

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 6, 2014**  
**[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)**

**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: Beigle, Brachbill, Brown, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Spicer, Walker, Li

Members Excused: Harvey,

Officials Present: Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mayor Tom Wilson

Staff Present:

Guests: Rev. Carl Miller, Mary Prendergast, Mike Prendergast, Angela Dick, Pam Vaiana, Joan Coble, Sue Montaruno

**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 Amended September 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- Minutes - Approval of September 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Ltr request re CROP WALK
- Finance - Approval of McQuaide Blasko Invoice

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- An invitation from Juniper Village at Brookline to an Open House on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a Ribbon Cutting at 3:30 p.m. Juniper Village is located at 1950 Cliffside Drive, State College, PA.

- A letter from Chris D. Evans, Chief, Disaster Recovery Division, PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency) providing approval for an extension to the award received to reconstruct Lamb Street. The project must be completed by July 31, 2015.

- A letter from John Ziegler and Robert Hazelton, Co-Chairs, Nominating Committee, Preservation Awards, Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) Board of Governors inviting Mr. Stewart and Borough Council to the John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards Program ceremony at the Penn State/Centre County Visitor Center on Sunday, November 9, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. The Talleyrand Park Committee has been selected to receive a 2014 Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation. Please RSVP to Christine Tate by Friday, October 24th.

- A letter request from the Howard Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 for Fire Police assistance at the HFC Fall Festival on Saturday, October 18. The festival is from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but Fire Police coverage is requested from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- A letter from Brian B. Witmer regarding the parking changes that were made to the parking in front of the property located at 311-313 East Bishop Street along with the restriction of left turns from South Ridge Street (south bound) onto East Bishop Street. He requests that changes made be reconsidered.

Mr. Halderman stated it was because of a safety concern that the Streets Committee resolved.

- An email from Dawn G. McKee, Special Projects coordinator, Centre County Women's Resource Center informing Council that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and on Wednesday, October 29, at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Courthouse the Centre County Women's Resource Center is holding a vigil to honor survivors of domestic violence and remember those who were killed as a result of this crime.

The request for luminaries will be turned over to the Safety Committee for review and recommendation.

## **ORAL**

- The Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary Club made a donation of \$12,500.00 to Bellefonte Borough to be able to upgrade playground equipment at a location determined by the Borough. The money came from the Children's Fair. This is the proceeds from three years of Children's Fairs.

- Mike Prendergast, 218 North Spring Street, is disappointed that the Borough does not have a Noise Ordinance in effect. He has problems with neighbors being loud after 11:00 p.m. Council members told him there is a Noise Ordinance. Mr. DeCusati stated the ordinance goes from sunrise to sunset. Mrs. Prendergast stated earlier this summer an officer spent a great deal of time talking with the neighbors and the noise quieted down for a while.

Mr. Holderman suggested talking with State College to see how they handle it. Mayor Wilson will also pass the complaint on to Chief Weaver.

- Pastor Carl Miller has been a resident of 44 years in Bellefonte. He feels it is a healthy, diverse community in many ways. He feels the constitutional rights and freedoms of everyone have been protected. He referred to a September 2014 Council meeting where the Jehovah's Witnesses requested permission to place literature at Talleyrand Park, and he feels this would be very inappropriate. He feels they should distribute their literature through the Chamber of Commerce. He asked if there is an ordinance that pertains to printed material being distributed anywhere in Bellefonte on the streets and sidewalks.

Mr. DeCusati stated the opinion from the Borough Attorney is if a group wants to have a table in Talleyrand Park where they displayed literature it is completely in the ordinance. Mr. Halderman stated Council needs to review this letter before a decision is made.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Brachbill attended the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Committee meeting. The minutes will be in the October 20 packet for review.

- The Bellefonte Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, at 1:00 p.m. At the September 17 meeting the mandatory annual training was completed. The minutes from the September 17 meeting are in the packet for review.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson had nothing to report.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

None.

### **HARB**

1) 128 South Allegheny Street - remove tar brick siding using hardiplank or a fibrous cement product in the Taupe color.

2) 141 West High Street - a new beauty salon would like to install two signs.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve both Certificates of Appropriateness as presented. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB Draft meeting minutes from the September 23, 2014, meeting are in the packet for review.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** - Mr. Brachbill asked if Council will be formulating what the vision for the Armory property is. Mr. Holderman reported the first report on the facilities was received from Robert Keal. PennTerra will provide a report soon. After both reports are received there will be a meeting of the Building and Property Committee.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - Mrs. Dunne reported there are minutes in the packet from the September 15, 2014 Finance Committee meeting. Topics discussed were:

- The insurance coverage package for the current insurance year and received some very good explanations from Tom McKee.
- Crossing Guards payroll expenses that are shared 50/50 with the Bellefonte Area School District. They are exploring the option of changing the sharing of expenses.
- They are working on collecting unpaid parking fines via collection letters and issuing citations.
- For parking meter replacement an economically achievable strategy needs to be developed to use resources that are available.
- They discussed the contribution to the Centre County Library. The Board's finance committee will make a presentation at the October 20 Council Work Session.

**PARK AND RECREATION** - Mrs. Brown stated the train rides will be October 17, 18 and 19. There will be approximately ten train rides. Those interested in getting tickets should call the Train Station. The website is [www.bellefontetrain.org](http://www.bellefontetrain.org).

- The railroad bridge painting in Talleyrand Park has been completed and looks very nice.

- Work on the bank repair in Talleyrand Park has been completed thanks to the Conservation District.

- Borough employees have removed debris from the waterfalls area of Talleyrand Park.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Mr. Spicer reported there was an executive session for a personnel issue prior to this Council meeting.

- Mr. Spicer reported there is a need for fire police and any interested candidates can contact Tim Schreffler at 814-574-6800.

- There was a committee meeting last week to review the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Pension Plan and questionnaire. There are some changes that are in the packet. They changed part of the six-month probation. The amendment date will be November 1 versus the October 1 deadline. Before the membership for part-time employees was optional and the election for part-time employees to join the system must be made within one year after the employee first enters the municipality and it was changed to membership of part-time employees shall be prohibited. On the compensation part there is a section for the Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation Act they chose shall not include compensation while they are out on leave. The final average salary was opposed.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve the amended questionnaire for the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Pension Plan. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne questioned if the changes represent a change from the former pension contract. Mr. Spicer stated it was from the former contract. Moving forward these changes are being recommended. It is modifying what is already in place and it is to the benefit of the Borough. A voice vote was unanimous.

**SAFETY** - Mr. Brachbill reported there are draft minutes in the packet from the September 25 Fire Protection Task Force meeting. There are also draft minutes from the Bellefonte Fire Department Executive Committee meeting on September 25. The meetings were held back-to-back on the same night. Mrs. Dunne stated the minutes show it was a productive meeting of the Fire Protection Task Force meeting.

- Mr. Holderman stated the new Logan Fire Department apparatus should be in operation around November 4. They plan to have some sort of celebration so the community can see the apparatus.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - Mr. Beigle reported the September 2014 Daily Water Withdrawal report is in the packet for review. On September 6 there was a leak that accounted for the large withdrawal amount.

- The draft Authority Meeting minutes from the September 3, 2014, meeting are in the packet for review as well as the Authority Meeting minutes from August 5, June 3, and May 6.

- Mr. Holderman reported, according to the Ordinance, brush and grass containers typically ends the end of October, but it will be extended until the landfill closes in November near Thanksgiving.

- Mr. Beigle stated leaf collection began today and approximately October 20 it will follow the refuse collection schedule. Leaves should be put on the curb and not on the street.

**STREETS** - Mr. DeCusati requested that Mr. Holderman or Mr. Stewart write a letter to Mr. Witmer and inform him that the committee made the recommendations for safety reasons.

- There was a meeting recently with PennDOT regarding the intersection at Lamb Street. Nothing will be changed regarding the flow of traffic at this point. Minutes from the meeting will be forthcoming.

- The Streetscape project is continuing. They are hopeful to have it completed by the end of October. It is appreciated that residents are patient as the improvements are made to the downtown area. Other property owners are also making improvements to their sidewalks and buildings in conjunction with this project.

- The Streets Committee met this evening and discovered some water drainage issues. We have been receiving more heavy rain falls and they are causing some flooding issues. Currently the Streets Committee is making sure the drain lines in the Borough are clear and maintained, but they are also exploring what can be done to set a policy regarding storm water.

- Approval was received from the state to extend the deadline to complete the work on Lamb Street by the Borough building to July 2015. Over the next few months design review will be completed; a contractor will be selected; and in the spring work will begin and hopefully be completed by the deadline.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - The Energy Contract will be reviewed by the Energy and Environmental Conservation.

- Mrs. Dunne reported the recent mudsill work that was completed in Talleyrand Park is another example of the good environmental approach by the Talleyrand Park Committee to preserve our natural resources.

**JUNIOR COUNCIL** - Ms. Li presented a rough draft for the Social Media Policy and requested to have someone review it.

- Homecoming is October 17 and the parade will be on Thursday, October 16. The time will be posted on the Borough website.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- The Bellefonte Area Industrial Development Authority was the Conservator for the Garman Property. That Conservatorship has been officially terminated.

- Mrs. Brown reported since the Borough is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Council members are invited to the annual Chamber Luncheon on Wednesday, October 15, at 11:30 a.m. at the American Philatelic Society. The cost is \$20 per person.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve Resolution No. 100614-001, Borough of Bellefonte Police Pension Plan. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to conduct the Flu Clinic this year with Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman working out the details. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Brown received a Save the Kepler Pool brochure. They are being circulated by the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority. Benner Township and Spring Township are surveying their citizens regarding this. Council members suggested surveying their citizens to see what their opinion is on this.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adjourn the meeting of October 6, 2014, at 8:20 p.m. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.