

COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2012

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CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 8:00 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. Members were asked to turn off their cell phones or put them on vibrate.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: Confer, Mayor Goldman

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

Staff Present:

Guests:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of January 3, 2012. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Ms. Dainty felt there was a lot missing in the discussion regarding how the election was conducted and requested it be included. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as amended.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Roland and Sharyn Leach in support of the Waterfront Development Eminent Domain proceedings taking place.

- A letter from Mimi U. Barash Coppersmith in regard to a property she is going to sell and would like to know if Bellefonte Borough is interested in purchasing it. The property is near the wastewater treatment plant on the Bellefonte side of the driveway. The property has a billboard from Lamar Advertising that has a permanent easement.

This will be turned over to the Building and Property Committee for review and recommendation.

- The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Annual Conference and Exhibition *“It’s a Wonderful Life In Pennsylvania Boroughs!”* will be held April 29, 2012—May 2, 2012 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort.

- A letter from Sally Houser, Event Chair, Bellefonte Victorian Christmas, thanking Bellefonte Borough Council, Management and Employees for their continued support before and during the Victorian Christmas weekend.

ORAL

- Sally Houser, Bellefonte Victorian Christmas Event Chair, publicly thanked the Borough, Employees and Council for the support given to this event. She also wanted to publicly thank the organizations in Bellefonte that helped coordinate things for the event including the Bellefonte Women’s Club and the Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association.

A milestone was reached with the event. This was the 30th Victorian Christmas celebration. This was the second year for the Dickens troupe and it was very well received. A third venue was held at the Middle School with vendors and that was very successful. Ms. Houser thanked her wonderful committee and the people of Bellefonte.

Ms. Houser stated from the beginning when decorating begins in downtown Bellefonte until the end, Bob Dorman is one of the best people to work with. Her goal as chairman is to actually make some money next year.

Council thanked Ms. Houser and the volunteers for their dedicated work on Victorian Christmas.

- Ms. Dainty passed out information in regard to the way the election of officers was held at the Council meeting of January 3, 2012. Mr. Stewart stated the elections were always held that way, but Ms. Dainty stated he was incorrect as she passed out copies of minutes from several meetings. She stated that it bothers her when a basic right such as freedom of choice is taken away. She does not want to have the election re-happen, but rather to set the record straight so it does not happen again. She feels the minutes must detail the election events.

Mr. Stewart would like to respond after he has had a chance to review the information that Ms. Dainty has passed out.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Mayor Goldman asked Mr. Holderman to remind resident homeowners to please put numbers on their residences for 911 purposes. This is the property owner’s responsibility to do this and not the tenants. This information will be put on the Borough website as well as in the next newsletter. There is an ordinance requiring numbers on houses.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None.

- Based on an issue from last meeting, Mr. Schneider requested that the Code Official function as the Code Official on the HARB. Mr. Stewart reported there was a discussion with the Code Officer, and the way they do the planning is they go through the HARB first with a project because the project may change or not be approved or be recommended for approval. This is done first before anyone spends money to do plans, which are expensive and must be approved by an engineer. The aesthetics part is done first, which is all HARB reviews. After it is approved then plans are submitted, and the Code Officer gets involved in reviewing the plans. If there is a zoning issue, the Code Officer can point that out and say it will not work, but there is no official submission of a permit or plans to review at that stage. Mr. Schneider feels if the Code Officer cannot or will not function as the Code Officer and is only there for the aesthetics then from a liability standpoint, he recommends that the Code Officer not serve on HARB. Mr. Stewart reported the makeup of HARB requires a building official.

Bellefonte Borough is a certified local government and the ordinance is a boiler plate ordinance. The seats are filled as boiler plate positions that are established. If the ordinance is changed, Bellefonte Borough would need to go to PHMC (Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission) to be sure the Borough is not in jeopardy of losing grant funds and the type of things that go along with a certified local government.

The Code Officer will function on HARB as a building code official and provide that expertise on the board to the extent that he can.

Mrs. Brown questioned if the problem that now exists with the people that have an application in with HARB could have been avoided. Mr. Schneider feels there are some issues that could have been identified if the code official would have examined them in his position and it would not have made it to Council.

COMMITTEES

Building & Property – Ms. Dainty received an email report from Erin Hammerstedt regarding the Cadillac Building. She will provide a copy to all Council members. It is a monthly report, and progress is being made. There is a potential buyer. It is being set up to be placed on the registry, and they are doing a lot of legwork.

Mr. Schneider will be having lunch with a design professional on Wednesday, January 18, to discuss opportunities for the structure.

Mrs. Brown questioned if she reads the report will she have an understanding of what is happening with the building. Mr. Stewart reported the report gives an up-to-date synopsis of where they are and if she would like more information, he would be happy to provide it.

Mrs. Dunne questioned whether there is a possibility that the barricade on Bishop Street will be removed. Mr. Stewart will contact the property owners to see when that will be removed.

Finance and Government Performance – Ms. Dainty reported Ms. Walker had surgery and the normal financial reports are not in the packet because of the surgery and the early meeting. The information will be in the packet next month.

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to pay an invoice to McQuaide Blasko in the amount of \$1,914.36 for services rendered as submitted. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Park & Recreation – Mrs. Brown reported there are still ducks in the park.

There will be a Talleyrand Park Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 24, at 4:00 p.m. at the Train Station.

There was a meeting at the YMCA regarding Kepler Pool moving forward. Mr. Holderman reported the meeting was to set the agenda for the meeting on the 31st. The meeting on Tuesday, January 31, at 6:00 p.m. at CPI will be with all the municipalities and elected officials to have an open discussion regarding developing an Authority for Kepler Pool. He urged all Council members to attend. Howard Long will moderate the meeting and Tom Schrack, the solicitor, will be there to discuss any issues in regard to developing an Authority, such as cost and so forth. Todd Roth oversees the pools for the Centre Region, and he will attend the meeting to provide information on the success they are having there. If there is an establishment of an Authority, the Borough will not have the responsibility of maintaining the pool...but these issues will be discussed at the meeting.

Mrs. Dunne informed Council and the viewers that on Sunday, January 22, 2012, the League of Women voters will sponsor an event called “*How Green is Happy Valley*” and the edible landscape garden in Talleyrand Park was chosen as an exhibit for that event. The event will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the College Township Municipal Building. There will be several exhibits from environmentally conscious groups. There will be a panel discussion representing Master Gardeners, New Leaf Initiative, Feasibility Studies, Sustainability Office at Penn State.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reported he and Mr. Holderman met with members of the Streets Union to discuss ground work for contract revisions and future meeting dates.

Safety – Mr. Wilson reported the Undine Fire Company has a power ladder truck for sale. A bid was received.

A bid was received from Coaldale, PA in the amount of \$35,000 contingent on the loan application. The bid was turned over to the Fire Safety Committee for action.

The Borough has a delivery truck for sale and a bid was received from Mr. John Houser on that. The bid was for \$1,000. Both bids were turned over to the Fire Executive Committee.

- The Fire Task Force has a meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 p.m. All Council members are invited to a presentation from Larry Maynard from ISO (Insurance Services Office). It will be held in the Courthouse Annex. It will be a three-hour introduction to

explain what ISO does. ISO is a rating schedule that the fire department is rated. This rating affects the insurance rate that is paid. Fifty percent of the rating is based on the fire department; 40% based on the water system; and 10% based on the emergency radio system. Mr. Schneider encourages all Council members to attend the meeting. The ISO is a rating scheme that is purchased by insurance agencies. They have been around for over 100 years in one format or another.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported the draft Water Authority Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2012 are in the packet for review.

The solar project at the wastewater treatment plant is not moving forward at this time.

Mrs. Dunne questioned the \$800,000 needed for the project. Mr. Stewart reported the goal was to get the \$800,000 either through energy savings found in the plant or by the selling of solar credits. The solar credit market is down in Pennsylvania. The other area they are exploring is energy savings, and all the energy savings have been used for higher priority items.

Streets – Mr. DeCusati and Mr. Stewart met with Marion and Walker Townships to discuss representation on the CCMPO. It was a constructive meeting. Two measures came out in summary for Council to vote on. One is that there are two committees that need representation. One is the Coordinating Committee and one is the Technical Committee.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion that Ken Roan be the voting member of the Coordinating Committee and that Dallas Gallo be the voting member of the Technical Committee for a period of two years. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wilson made a motion that Paul DeCusati is the alternate voting member for the Coordinating Committee and Don Franson is the alternate voting member of the Technical Committee. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Mr. Franson works for Marion Walker and Bellefonte Borough as well as College Township, so the question was raised if there is a conflict of interest with him sitting on that board. Everyone is comfortable with Mr. Franson being in this position and Mr. Franson is willing to serve. A voice vote was unanimous with Mr. DeCusati abstaining from voting.

A meeting was held with the gas company, and they recommended the Borough put together a multi-year plan for road upgrades/replacement. That would help them get their projects done faster and they could fight the funding battle better.

Ms. Dainty questioned whether the huge bump on Wilson Street between High Street and Cherry Lane will ever be fixed because you cannot see cars coming when you try to pull out from Cherry Lane or High Street. Mr. Halderman turned it over to the Streets Committee for review. Mr. DeCusati reported there are no plans at the moment to address the situation.

The finishing plans for the work done along High Street are that it will be graded off and seeded in the spring.

Mr. Schneider reported the street light at the intersection that comes out from the High School and the Weis Market shopping center is still out. Mr. Stewart stated it was reported but he will check on it again.

There is a homeowner on McAllister Street that is taking a long time to get their sidewalks upgraded. Mr. Stewart will check into it.

Mrs. Brown reported that someone asked if the grading of the salt is different than what was used last winter. Mr. Holderman reported it is purchased from the same company, and it is the same salt and same material mix. Mrs. Brown reported from her house the whole way down Burnside Street the salt had ended up halfway into the driveway, and there are huge white spots on the driveways where the salt is now laying. The residents stated that is different from any other winter. Mr. DeCusati commented there has not been a lot of moisture to wash the salt away. It will not hurt the driveways when it washes away. Mr. Holderman reported there is not equipment to regulate how far the salt is thrown.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Personnel Committee was appointed to go through Act 44 RFP Policy criteria and the process.

- Mr. Holderman reported the 35 gallon garbage containers were delivered. Over the next couple Wednesdays the smaller containers will be delivered to those residents who have called the Borough and asked to be placed on the list. Anyone else that would like to exchange the large container for a small container should contact the Borough. The downtown commercial properties will be set up in the next month or two.

- A copy of the revised Refuse Ordinance was provided to Council members. Since the Borough is in the process of the Ordinance Codification, Mr. Holderman recommends making corrections at that time. Mrs. Dunne reported most of the changes are directed toward precision and language trying to use the terms garbage and rubbish properly. The other issue regarded excessive use of plastic bags to bag garbage food refuse. Mr. Beigle would like the language “biodegradable bag” inserted into the ordinance. Rather than garbage or rubbish, it should be “municipal solid waste.” Wednesdays are special pickup days for grass clippings or special collection items, but the Borough office needs to be called regarding this. There is a special container to be leased at a cost of \$50 for grass clippings.

- Council requested the staff include the Waterfront Redevelopment Project Reports on the Borough website. Mr. Holderman reported that has been done. The IDA met Wednesday, January 11, 2012, to discuss the agreement for the Belljay property. The plan for the project as it was originally planned was to develop it for a hotel and another project such as a 55 and over condominium. There is information going around in the Borough in regard to the Borough making a project for \$6.5 million for another park, which is not what the Borough is planning to do. At this point the funding for the project will be based on the grant itself, the funding set aside from the bulk water funds, and if any of the properties can be sold. Mr. Stewart stated the Borough is still working on reaching agreements with all the property owners and any tenants involved. The goal is to reach a sales agreement with each one and not go through eminent domain if at all possible.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Brown made a motion to have the community-wide yard sale the weekend of May 18 and 19, with ruff raff collected the week of May 21–25. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Wilson made a motion to begin Council work sessions at 6:30 p.m. and Council meetings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. Mr. DeCusati will have times when he cannot arrive by 6:30 p.m. Mr. Halderman also will not be able to make all the work sessions at 6:30 p.m. The meetings will need to be re-advertised in a publication. A roll call vote was taken: Wilson-yes; Dainty-yes; Brown-yes; Schneider-yes; Provan-no; Beigle-yes; DeCusati-no; Dunne-yes; Halderman-no. The motion passed. Miss McCullough can attend at the same time.

- Mr. Provan announced the Bellefonte Cruise Car Show Dance will be held on Friday, June 15, with the car show on Saturday, June 16.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. DeCusati made a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 16, 2012, at 9:25 p.m. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.