

**COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2011**  
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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 Vice-Chair Vana Dainty in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council remained standing for a moment of silence.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Wilson, Dainty, Taylor, Schneider, Provan, Beigle, DeCusati, Dunne,

Members Excused: Halderman,

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

Staff Present: Valerie Magolan, Historic Preservation Consultant

Guests: Lisa Peters

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of March 7, 2011. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Under the Oral section of the March 7, 2011 minutes, please change Mr. Provan to Mr. Schneider in the first paragraph. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as corrected.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**WRITTEN**

- A thank you letter from Heidi Dunkelberger to Martha Hartle, the Earned Income Tax Collector.

- A letter from Cynthia Hahn, C-NET Executive director, inviting Council Members to the annual luncheon to be held on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM in the Penn State Room of the Nittany Lion Inn. More details will follow.

- A request from Elyse Gurgevich, Cub Scouts Pack 330, to hold their chicken barbeque on April 16<sup>th</sup> instead of April 9<sup>th</sup> at Talleyrand Park.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the date change for Cub Scouts Pack 330. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A thank you letter from the Centre County Library for the donation from Bellefonte Borough for this calendar year.

- An email from Benner Township inviting Council Members to the March 28<sup>th</sup> Centre Region COG meeting at 7:30 PM. Discussion will revolve around the Spring Creek Trail System.

### **ORAL**

- While Mr. Provan canvassed his neighborhood for signatures for his re-election petition several residents remarked they felt the Borough was doing an excellent job through the winter with keeping streets clear and refuse pickup. There were some concerns from six residents. One concern is that people are not stopping at stop signs in residential areas and are driving too fast. Mr. Provan suggested the word “stop” with a big white line be painted on the street with white paint. He also suggested perhaps “children at play” could be painted on the street with white paint. Mr. DeCusati suggested Chief Weaver be asked to have the police officers more visible. Mrs. Dunne suggested a reminder be placed on the Borough website. Mr. Holderman reported that Chief Weaver is aware of the situation and is planning to be more diligent on the streets.

- Lisa Peters has a commercial business located at 117 East High Street. Due to the nature of her business the employees make many trips to the Willowbank Building and State College carrying laptops and the municipal parking lots are not convenient so the employees park on the street. They are receiving many tickets. She suggested that rather than being penalized for working in the Borough perhaps a permit could be purchased to pay for the parking. Mr. Stewart reported there are permits available for the parking lots but not for on-street parking. The reason is that street parking is a turnover area.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Beigle reported the airport is doing well.

- Mr. DeCusati reported the MPO will meet on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will not be able to attend the meeting.

### **MAYOR’S REPORT**

- Mayor Goldman gave kudos to Valerie Magolan, Historic Preservation Consultant. He feels the Façade Improvement Committee has done a nice job of sprucing up the downtown area.

### **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**HARB 2011 Façade Improvement Grant Awards**

- Council members feel it is nice that the Borough did so well in this time. Ms. Dainty, Mayor Goldman and Council thanked Valerie Magolan for the volunteer work she did on this.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the 2011 Façade Improvement Grant Award Recipients. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

A balance of approximately \$627.00 remains. There are several options regarding what to do with this money. They are:

- a) Keep the money for a future award in case someone went over the limit on their project and perhaps award 10% of what was over.
- b) Award the money to another project. If this is done the application period would need to be reopened to provide opportunity for others to apply for it.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to use the money that is left as a cushion for those who may over spend at the discretion of the committee. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. If the money is not used it will be lost. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Holderman reiterated to Council that Valerie did the grant completely on her own and did a great job leading the committee in her effort. Mr. DeCusati reported that according to the Census figures the Borough is shrinking. He feels efforts like this will help to encourage growth in the Borough.

**ZONING/PLANNING**

- None.

**CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- None.

**COMMITTEES**

Building & Property – Mrs. Dunne would like Mr. Stewart to provide a status report on the South Potter Street trying to collect all the additional costs that may be involved in the two engineer reports. Mr. Stewart reported that some additional costs were received and hopefully the other costs will be in hand soon so a Committee Meeting can be set up.

Finance and Government Performance – Mr. DeCusati made a motion to file for audit the February 2011 vouchers in the amount of \$734,261.49. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Mr. Provan questioned vouchers going out for Bulk Water Sales. There is a fund with accumulated money that comes from water sales that go to Coca Cola is set aside. There are circumstances where Council has permitted funds to be withdrawn from that account and used for specific purposes. That is reflected in the vouchers. A voice vote was unanimous.

February 2011 Vouchers

General	18042 - 18155	\$ 203,503.23
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Streetlighting	683 - 685	\$ 268.33
Bellefonte Fire Dept.	1102 - 1113	\$ 4,515.41
Fire Equipment	1235 - 1240	\$ 4,695.88
Parks & Recreation	1413 - 1419	\$ 3,424.82
Water	7459 - 7517	\$ 97,259.90
Sanitation	111, 8814 - 8861	\$ 318,754.52
Refuse	2102 - 2127	\$ 73,780.70
Swimming Pool	460 - 461	\$ 478.71
CDBG	-	\$ 0.00
Special Projects	105, 203	\$ 383.05
Highway Aid	213 - 215	\$ 6,388.00
Capital Projects	-	\$ 0.00
Bulk Water Sales	125 - 127, 994 - 995	<u>\$ 20,808.94</u>
Total:		<u>\$ 734,261.49</u>

The packet includes the Budget vs. Actual for February as well as the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to pay an invoice to McQuaide Blasko in the amount of \$4,794.21. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. The motion was passed with Mr. Taylor voting no.

Park & Recreation – Mr. Holderman provided an email from Jason Detar, PFBC (Pennsylvania Fishing and Boat Commission) for Council members to review. This will be placed in the packet for the next meeting.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reminded Council members at the Council meeting of March 7, 2011 it was requested that the possibility a third party code inspection person be explored. Mr. Stewart reported that there was a meeting with an engineering firm that provides those services in a third party contractor arrangement. Discussions are ongoing and a proposal will be received soon.

Safety – Mr. Wilson reported the next Fire Services Task Force meeting will be held at the Pleasant Gap Fire Station, which will be toured, on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Mr. Wilson reported that attendance has dropped at the meetings.

Water/Sanitation – There was no report.

Streets – Mr. DeCusati reported the revised Sidewalk Ordinance is included in the packets. The main changes are that there is no payment option. The criteria was kept stating if there is 60% of the road that has a sidewalk you are required to have a sidewalk. It is only required to have a sidewalk on one side of the street. It needs to be clarified that sidewalks cannot be a grass path.

The sidewalk along the cemetery on High Street was removed and there was a question as to when it would be replaced. Mr. Stewart reported the Borough removed the sidewalk because of a safety issues and are currently seeking Grant Funds to replace the sidewalk at an estimated cost of \$30,000.00 - \$40,000.00.

Mr. Provan had a question regarding section 1022.10 b, Specifications, where it states new and reconstructed sidewalks, curbs and gutters whether laid by the abutting landowner. Mr. Stewart stated it means adjoining.

Mr. Provan questioned the next to last sentence where it states sidewalks existing of brick or slate are an exception to this section. They may be re-leveled or realigned and permitted as an acceptable repair... He wanted to verify that a concrete sidewalk could not be torn out and replaced with bricks. Mr. Holderman stated that would need to be clarified.

One course would be one thickness. It was suggested it should be clarified to state a single thickness with a minimum of 3000 psi.

Mr. DeCusati would like Council members to review the revised Sidewalk Ordinance and send any concerns or suggestions via email to him and Mr. Stewart.

Street cleaning will begin March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Holderman reported that the street sweeper cannot pick up stones that are swept into a pile. Leaves and brush must be kept behind the curb and will be picked up separately.

The lines at the intersection of Wilson Street and Howard Street will be repainted when the temperatures warm up.

Allegheny Power will not be trimming the trees on Thomas Street. A letter was sent to the homeowner requesting permission to trim the trees and a price was obtained from the contractor that the Borough uses to trim the evergreens. The estimate was \$400.00, which the Borough would pay.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A C-NET representative from the Borough has not been designated.

- A letter from Thomas S. Schrack, McQuaide Blasko, was received regarding Ordinances Regulating Firearms.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to remove anything in the ordinance per the recommendation from the solicitor concerning gun control. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. There are state laws regarding the use of firearms. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Eugene Gruber, Mitigation Division Director, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) in regard to the Centre County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan dated October 4, 2010.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Centre County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Schneider seconded the letter. Mrs. Dunne feels many items in this plan obtain to the Safety Committee. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Waterfront Development IDA minutes are in the packet for review.

- The Handicap Parking Permit Application will be handled administratively.

- Mr. Provan made a motion for Council to rescind the amendment to a motion from the meeting of March 7, 2011 made by Mr. Schneider to state the Arts & Crafts Fair shall bear any cost associated with being able to host this event including, but not limited to, the solicitor and any additional insurance coverage that would be required by the recommendation of the solicitor and the insurance agent. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Schneider voting no.

- Several engineers are being reviewed regarding the lighting in the downtown area. A proposal will come to Council soon.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion for the Borough to pursue "Option A" under the CCMPO recommendations at the meeting of March 7, 2011. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Beigle voting no.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement from PennDOT in regard to the traffic light upgrade at Bishop Street and School Street.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement for School Street and Bishop Street. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Information is in the packet regarding Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs products that are available for purchase. This is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the PSAB.

- A Webinar through the PSAB on the recycling programs will be held on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1:30 PM. The program is on community recycling.

- Mr. Holderman will be at the Public Employees Labor Relations Conference from Wednesday through Friday in State College.

### **POLICE REPORT**

- There was no police report.

### **TICKET EXONERATIONS**

- There were no ticket exonerations.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 21, 2011 at 9:00 PM. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

At the close of the meeting Council went into Executive Session.