

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
March 2, 2015
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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: Beigle, Brachbill, Brown, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Spicer, Walker,

Members Excused: Li,

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

Staff Present:

Guests:

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 February 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Letter request from Faith Centre.

Ms. Dunne made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the letter from Faith Centre removed for discussion. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The letter from Nicole Summers, Ed.D., Exec. Director, FaithCentre, requested permission to "bag" two (2) parking meters in front of the Food Bank during food

distribution on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the request. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. DeCusati noted that around the corner there are three spots that are fifteen minutes with flashers for the businesses on the corner. The Food Bank is across the street from the former Campanis store. Mr. Beigle noted that a food bank is required to be in the downtown area. The motion passed with Mrs. Dunne voting no.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- An email from the Enforcement Officer, Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority, reminding Council that April 25 is ClearWater Conservancy's Annual Watershed Cleanup Day. The Borough parking lot is typically a headquarter site. A coordinator will be found for this day.

- A letter from Debra Burger that was sent to organizations in the community in regard to the High Street Bridge dedication and a patriotic concert in Talleyrand Park. There will be a planning meeting on Monday, March 9, at the Willowbank Building.

Mrs. Dunne reported the Talleyrand Park Committee will be considering some of her plans and will invite her to speak with them. The Talleyrand Park Committee meeting will be on Thursday, March 5, at 4:00 p.m. at the Train Station.

- Information from the Pennsylvania Borough Councils Association in regard to "Outstanding Council Member of the Year Award." Nominations must be submitted by March 30, 2015.

- PHMC's 16th Annual Charter Day will be Sunday, March 8, from 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. at The State Museum of Pennsylvania located at Third and North Streets in Harrisburg, PA. Admission is free for Charter Day only.

- An email from Wende R. Long, Office Manager, Penn State Extension-Centre County informing Council that they will be hosting a breakfast and brief informational program, *A Winning Partnership: Maximizing Extension in Your Community*, on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at Celebration Hall by Hoag's Catering, 2280 Commercial Boulevard, State College. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. with the informational program at 8:15 a.m. The cost for the event is \$15.00 and the registration deadline is Wednesday, March 25. You can register by calling the extension office.

- A letter from Sharon Hicks, 322 South Main Street #1, Pleasant Gap, requesting a waiver of the newly established fee concerning reserving the Match Factory side of Talleyrand Park. Mrs. Dunne stated this applicant was caught between

the enactment of the ordinance and the lack of correcting the fee schedule in process to go along with the ordinance.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion that the fee be waived for her to rent the Match Factory side of Talleyrand Park on June 6, 2015, for her daughter's wedding. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A handout from Richard Knupp, Borough Resident, with some history related to Bellefonte.

ORAL

- None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Beigle reported the airport is changing the revolving doors in the front of the building to sliding doors, which will be more convenient for the people. They also plan to remodel their restrooms. The parking lot will go out for bid, and it will go on the west end of the current parking. University Park Airport is one of the 90 top airports in the United States.

Mr. Beigle received a pen for his thirty years of service. He feels it is a good Authority to work with.

Possibly in April the airplanes will increase in size.

The Control Tower is in operation. The runway size will increase to 7800.

- Mr. Brachbill reported the review of the 1998 Fire Prevention Plan was rescheduled for March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

- Mr. Holderman reported there was a pre-bid meeting for the Waterfront Project on February 20. The room was full with an excellent turnout. The bids will be opened Wednesday, March 11, at the Bellefonte Area Industrial Development Authority meeting. The notice to proceed will probably be contingent on the joint permit and finalizing that process.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported the Bellefonte Chamber's Volunteer Fair is Saturday, March 7, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the APS Building at the Match Factory.

Over the weekend the Mayor had the privilege of attending the annual Logan Fire Company Awards Dinner along with Councilmen Brachbill, Walker and Spicer. It was very well attended. Mayor Wilson feels it speaks well to the volunteerism that everyone depends on in small towns across the country to keep the boroughs active and vibrant. Mayor Wilson would like to see a great turnout at the volunteer fair of people that want to be involved in the town.

- In compliance with section 1005A of Act 43 of the Borough Code in September Mayor Wilson performed three weddings ceremonies, one in October and one in November for a total of \$375.00.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- There will be a Zoning Hearing Board meeting for a variance request. The applicant is requesting to convert the first floor retail space into a residential space. The Zoning Ordinance is opposed to that and Mr. Stewart recommends that Council sends a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board opposing that variance request.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to send a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board opposing the variance request. Mr. Brachbill seconds the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None.

- HARB draft meeting minutes from the February 24, 2015, meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - No report.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne made a motion that Direct Deposit become mandatory for all Borough employees and elected officials. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mrs. Dunne reported that at the request of Council the Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed establishing fees for Talleyrand Park rental. It was agreed that all users of the park should request and pay for a permit application fee of \$20.00. This would include non-profits. Community groups that would be exempt from the rental fee would be groups that are not charging for their event and are doing a service to the community by bringing people into the park. A comprehensive list of those groups will be developed so they can be part of policy. There was previous discussion on a fee for each side of the park and then a fee for the total park. The last fee was \$150 for each side and \$300 for the whole park.

Mrs. Dunne would like to make a motion to establish a non-refundable permit application fee of \$20.00 for each event in the park. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. There would be no exemptions from the fee. If a user has multiple events there would be a one-time application fee. The motion was passed with Mrs. Brown voting no.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer provided a handout titled “Council/Mayor Roles, Duties & Powers” from the webinar. Mr. Halderman and Mrs. Dunne attended the webinar.

- Applications have been received for the Refuse Vacancy. They will be prioritized for the interviews.

- There will be a Police Task Force meeting on Wednesday, March 4, in Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill reported the Safety Committee met on February 18 to discuss a request to allow the Fire Chief's vehicle to be housed outside the Bellefonte Fire Protection Area. There was much discussion and ordinances reviewed.

The Fire Chief vehicle was purchased for use by the appointed Bellefonte Fire Chief through Ordinance 35 Section 4 where it states Fire Chief must be a legal resident of the Bellefonte Fire Department protection area so to remain consistent with that ordinance they recommend that the Fire Chief's vehicle must be housed within the Bellefonte Fire Department protection area.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to reaffirm the Ordinance stating the Bellefonte Fire Chief vehicle must be housed within the Bellefonte Fire Department protection area. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported there were some leaks in Bellefonte. He asked the residents to be patient because the repairs will be taken care of as soon as possible. If a resident experiences low pressure, it would be an indication of a problem and they should notify the Borough. Appreciation was expressed to the Water Crew for going out and fixing leaks in freezing weather. Mr. Holderman reported they worked all day, got called in two hours after work for a leak on High Street. They worked on that job until 9:00 p.m., got home and just got cleaned up and then got called out to Centre Street, where they were all night until 5:00 a.m. They went home and then had to come in the next morning at 10:00 a.m. for another leak. This was all during the bitter cold weather. The Street Crew and the Water Crew needs to be recognized for all their hard work.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati made a motion to close Cherry Lane from Allegheny Street to Cedar for the duration of the construction project of the Courthouse Annex. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to advertise Changes to Ordinance 495 Streets and Sidewalks, 495-25 Violations and Penalties. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There will be a Streets Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 18h, at 5:30 p.m. to review the Lamb Street bids and to discuss installing a sign for a vision impaired resident on the corner of North Spring and West Beaver Street.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - No report.

JUNIOR COUNCIL - No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Copies of the PSAB Resolutions that Council sent in were provided to Council members for reference.

- Mr. Stewart reported he has examined Snow Emergency Declarations. He stated a lot of places in the older parts of the Borough it is virtually impossible to get the vehicles off the street and onto private property. What is in place for the downtown area is alternate street parking where you park on one side one night and on the other side the next night. Ms. Harvey suggested looking at similar communities with similar downtown areas to see what they do. She also commented on people parking next to handicap parking spaces and leaving their cars parked for periods of time.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to have Trick-or-Treat on Thursday, October 29, from 6-8 p.m. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart recommended to handle administratively the Centre Region Code's draft with the understanding that the next step would be a line by line item review that differentiates the current code versus what they are going to propose.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to establish a diverse committee for review of Facade Improvement Grant Application and Awards consisting of at least one representative and an alternate from the Keystone Community Design Committee; one and an alternate from HBI; one and an alternate from BHCA Historic Preservation Committee; one and an alternate from Borough Council; one and an alternate for a citizen at large; one and an alternate from HARB; one and an alternate from the Chamber; and any other interested groups. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Brown had people approach her with the thought that Allegheny Street would be closed during the paving, but that is not true. They would do one lane at a time and have flaggers there.

- Mr. Stewart stated this is petition-circulating time, and there is a week left to circulate petitions.

- There will be a letter put in the files of the Water Crew and the Street Crew for the fine job they are doing this winter.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to create a resolution to state the permit application fee for Talleyrand Park rental per the previous mentioned motion. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. DeCusati made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 2, 2015, at 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.