

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
September 21, 2015
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, Harvey

Members Excused: Spicer, Walker, Mayor Wilson

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Lakeshia Kvarik, Lock Haven Express; Gary V. Hoover;
Susan B. Hoover; Joanne Tosti-Vasey

PRESENTATION

A presentation was made to J. Timothy Schreffler in honor of his many years of dedication to the fire company and the Borough as the Fire Department Chief.

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 September 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Letter request from Lions Club regarding Four Parking Spaces
- Communications - Letter request from Girls Wanna Run 5K

- Communications - Letter request regarding the CROP Walk
- Mayor - Police Report - July and August 2015
- Mayor - Police Exonerations - July and August 2015
- Finance - Voucher Summary - \$1,162,760.66
- Finance - Approval of Treasurer's Report - July 2015

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the Girls Wanna Run 5K removed. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. It is part of the Borough regulation stating no lines can be painted on the streets. None of the dates conflict. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve the Girls Wanna Run 5K walk/run that will be held October 17th at Governor's Park. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. Mrs. Brown wanted the Girls Wanna Run program to be aware that the restrooms will be closed during the Girls Wanna Run 5K walk/run that will be held October 17th at Governor's Park. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A brochure from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection providing information about an LED Street Lighting Workshop for Municipal Officials that will be held Friday, October 30, at Celebration Hall in State College.

- An email from Nicole Smith regarding the CCEDP Economic Development Summit that will be held on Tuesday, October 6, at the Match Factory. The reception begins at 5:00 p.m. with the program following at 6:00 p.m. All Council members are encouraged to attend.

- A carbon copy letter to Representative Kerry Benninghoff from William MacMath, Spring Township Manager, requesting the funding necessary to complete the High Speed Interchange at the crossroads of I-80/I-99.

- A letter from Christopher Anderson, Zoning Officer, Benner Township, regarding rezoning of a portion of Tax Parcel 12-004-034A from Mobile Home Park (MHP) to Multi-Family Residential (R-2), 344 Fulton's Run Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Owner: the Village of Nittany Glen, LP. This was approved through the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission. It is a formality to send it to the other municipalities.

- A letter from Kerry O'Hara, Event Lead Bellefonte Relay for Life 2016, requesting the use of Governor's Park for the 2016 Bellefonte Relay for Life from Thursday evening, May 19, through Saturday, May 21, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve this request. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. The restrooms will not be open until Memorial Day weekend. A voice vote was unanimous.

ORAL

- CATA Strategic Plan Presentation - The strategic plan is in draft form receiving public comments. They would like each Council or Supervisor to make consensus comments to CATA. The actual document is 275 pages long and there is an executive summary. Some of the chapters included demographics; growth patterns; rider and non-rider surveys; and numerous stakeholder interviews. All these things lead to the documents that people are requested to comment on. It yielded about 27 potential strategic initiatives. The board looked at the policy level goals and used a software program that they used through a PennDOT contract.

It does paired comparisons of different strategies. It was then narrowed down to five areas of focus.

The first one is Addressing Growth Prudently. CATA is in a growing community and needs to be ready to adjust to that growth as it happens. Six years ago the fleet was aging out and the average age was thirteen. The average age of a bus is twelve years and at that point the cost to maintain the bus climbs. There were buses sixteen to eighteen years old on the street. The strategy is to take a holistic look at all of the programs; determining how growth happens and determining if there is the fleet, the personnel and the money for that growth and to look at the programs as one business plan. They struggle with determining a policy level of how to serve a community built around a university.

Next is Advance Technologically. CATA has always been ahead of other transit systems across the country in the level of technology that is there for the customers. CATA is behind on the internal processes, which many are still done with paper and pencil.

Plan for Succession - looking forward over the next ten years they are seeing in the front line people and the maintenance areas. There are vacancies in the maintenance area and a group of maintenance employees will be moving towards retirement in the next five years. It is critical for them to bring in and home-grow the skills needed to fill these positions. The building that will be finished in the next few years will partially allow them to work on this in that they could possibly work with some of the trade schools around here with either an apprenticeship or mentorship program to find employees for the position. Also, people do not stay in a job for thirty years as in the past.

Building Reserves spans the entire ten years of the strategic plan. Funding streams have been volatile. On the federal level, the legislation that funds transportation expired nearly two years ago. At the state level, there was some funding movement, but the focus of that money is on state of good repair. In transit there was a feeling that there shouldn't be reserves - that as money came in it should be put right into operating costs so over the years CATA has deferred capital investment to use those dollars and keep operating. Prior to the last legislative bill that funded

transportation CATA was very good at getting discretionary grant money. They need to figure out a way to build reserves.

Enhance the Use of Metrics is a focus because it is coming down from the federal and state levels as requirements to set metrics as part of a management tool. It is a good way to manage. They will explore what the proper metrics are for a system like theirs.

The other items that did not make it into the five areas of focus are in a "parking lot" and the concept is as they make progress in the five focus areas they could be promoted or if it becomes an operational necessity because of legislation.

The comment period is open through noon on Thursday, October 8. Once the comment period is closed there may be a possible plan refinement and then the draft will go to the board for final acceptance in November.

Council members expressed their concern on the fairness of the Borough's expected support for CATA.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft IDA meeting minutes from September 9, 2015, are in the packet for review.

- Draft Safety Committee meeting minutes from September 16, 2015, are in the packet for review.

- Mrs. Dunne reported on the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting that was held on Wednesday, September 16. They are in the very early planning stages of making a Spring Creek Watershed Atlas that will be used for public education, setting regulations, and planning for growth in management of watershed resources.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- No report.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1) 111-113 East High Street: Paint the building using Tarrytown Green on the bricks and quoins; the keystones, doors and cornice will be Hodley Red; and the windows and arches will be Monroe Bisque.

2) 251 North Allegheny Street: Replace the roof with Grand Manor black pear shingles, with copper flashing; repaint the house using the following colors: the porch cream, the roof of the porch Lindherdt Castle Sand, the shutters and windows ripe olive, Mark Twain Brown as an accent color, the body of the house Wild West Green; rebuild the chimney using same brick and stones; demolish the 2nd floor of the side porch; iron on lower porch will be re-blasted and reinstalled.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve both Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. Mrs. Brown would like it noted if the applicant name is the same as the owner.

- Draft HARB meeting minutes from September 8, 2015, are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - Mr. Halderman reported the Waterfront progress is looking good and they should be out of the stream by the end of September.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Vehicle & Equipment sale of surplus vehicles/equipment of the Borough to be conducted by Munici-Bid; with the online auction beginning approximately Thursday, October 1, 2015. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne reported the Weis Market appealed their tax assessment to the Court of Common Pleas and won a reduction of \$10,000.00 on the improvements portion of the assessment. The Borough's share of the refund is \$5,864.83.

- The budgeting process for 2016 will begin at the next Council meeting.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mrs. Brown reported a letter was received from the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc. pertaining to membership. This will be included in budget discussions because Mayor Wilson is interested in the Borough joining. It will be given to the Park and Recreation Committee for review and recommendation.

- The Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority Minutes from April, May and June 2015 are in the packet for review.

- Mrs. Brown reported the Train Rides are not listed on the Borough website. They are October 16, 17 and 18 and are in conjunction with the Fall Festival and Antique Fair.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the 22 Needs A Face fundraising event on October 10 in Talleyrand Park. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. Mrs. Brown would like it to be contingent on providing a Certificate of Liability. A voice vote was unanimous.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. DeCusati reported the Committee is meeting with one of the unions to work on next year's contract.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill attended a Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission on Thursday, September 17. They presented a Centre County Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

- Mr. Holderman reported the Fire Task Force and the Fire Executive Committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 24. The Task Force meets at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Fire Executive Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.

WATER AND SANITATION - No report.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati made a motion that Bellefonte Borough write a letter of support of Spring Township on asking the CCMPO and PennDOT to complete the high speed interchange at the crossroads of I-80/I-99. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. DeCusati was informed that PennDOT has Phoenix Avenue in the design phase. They are not working with the CCMPO on it. There was no comment on when Allegheny Street will be paved.

- Sue Hannegan suggested there be an emergency response plan after a worker was hurt badly at the Fraser Center. She suggested it be recommended to the developers of the Mews property and the Cadillac property that they think about that. Sue Hannegan would be willing to share the emergency response plan for the Fraser Street project.

- Mr. Decusati mentioned that we will need a new representative and backup for the CCMPO committee. Please let Mr. DeCusati know if anyone on Borough Council would like to serve as either a representative or a back-up. This should be an elected official.

- Mrs. Brown would like to know when the crane will be placed on Allegheny Street. It should be there this week.

- Mr. Stewart talked with PennDOT regarding the traffic lights for the three intersections in the downtown area. PennDOT will most likely move the posts at their cost because the foundation does not have the 2' distance between the edge of the post and the curb. The lights are complicated. Each intersection has a certain criteria. In some cases, moving the pole back does not allow enough ADA clearance between the other side of the pole and landscaping or the sidewalk. Near the bridge, the bridge abutment is in the way. Instead of setting four poles, they may set two poles and have them go at a 90 degree angle from each other. There will be an up-charge for the decorative poles. The PennDOT person will meet with the Streets Committee.

- Mr. DeCusati reported the MPO informed him that when the Waterfront property is developed it is highly likely there will need to be more streetlight upgrades there. Typically the developer would expect the municipality to do the upgrades.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Ms. Harvey reported DEP is offering a free workshop that Mr. Stewart, Ms. Walker and several Council members will attend. It offers some hope for cost savings and energy reduction. Any other interested Council members should talk with Mr. Stewart.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Stewart would like to thank the students from CareerLink for their help this summer with Union Cemetery. They will receive a thank-you letter.

- Mrs. Brown received a call from someone that was at Union Cemetery asking when the tours of the cemetery are given. She was told there is a plaque that states to call the Chamber number to get a tour of the cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Brown reported there were three buses in Bellefonte on Friday, September 18. People are not aware of when the buses are coming into town. She would like a letter sent to Ron Wiser asking him to communicate with the Borough as to when the buses will be in town. Businesses are grateful that the business comes to town, but they would appreciate some advance notice so they can plan accordingly.

- Day of Caring is Thursday, October 1. BAHS Students will be working in the Borough.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the 2016 MMO's - Police Pension Plan with a contribution of \$173,160.00; the Non-Uniform Defined Benefit Program with a contribution of \$429,066.00; and the Defined Contribution Plan with a contribution of \$24,200.00. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. This is based on payroll estimates and could fluctuate. A voice vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Joanne Tosti-Vasey requested clarification from Mr. DeCusati on the lights. He stated there would be one decorative and two non-decorative, but she stated HARB requested all three be decorative and if that was too expensive there would be two decorative and one non-decorative. Mr. DeCusati was just stating options.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of September 21, 2015, at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.