

COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2012
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.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: Brown,

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Don Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of September 17, 2012. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- An email from Nicole Hendrix in regard to suggestions in relation to the recent fires.

- A copy of a letter sent to John Dann, Sr., owner of the Hotel Do-De, from Russell Shuey, Building Code Official, in regard to the Hotel Do-De fire.

- A letter from Bob DeArment, Capt. 1470, Howard Volunteer Fire Co. 14, requesting help with fire police coverage to assist with traffic control and parking at the HFC Fall Festival and Punkin Chunkin to be held on Saturday, October 20, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Police coverage is requested from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve this request as submitted. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Jesse Smith, Structural Engineer, providing a preliminary structural assessment of the fire damage resulting from the Hotel Do-De fire.

- A letter from John Thompson thanking the Borough and Councilman Tom Wilson for implementing the skunk removal program in the Borough, which has been very effective in his neighborhood.

- A letter from the Centre County Commissioners in regard to the 2013 Liquid Fuels Grant program. Applications are due by November 12, 2012.

- A letter from Jessica Peters providing an update on the Our Town Bellefonte project. There will be additional interviews on Saturday, October 6, 2012. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jessica Peters.

- Information is in the packets from the Affordable Housing Coalition regarding an annual housing summit meeting they will be conducting on Thursday, October 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Foxdale Village, State College. They are looking for any type of participation. They will be discussing many things including the mobile home park closures and other items that are affecting the community.

- Information, including a menu, for the Clearfield-Centre County Borough's Association dinner meeting, which will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2012, at the American Legion Keystone Post #444 located at 112 Legion Lane, Millheim, PA. Those interested in attending should have their reservations in by October 10, 2012.

- A letter from Mayor Stanley Goldman, providing his resignation as Mayor of Bellefonte effective November 1, 2012.

ORAL

- John Smith, Halfmoon Street, had a skunk problem and three skunks were trapped this week. He thanked Council for providing the skunk service.

Mr. Smith is opposed to Bellefonte Borough paying to put a new roof on the Garmin with tax dollars. He feels the Borough would not receive their money even with a lien on the property. He stated many people are against this. Council assured him that no decision has been made on this.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Dunne attended a Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 26, and reported they are planning a study related to a Watershed Recharge Initiative under the leadership of Todd Giddings. The end result will be to demonstrate areas of best recharge within the watershed. This study is being done as information. There will be no ordinances attached to it. The study group is being developed, which includes a hydrologist, a soil scientist, a representative from Ferguson Township (the supervisor that sits on the watershed commission), and a representative from the Planning Commission.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Goldman reported there are many skunks in his area of Bellefonte. Two skunk traps were placed in his back yard for two weeks and he still has skunks. The man will place more traps next week.

With respect to the recent building fires in Bellefonte, Mayor Goldman commended the fire department, the police department and the public works department of Bellefonte for all their efforts to protect our community. Despite these losses, we will preserve and go forward.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the final Lot-Subdivision Plan of Michelle and George Brown, 219/223 East Howard Street. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Minutes from the September 20, 2012 Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission meeting.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1) 116 East Linn Street - Install new handrail at front porch stair. Guardrail and posts to match existing construction.

2) 112 South Allegheny Street - Install new main entrance door with sidelites. Restore existing door to second floor stair.

3) 142 East Curtin Street - Install new wood deck. New wood-framed deck over concrete foundation to remain from demolition of brick garage. Garage demolition approved by Borough Council on September 17, 2012.

4) 110 East High Street - Complete demolition of fire damaged building.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve all four Certificates of Appropriateness as submitted by HARB. Ms. Dunn seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEES

Building & Property – Draft minutes from the September 12, 2012 IDA meeting are in the packets for review.

Mr. Provan received verbal comments from two people regarding the turbine. They thought it was a good idea. Mr. Stewart informed him the site has been looked at by both Penn State professors and Bucknell professors for a new turbine for hydro-electric power. Mr. Provan does not feel it should be restored to be used, but rather as a museum piece. Mr. Halderman informed Mr. Provan that he is permitted to approach someone from the university to see if they would be interested in rehabilitating the turbine.

Finance and Government Performance – There was no report.

Park & Recreation – Mr. Holderman reported they are still seeking individuals to serve on the Nittany Valley Recreational Authority, which is primarily Kepler Pool. Mr. Halderman suggested a note be sent out to local fraternal groups to see if there is an interest.

- Individuals from the Talleyrand Park Committee examined the water fountain in Snow Shoe that use to sit in front of the Courthouse. Public works men picked it up and they are seeing if it can be restored to be placed in Talleyrand Park.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reported preparations continue to make negotiations with the Police Department and Public Works.

Safety – Mr. Wilson made a motion to give Ralph Stewart permission to attend the Occupational Safety and Health Conference on October 29-30 in Hershey, PA. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Fire Executive Committee meeting was held on Thursday, September 20. It was the yearly mandatory meeting with the local municipalities regarding the budget. They are reviewing the budget and there have been no comments.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2, at 7:00 p.m.

- Mr. Holderman reported leaf collection will begin October 22 following the same schedule as refuse collection. Residents are requested not to rake the leaves onto the road, but rather leave them on the curb or grass. Leaves can be placed in a grass or brush container until they are picked up on a regular basis. The landfill typically closes right before Thanksgiving.

Streets – Mr. Schneider questioned what the procedure is for reporting potholes or areas along the edge of the street that need patching. Mr. Stewart stated if it is a

state road, PennDOT will need to be notified. If there are areas on Borough streets, please inform Mr. Stewart. New paving will be sealed before winter.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – Mrs. Dunne commended Sue Hannegan and Erin Hammerstedt for their presentation for the Pennsylvania Downtown Association on Tuesday, September 25. There was a fire prevention discussion held for people attending the meeting on State College. They came to Bellefonte and toured several of the fire sites and then they did a nice job of constructing a comprehensive and very relevant approach to fire prevention that applied to all communities with special reference to historic buildings.

Junior Council Report – The school year at Bellefonte Area High School is in full swing. There are a few safety behavior initiatives rewards programs. There are also a few new clubs, mostly dealing with international student connections. There is a Pen Pals club called Interact; and there is an international travels group. There are a few teen driving safety projects.

OLD BUSINESS

- The croquet tournament was postponed because of rain and is rescheduled for Sunday, October 7.

- Mr. Wilson reported Council is in the process of forming and inviting residents and business owners to be part of a Fire Safety Task Force Committee. Council will discuss the parameters of this committee at the work session of October 15, 2012.

- Mr. Wilson reported most of the geese in Talleyrand Park have taken flight. The ducks are beginning to leave. There will be approximately 50 ducks spending the winter in Talleyrand Park.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Stewart reported there are Federal Storm Water Regulations that he feels may trickle down to local municipalities. He will explore this and provide additional information to Council. He provided a copy of the Storm Water Management Regulations for Council to review.

- Wednesday, October 3, at Patton Township there will be a natural gas Vehicle/Information Workshop. Mr. Stewart will attend this workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting of October 1, 2012, at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.