

COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2012
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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.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: McCullough, Confer,

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Bob Laing

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of October 1, 2012. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Richard Wardrop, Chair, Water Resources Monitoring Committee, Spring Creek Watershed Association, in regard to the 2011 State of the Water Resources Report. Copies of the report were available for Council members.

- A letter from Richard Wardrop, Chair, Water Resources Monitoring Committee, Spring Creek Watershed Association, reminding Bellefonte Borough the pledge amount for 2013 is \$2,859. This is the annual pledge for Bellefonte Borough. There is a

formula used to determine the amount. The amount has remained the same for several years. Action will be taken on this at the meeting of November 5, 2012.

- An email from Shelley Houk at boroughs.org regarding Invalid Appointments. There are parameters that all Councils need to be aware of when vacancies in elected offices are filled.

- A letter from Denise Herr McCann, Division Director, Community-Based Services, Centre County Youth Service Bureau, requesting financial support in the amount of \$1,000. Council requested that Mr. Stewart find out if other municipalities provide support and also whether the money stays in Bellefonte at the Center. Council cannot give to a non-profit unless it benefits a majority of the population. Council would also like to know if the Youth Center is a 501C3.

- An email from Derek Pacella, a property owner in Bellefonte, regarding the Garman Roof. He is opposing the use of tax money for that project.

- A Volunteer Fire Service Fact Sheet was provided by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). There are fewer volunteers than previously and the volunteers are getting older. This is a national trend that there are fewer volunteers.

- A letter from Lisa Korman, Director of Operations, Centre and Clearfield Counties, Home Nursing Agency Healthcare, requesting a donation of \$150 in the 2013 Municipal Budget. Ms. Dainty will contact Shelley Houk to get clarity on what donations Council is permitted to make.

- A letter from Andrew Hillegass, Post Adjutant, Bellefonte Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1600, requesting the help of Bellefonte Borough with the Veteran's Day celebration held in front of the Court House on Sunday, November 11, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. The request includes permission to close High Street from Spring Street to Penn Street and Allegheny Street from Howard Street to Bishop Street. The placement of barriers and traffic control will be the responsibility of the Bellefonte Fire Police. The barriers will be placed at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will last approximately one-half hour. Council members are requested to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the requests regarding the streets and the fire police request will be forwarded to the appropriate individuals. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. Mrs. Brown requested the request be read so the public is aware of what will happen. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Bryan Rodgers, Director, University Park Airport, to Ralph Stewart inviting him to be a member of the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC). Mr. Stewart has volunteered to be part of that committee.

- An email regarding the PennDOT response to Walker Township's inquiry about safety improvements at the Route 64/550 intersection. The MPO will examine the issue at a later date.

- A letter from Samuel H. Hawbaker, CPM, Park Forest Enterprises, Inc., a property owner in the downtown area regarding fire sprinkler systems being proposed.

Mr. Stewart will inform Mr. Hawbaker that his letter was presented to Council at this meeting and also informing him that Council would be open to any suggestions he would have and that perhaps he could be forthcoming in providing suggestions that would be of a positive nature to help other landowners like him.

ORAL

- Bob Laing, property owner on West Bishop Street, in the Historic District. He had ideas pertaining to fire prevention. He feels the Borough should consider fire inspections, which would have all buildings in the historic district be inspected both inside and outside for fire hazards. He feels it could be coordinated with the Fire Chief and the Borough Police Chief. In the old buildings some of the wiring has insulation on it that will get hot, brittle and will fall off leaving a bare wire that would be a hazard.

If Mr. Laing would install sprinklers in his building he would need to do all three floors plus the basement. The Borough would need to dig up the street and install a new tap. He feels it would take two weeks to install a sprinkler system and therefore he would not be able to do business for two weeks and his employees would not be able to work for two weeks. The quote he obtained for a sprinkler system is \$35,000. Last year he had to install a new sidewalk at a cost of \$7,150. He is required to install a fire escape at a cost of \$18,000 and install ten fireproof windows at a cost of \$5,000.

Mr. Wilson informed Mr. Laing that the Borough has not taken any action on sprinkler systems. At the Work Session five members of Council volunteered to be on an Ad Hoc Committee for the Fire Task Force to get started within the next month.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Goldman thanked all the people he served with during the eleven years he has been on Council. He reminded them they did a very good job regardless of what people say. He encouraged them to keep up the good work.

- Mr. Halderman read a letter to Mayor Goldman from Representative Benninghoff.

- Mr. Halderman read a Proclamation to Mayor Goldman thanking him for his dedication and contributions to Bellefonte Borough.

- Mr. Halderman presented Mayor Goldman with a key to Bellefonte for a lifetime of dedication and loyal service to the citizens of Bellefonte.

- There is a vacancy of the Mayor's office on November 1. Any resident requesting consideration for the office should send a letter to the Borough office stating their qualifications for that position within the next two weeks. Ms. Dainty stated the biggest qualification is that you care and are concerned about Bellefonte.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1) 219 West High Street - Install a new metal roof over existing shingle roof at rear of the building. The new metal roof will match the color and style of the existing metal roof that covers the rest of the building.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve all the Certificate of Appropriateness for 219 West High Street as submitted. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEES

Building & Property – Mr. Schneider questioned the decision of the Authority regarding the Gamble Mill. Mr. Stewart stated they are not interested in giving up that piece of property.

Mr. Schneider requested that Mr. Stewart establish a meeting of the Building and Property Committee.

Finance and Government Performance – Mr. Schneider made a motion to file for audit the September 2012 Vouchers in the amount of \$675,652.10. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the vouchers as submitted.

September 2012 Vouchers

General	20102 - 20201	\$ 205,779.72
Streetlighting	845 - 848	\$ 4,545.65
Bellefonte Fire Dept.	1385 - 1404	\$ 55,992.64
Fire Equipment	184 - 187	\$ 14,052.37
Parks & Recreation	1711 - 1722	\$ 6,331.12
Water	8750 - 8802	\$ 101,277.18
Sanitation	9894 - 9949	\$ 158,531.66
Refuse	2642 - 2664	\$ 93,391.42
Swimming Pool	525 - 529	\$ 1,220.61
CDBG	-	\$ 0.00
Special Projects	207	\$ 42.40

Highway Aid	232	\$	20,443.20
Capital Projects	-	\$	0.00
Bulk Water Sales	197 - 201	\$	14,044.13
		Total:	\$ 675,652.10

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve an invoice to McQuaide Blasko in the amount of \$4,895.31 for services rendered through September 30, 2012. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Mrs. Brown questioned whether the bill has been submitted elsewhere for reimbursement, which it has not because it was work requested to be done by the Borough. The Borough requested these services to see what could be legally done by the Borough regarding the Garman. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There are various financial reports in the packet for review.

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to move ahead and allow the Cemetery Association to put their money under the Borough Federal ID Number. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. There was concern regarding requirements of prevailing wage since it is under the federal ID #. Mr. Halderman stated that would not happen unless there is state or federal money involved.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to table this motion pending the solicitor's review. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Park & Recreation – Mrs. Brown thanked the Lions Club for the work they did on the Pavilion in Governors Park. She also requested the Borough send a thank you letter.

- Mrs. Brown would like to know when both fountains in the park will be turned off for the season.

- The Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 21, in Talleyrand Park from Noon to 4:00 p.m. There will be a parade at 2:00 p.m. starting at the Bellefonte Elementary School and proceeding to Talleyrand Park. BHRS Fall Festival Trains will be held this weekend also, but the tickets are sold out.

Human Resources – Mr. Provan reported the Borough Negotiations Committee and the Police Negotiations Committee had their first negotiation session. The Borough is also beginning the negotiation process with the Streets Employee Union before the end of October.

- Mr. Holderman reported the Borough hired an electrician. The vacancy was filled as of Monday, October 8, 2012, by Craig Herrold.

- The new Police Officer has not started.

- The Police Department is to be providing Council with reports provided no later than the second meeting of each month. Mr. Stewart will remind Chief Weaver.

Safety – Mr. Wilson reported the minutes from the September 22, 2012, Fire Department Executive Committee Meeting should have been in the packet for review, but the minutes provided were from September 2011. The actual meeting was run by the new Fire Chief, Tim Schreffler. Ms. Walker provided a handout for the new budget at the meeting. Council members will be provided with the correct minutes.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported a copy of the October 2, 2012, Authority Meeting minutes is in the packet for review.

- Mr. Beigle reported the Daily Water Withdrawal/Instream Flow Requirement Report is in the packet for review and there is nothing unusual on the report.

- Mrs. Brown questioned whether something can be done regarding the odor that continues to expel from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Beigle requested the specific dates and times so he can address it with the Supervisor at the Treatment Plant.

Streets – Mr. DeCusati would like to add a minor change to Shade Tree Ordinance Chapter 1026. The change is under 1026.02 where it states “No person shall perform any work upon any shade tree, *with the exception of minor pruning,....*” Mr. DeCusati made a motion to put the Shade Tree Ordinance out for advertising with this small change. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

Junior Council Report – Ten Bellefonte Area High School Students participated in picking up brush in Governors Park on October 4, Day of Caring. Other students were in and around other parts of the Borough as well, providing their talents to assist agencies with painting, cleaning and other jobs.

- Mr. Wilson reported this weekend is homecoming weekend at BAHS. There will be a parade on Thursday, October 18. Following the parade there will be a bonfire near the football field.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Ordinance Codification as presented. Ms. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the creation of the Fire Prevention Task Force with the five members who have volunteered—Tom Wilson, Gay Dunne, Walt Schneider, Dave Provan and Vana Dainty. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Gay Dunne is the Chair. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart attended the Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Workshop. He is collecting information. The cost of converting vehicles is fairly expensive. There may be grants available in the future. He is also exploring locations around Bellefonte to create a filling station.

- On Wednesday, October 17, at 10:00 a.m., in the Conference Room Mr. Stewart will be meeting with PennDOT to review their report regarding SR150, which includes West Linn Street.

- Trick-or-Treat will be held on Wednesday, October 31, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Residents participating are requested to turn on their porch light.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve demolition at 245 West Beaver Street. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Brown presented Council with a letter regarding Victorian Christmas, which will be the weekend of December 7, 8 and 9. Everything will be the same except the Committee would like to have a parade on Friday, November 24, at 2:00 p.m. to usher Santa into his new house. CPI is building the new Santa House, which will be ADA accessible. All materials have been donated for the project. Mrs. Brown also requested anyone interested in participating in the parade to contact her at the Chamber Office or Sally House, the Victorian Christmas Chairperson. The request would also include a street closure during the parade time. The parade would begin at the Bellefonte Elementary School and proceed to the Diamond area.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve the closing of the street for a parade to bring Santa to town on Friday, November 24. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

POLICE EXONERATIONS

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to accept the police exonerations. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mrs. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting of October 15, 2012 at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Following adjournment Council went into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.