Mayor will be at the ceremony. There are singing and dance groups that will perform during the festival.

Holly Wilson thanked Bellefonte Borough for their participation in Victorian Christmas. The town is decorated beautifully.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Addis made a Victorian Christmas Proclamation. This is the 31st Victorian Christmas Celebration. He declared December 7, 8 and 9 as Victorian Christmas in Bellefonte. He encouraged all residents, families and friends to celebrate the season with a spirit of joy, hope and thanksgiving and asks everyone to continue to reach out and help others by sharing time, talents and treasures so everyone will be able to experience a new year filled with health, peace, happiness and prosperity.

- Mayor Addis presented Letters of Commendation to the following Bellefonte Police Department Officers for an incident on November 24, 2012: Officer Todd Walter; Officer Robert Ruggiero; and Officer Robert Holt. The officers were dispatched to 114 North Allegheny Street, Parish's Apothecary, for an armed robbery that had just occurred. After checking the immediate area and speaking with the witnesses, the officers immediately began to compile a list of local suspects. Once the witnesses had positively identified the subject, the officers participated in a canvass of the locations the suspect was known to frequent. Due to their diligence and dedication, the subject was apprehended.

A copy of the letter will be placed in each officer's personnel file.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

None

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1) 130 West High Street/Replace deteriorated balcony ceiling. The existing plaster and wood ceiling was damaged by a leaking roof. The owner will repair the ceiling with plywood bead board, painted.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 130 West High Street. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. The leaking roof has been repaired.

HARB meeting minutes for November 27, 2012, are in the packet for review.

COMMITTEES

Building & Property – No report.

Finance and Government Performance – Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the Tentative Budget for 2013 in the amount of \$11,765,419.00 for advertisement. There is a one mill tax increase for the General Budget and a 1/2 mill tax increase that will be used to set aside for Capital Projects for the Streets. The total increase is 1 1/2 mills, which is approximately \$6.00 per month to the average homeowner. When it is seconded and passed, the budget will be advertised and will be for review at the Borough Office. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart stated it will be acted on at the Council Meeting of Monday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Halderman thanked Ms. Dainty, Ms. Walker and other members of Council that worked on the budget. He appreciates their work.

Park & Recreation – Mrs. Brown stated the Borough is still seeking two Borough residents to fill the Recreational Authority positions.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reported the Human Resources Negotiation Committee will meet with the Police Department Negotiating Team on Wednesday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m. for a negotiation session.

The HR Negotiation Team will also meet on Monday, December 10, for the third negotiation session with the Public Works Negotiations Committee.

Mr. Provan requested the HR Committee come approximately ten minutes early to the meeting on Wednesday.

Safety – Mr. Wilson was unable to attend the Fire Executive Committee meeting that was held on November 29, 2012.

Mr. Schneider stated the Committee met and basically went over housekeeping issues bringing things up to date. The January 2013 meeting has been set aside to work on a revision to the ordinance to reflect the recommendations that came out of the regional cooperation group between Benner, Spring and the Citizens and looking at keeping that ordinance up to date. After this ordinance is completed a Fire Prevention Ordinance will be updated.

Mr. Wilson reminded everyone there is a Fire Prevention Task Force Committee meeting on Thursday, December 6, in Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m. All members of the public are invited to attend.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported the draft Authority meeting minutes from November 6, 2012 are in the packets for review.

Streets – Mr. DeCusati reported a letter will be sent to Mrs. Howe, who attended the last meeting, to inform her of some of the issues in trying to take away the alternate parking.

- Line painting has been completed until the spring.

- Mrs. Brown witnessed a driver run over the pedestrian crossing sign in front of Dairy Queen on her way to the Council meeting.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

Junior Council Report – Monday, December 10, will be the Christmas Concert.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- There has been informal discussion regarding the work session for the January 7, 2013 Council meeting. This will be kept as an open meeting for brainstorming to set goals and objectives for the year.

- Mr. Holderman reported the Logan Fire Department had their annual banquet on Saturday, December 1, and provided awards to the members of the Fire Department. Mr. Holderman commended Walt Schneider as the Fire Department Chief and Chuck Salvanish, the President, for doing an outstanding job with those volunteers. The event was wonderful and a good time was had by all. He felt the Logan's should be commended for doing that on a yearly basis.

Mr. Halderman thanked them for inviting Council members.

- Mr. Wilson reported "Our Town Bellefonte" will air at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, December 10, on Channel 3.

- Mrs. Brown made a motion for Council to sponsor C-NET coverage of the Victorian Christmas Concert at the High School. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. The concert will last approximately one hour. A voice vote was unanimous.

TICKET EXONERATIONS

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the ticket exonerations. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Provan would like Council members to examine the report as well as the last report and then at the January brainstorming session determine if that is the type of report Council would like to see.

Mr. Schneider feels the first step should be that the Mayor is happy with the report that he is putting forward out of his department. It was felt that the Mayor should be given time to determine what he would like.

Mayor Addis appreciates feedback from Council.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Ms. Dainty made a motion to adjourn the meeting of December 3, 2012 at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.