

**COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2013**  
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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. It was requested that cell phones either be placed on vibrate or turned off.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Wilson, Brown, Schneider, Provan, Beigle, Dunne, Halderman

Members Excused: DeCusati, Ramish, Li

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Barry Spicer; Randy Brachbill; Samuel McGinley; Mary Vollero;  
Debbie Cleeton, Karen Harvey, Kevin Hockenberry

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.)

- Minutes - Approval of December 2, 2013 minutes
- Mayor - Police Report - November 2013  
Police Exonerations - November 2013
- Finance - November 2013 Treasurer's Report  
November 2013 Voucher Summary: \$1,430,364.92
- New Business - 2014 Holiday Schedule

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- A letter from the Logan Fire Co. #1 inviting Council to their annual banquet to be held on Saturday, January 11, 2013 at the Bellefonte Moose on Spring Street, Bellefonte. The social hour starts at 5:00 p.m. and the meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. RSVPs must be in by Tuesday, December 31, 2013.

- A letter from Sally Houser thanking some crew members for assisting in getting ready for Victorian Christmas.

- A letter from the Spring Creek Watershed Commission informing that they will have a talk by Dr. Andrew Peterson entitled "Medications and the Environment". Since the Borough is a member they are requesting a donation of \$50 to be recognized at the talk. The talk will be on February 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dreibelbis Auditorium at Mount Nittany Medical Center. A sponsor needs to attend from the Borough. Mrs. Dunne stated the speaker is a pharmacist coming from Philadelphia. She feels the talk would be good for a diverse audience. He will discuss appropriate disposal methods of unused pharmaceuticals; personal care products that get washed off your body and go into the water; he will discuss federal and state regulations; and various sources of pharmaceutical contamination and various effects on aquatic life. Mrs. Dunne encouraged someone to give \$50 to donate this.

### **ORAL**

- Mary Vollero, 137 North Spring Street, wanted to say a few words about the Garman. She feels the whole town will really regret decisions made regarding the Garman. She feels outrage about the Garman. She stated the windows have been taken out. Mr. Stewart stated DEP will inspect the process when it is finished and give the developer a letter. The demolition permits have been issued and the Borough is really not involved at this point. Mary is concerned about protecting the citizens and the workers. Mr. Stewart stated the windows contain materials that have environmental issues. She asked why there is such a rush to get it done now. Mr. Halderman reiterated that Council has no involvement in the Garman except for issuing the permit. She feels it is a crying shame what is happening to the Garman. She asked Council to rethink their decision to allow the Garman to be demolished.

- Mr. Provan thanked the Borough Street folks, police, and others who cleared snow all night Saturday. They did a good job. He also thanked the new electrician and others who helped him to put up all the lights for Victorian Christmas. Mr. Provan also feels the street workers did a good job cleaning up the leaves this fall. He also thanked those working outside in the cold to do repairs.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- None.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Addis thanked Council for the opportunity he has had in the past year to serve as Mayor of the Borough of Bellefonte. It has been a unique experience for him. It has been very educational for him to see the operation of the Borough at this level. He commends Council for the dedication that they all put into the effort for the Borough. He is proud to soon to be a past mayor and proud to be a resident of the Borough of Bellefonte.

Mr. Halderman stated he and Council appreciate the fact that Mayor Addis volunteered when they were looking for someone to be the mayor.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- None.

## **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- None.

## **COMMITTEES**

Building & Property – No report.

Finance and Government Performance – Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the .7 mill tax increase for the general fund. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. The general fund total is \$3,280,970.00; the entire Borough budget, which includes funds associated with the Authority is \$13,345,353.00. That is both operating and capital expenses in total. Mrs. Dunne requested to reduce the Library cut in half to reduce it to approximately a \$1,500 reduction as an expression of goodwill. The budget can be reopened in January because of new Council members, but it will not change the taxation level. The motion passed in a voice vote with Mrs. Brown and Mr. Wilson voting no.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve Tax Levy Ordinance 12162013-01. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. The tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 10.505 mills; Streetlights 1 mill; Fire Department .680 mills; Fire Equipment .430 mills; Parks & Recreation .900 mills for a total of 13.515 mills. A voice vote was unanimous.

Park & Recreation – No report.

Human Resources –Mr. Provan stated this is his last meeting as a representative on Council for the North Ward. He thanked the Bellefonte Community for the privilege of being able to represent constituents Borough-wide. He also thanked the Council members. He felt it was a unique learning experience. He thanked Joe Beigle, Don Holderman and Frank Halderman for inviting him to be part of Council. He realizes what an extremely important role the Borough Council has and he also realizes how fortunate the citizens of Bellefonte are to have all the amenities provided and the services the newly passed budget will provide.

Mr. Halderman stated there was an inordinate amount of arm twisting to get him to serve on Council. He appreciates the time Mr. Provan served.

Safety – No report.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported there will be an Authority meeting Tuesday evening, December 17, to discuss the items that come up at Council and to discuss projects for next year.

He stated the withdrawal reports are staying constant.

Streets – Mr. Wilson would like to be sure that the intersection of High Street and McAlister Street be followed through with the possibility of making it a safer intersection.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – No report.

Junior Council Report – No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Spring Township is no longer going to be a paying member of CCMPO. They are working towards being part of the Borough coalition. Bill MacMath has been on the technical committee for the CCMPO. The thought is that he could be the main representative and Ms. Dainty could be the alternate.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to table until further information is available. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- CATA will have four buses with advertising in the next several months. CATA would like feedback on the buses.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to pass Resolution No. 12162013-01 authorizing agreement to acquire real property at 1081B Zion Road, Bellefonte, PA. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Agreement of Sale between Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of General Services and the Borough of

Bellefonte for the Bellefonte National Guard Armory property. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne questioned the part on the Declaration of Covenants regarding construction, rehabilitation, remodeling, or site development. The Veteran's Affairs people stated they want something respectable there for the Armory and the Veteran's. Mr. Stewart stated there is a process to go through before any development begins on the property. Mrs. Dunne would like clarification of the payment of transfer taxes and the real estate taxes. Mr. Stewart stated the Agreement of Sale will be reviewed by the solicitor. He also continued that the Borough and the state do not pay taxes.

Mr. Schneider modified the motion to indicate that after approval by the Borough Solicitor and staff. Mr. Beigle seconded the amended motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the amended motion.

A voice vote was taken on the Agreement of Sale and it passed with Mrs. Brown voting no.

- Mrs. Brown made a motion to table the 2014 appointments of Franson Engineering and McQuaide Blasko until the January 6, 2014 council meeting. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. The motion was denied with four no votes and two yes votes.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Donald M. Franson as the Stormwater Management Engineer and to approve McQuaide Blasko as a representative for legal items and his 2014 fees. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Mr. Beigle amended his motion to approve McQuaide Blasko as a Borough Solicitor as well as his fees. Mr. Wilson seconded the amended motion. Mrs. Dunne thinks attorney Schrack did a nice job last year on the various items that he was asked to review. She has some concerns that she was a little disappointed with the legal perspective he shared with Council at the Special meeting on November 11, 2013 and his advice to Council. Mr. Beigle stated it is an attorney's job to make you aware of problems that can arise for you as an individual. He commends the job that McQuaide Blasko has done for the Borough for many, many years. Mrs. Brown feels with a lot of new Council people coming on it may not be the right people to appoint him tonight without giving the new people a say. The motion passed with Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dunne voting no.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to authorize Resolution No. 12162013-2, the Filing of the Facade Improvement Grant. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to appoint Debra Cleeton be appointed as the Council member representing the South Ward. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A hand vote was taken. The motion failed with Mr. Halderman, Mr. Schneider, Ms. Dunne and Mr. Provan voting no.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to appoint Karen Harvey as the Council member representing the South Ward. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. This will fill Ms. Dainty's vacancy. The motion passed with Mr. Beigle and Mrs. Brown voting no.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting of December 16, 2013 at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL ISSUE**