

## **COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2011**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 8:20 p.m. by Council Chair Frank Halderman in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building. It was requested that cell phones either be turned off or put on vibrate.

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, Halderman, Confer, McCullough

Members Excused:

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Nick Schipadski,

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Provan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting of November 21, 2011. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **WRITTEN**

- A thank you letter from Holly Wilson, President, HBI (Historic Bellefonte, Inc.) thanking Bellefonte Borough for assistance with the Fall Festival.
- A letter from Sarah J. Wetzel, President, Unit 33 Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion, requesting permission to use Talleyrand Park and the expanded area of Talleyrand Park on Sunday, April 1, 2012, from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for an Easter Egg Hunt that would begin at 2:00 p.m. The request is also for permission to hold pony rides.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the request. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. Last year there were two organizations that conducted Easter egg hunts. Council would like the organizations to work together. The motion passed with Mr. DeCusati voting no.

- A letter from Lori E. Jones, Program Assistant, Young Lungs at Play, thanking the Borough for their efforts to establish “tobacco free” zones.

- A letter from Thomas R. King, Chief of Police, State College Police Department, thanking Chief Weaver and all of the Bellefonte Borough Police Officers for the assistance provided on November 9 during the riots at State College.

- A letter from Kristina V. Tice, Principal, Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School, requesting permission for the students to sing Christmas carols to local businesses and shoppers on Thursday, December 22, beginning at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve this request. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- An email from John W. Ferguson, Field Operations Leader, Columbia Gas of PA, Inc., expressing interest in attending the Street Committee meeting to discuss working cooperatively on a multi-year plan. The meeting will be held in January 2012.

- A Little League Banner Permit Application request was received from David Crunick.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the request with just one banner. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. The question was raised if the request was for three banners why Council would only provide one banner. The request is for a two-three week period in January. Council members feel there needs to be clarification regarding how many banners are requested.

Ms. Dainty withdrew her motion for lack of information. Mr. Beigle withdrew his second.

- An email from Lyssa Cromell, Office Manager, Centre Regional Planning Agency, providing an update. Council should meet with Marion Township and Walker Township to discuss appointing a representative to attend the CCMPO meetings beginning in January 24, 2012. The Street Committee will establish a meeting.

### **ORAL**

- None.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. DeCusati attended a portion of the last CCMPO meeting and reported they are continuing to deal with the issue of reduced funding availability. More projects are being added on. The Linn Street wall replacement project and Phoenix Avenue have been added to the list of projects.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Goldman reported the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellefonte Victorian Christmas will be held Friday evening, December 9, Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11. He invited everyone to the Bellefonte Elementary School to be greeted on the front steps by Mr. Dickens and candlelight carolers Friday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. Opening ceremonies will be held at the Bellefonte Elementary School auditorium featuring the Bellefonte Community Band, Nittany Knights, the elementary school 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade choir, the Middle School Women's Choral and Saint John's Elementary School will provide entertainment. Other special performances, including a preview performance of its Dickens Holiday Show, will be presented. A cookie and hot chocolate reception will be held in the hallway beside the Auditorium. Mayor Goldman urged everybody to attend the opening of Victorian Christmas.

During the month of December the first two hours of parking in downtown Bellefonte is free. Council does not provide free parking because of tenants using the spaces and not moving their cars.

Council members expressed their frustration on jury selection days because rather than park in the municipal lots the folks use the meters.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

#### **HARB**

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- 1) 118 North Allegheny Street – Sign Application: Use antique wooden sign board with new painting and lettering. Locate in large transom area over the entrance. Change entry door color to burgundy to match sign color. Paint trim hunter green to match sign color.
- 2) 124 East High Street – Replace original 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor wood windows in front façade with new Marvin windows with wood interior and aluminum exterior cladding. Restore original first floor windows and add new storm window.
- 3) 247 ½ North Spring Street – Install new metal roof, color terracotta. Expand parking area with new retaining wall.
- 4) 121 East Curtin Street – Demolish existing garage.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve all four Certificates of Appropriateness. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. The garage located at 121 East Curtin Street was approved for demolition because it is a safety issue, and it is not a historic building. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **COMMITTEES**

Building & Property – There was no report.

Finance & Government Performance – Ms. Dainty made a motion to accept the preliminary 2012 budget as presented with a 1.53 mill increase. The General Fund would be a total of \$47.65; Street Lighting - \$6.19; Parks - \$19.06; Sewer - \$5.00 per quarter. The total for the year would be \$92.90. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. The total budget is \$11,006,185.00 for the 2012 budget total. A roll call vote was taken: Wilson- yes; Dainty-yes; Taylor-no; Schneider-yes; Provan-yes; Beigle-yes; DeCusati-no; Dunne-yes; Halderman-yes. The motion passed.

Ms. Dainty made a motion to charge the Borough staff to move forward with setting up Capital Projects that were outlined in option 2 with the budget and that it is carried through beginning in 2012. Mr. Provan seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart is proposing that the planning and budgeting on the sheet be completed.

Ms. Dainty amended her motion stating Council would like to see a draft by April 1, 2012. Mr. Provan amended his second to the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Park & Recreation – Mr. Taylor made a motion to pay an invoice in the amount of \$95,542.52 that is due for the Teener League Field. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. There will be a balance to finish in the amount of \$12,829.77. A voice vote was unanimous.

There will be a meeting either December 12, 13 or 14 for the final completion of the Teener League Project, which was to be completed before December 1.

Thursday, December 8, at noon the region will meet at the YMCA to either keep the Kepler Pool going for this year and possibly forming an Authority to merge interested groups together.

Human Resources – There was no report.

Safety – Mr. Wilson reported there will be street closures for December 13. Information will be provided to residents and local merchants. The closures will begin on Monday, December 12, at 5:00 p.m. The closures include Allegheny Street from Howard Street to Bishop Street and High Street from Allegheny Street to Spring Street and up to the Courthouse. The streets will be closed all day Tuesday, December 13, until midnight. All residents must have their vehicles moved from those areas.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to close the streets as so noted by Chief Weaver from Monday afternoon until Tuesday at midnight. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

There was a lot of chatter on Bellefonte Blogs last week regarding street lights that was generated from the last Council meeting. Many people made entries regarding the dimness of the lights. Cleaning of the globes for the street lights will begin in January. There will possibly be five to ten cleaned each week. A proposal was placed in the budget to replace some of the sodium halite lighting (yellow lighting) on West Bishop Street, Spring Street and Howard Street. After the holidays when the lighting comes down from the trees there will be trees trimmed. PennDOT will be contacted to determine how to maneuver signs so they can be viewed by traffic but not block lighting.

The Fire Task Force meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, at the Borough Building at 6:30 p.m. Progress is being made.

Mr. Schneider thanked Chief Weaver, Chief Bruno, Chief King and Borough staff for all the work they are doing and putting in towards December 13. He feels this is a monumental task. Mr. Schneider requested Borough residents and visitors to bear with the inconvenience because this is not something that the department is used to dealing with.

Mr. Halderman noted that the Chief has the utmost confidence of Council in taking care of this situation.

Water/Sanitation – Mr. Beigle reported there will be an Authority meeting on Tuesday, December 6. Johnson Controls will review projects related to water and wastewater.

Streets – Mr. DeCusati reported there will be a Streets Committee meeting in January 2012 to discuss how to approach other municipalities for representation on the MPO.

Leaf collection is still ongoing. Pick-up will continue as long as the weather is appropriate. The main truck has been down with a bad bearing so the crew is taking the older leaf collection equipment.

The contractor for the road work has been paid through Highway Aid. If different curbs are required, then different specifications must be provided.

Columbia Gas is replacing a gas line on SR#550. Mr. Beigle felt it would be an opportune time to do some line relocation in conjunction with that project.

Energy & Environmental Conservation – There was no report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Shuey completed sidewalk inspections based on the 2011 list, and there are approximately 20 property owners that have not completed their repairs in the allotted 120-day time window. The new ordinance allows a one-time, 120-day extension to the property owner, or allows the borough to make the necessary repairs and bill the property owners for all the expenses. Russell would like input on what direction Council would like him to proceed. Council is concerned with what is in the right-of-way.

Mr. Provan made a motion to send a letter to those who are delinquent indicating that they have the option to apply for an extension or after thirty (30) days they would be subject to the Borough sending a contractor out to repair the sidewalk at the cost of the homeowner. Ms. Dainty seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart included a draft policy for Act 44 in the packets for review to be discussed at the next Council work session.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Ms. Dainty made a motion to approve the 2012 Police Pension Plan Resolution. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. This is for auditing purposes, and nothing is changing in the percents. There is currently a 3.9% contribution from the officers. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. DeCusati made a motion to adjourn the meeting of December 5, 2011, at 9:10 p.m. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.