

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
November 3, 2014
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. It was requested that cell phones either be placed on vibrate or turned off.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Beigle, Brachbill, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Walker,

Members Excused: Brown, Spicer, Li

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Lakeshia Knarr, *The Express*; Don Smith; Adam Redding; Mike Andriaccio; Tere & Tom Young; Michele Moore;

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Wilson read a proclamation for Free to Breathe Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Mayor Wilson declared November 2014 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month in Bellefonte. All citizens are encouraged to join the effort to defeat lung cancer.

CONSENT AGENDA

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.)

- Minutes - Approval of October 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Letter request from Saint John Catholic School regarding Christmas Caroling.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Larry Fennessey, Chairman, Water Resources Monitoring Committee, thanking Bellefonte Borough Council for past support and requesting continued support for the Water Resources Monitoring Project in the amount of \$2,859.00 for 2015. Mrs. Dunne reported the 2013 State of the Water Resources Monitoring Project report was provided. She recommended that all Council members read the report.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the Water Resources Monitoring Project funds be approved in the amount of \$2,859.00 for the 2015 pledge. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Letters from Adam Redding, Good Intent Cider LLC, and Tere Young, Y2M2 Enterprises LLC, requesting streetlights on Potter Street.

Mr. DeCusati reported the Streets Committee met this evening and considered the letter. They feel it is a good idea to add lighting in that area and they plan to work with Borough staff to see where it should be placed. They also plan to explore other traffic common measures that could be done in that area. Mr. DeCusati stated West Penn Power would need to install the lighting so it is unknown when it would be installed.

- A letter from Mike Andriaccio regarding Guide Dogs and training in the community. Mr. Andriaccio addressed Council. He brought a dog with him that is being trained to be a seeing-eye dog. The guide dog foundation for the blind is located in Smithtown, New York. There is a group of dogs that will be coming into the Borough for training. They would like to take them to Talleyrand Park for training with the suspension bridge, open back stairs and ducks. There are no dogs allowed in the park, but these are considered service animals. Pennsylvania has a law in place that supersedes the ADA law. This law allows trainers to go places with dogs. A lot of major stores and restaurants train their employees on how to act with the dogs. Mr. Beigle stated the concern he has is if there is a function in the park that Mr. Andriaccio respects the function. Mr. Andriaccio would like a schedule of functions so he is not in the park when an event is going on. He plans to use the park just one time in a six-month period. Council appreciated Mr. Andriaccio attending the meeting and providing information that makes them better informed on the situation.

- A letter from Cynthia Hahn, Executive Director, C-NET, informing Council that the 2015 membership dues for Bellefonte Borough will be \$15,002.00. This will be discussed at the next work session.

ORAL

- John Smith, 527 Halfmoon Street, received what he considers a "threatening" letter from the Borough. It was notice of life safety violation for two bushes that are growing on his front steps. The letter stated they obstruct the view of a car coming in from Brown Avenue onto Halfmoon Street. He stated there is 52' from the line of sight if a car were pulled up to where the bushes were. He took his wife to dinner and when he pulled up to the bridge, he noticed that he could not see down the street or up the street from the stone piers that the Borough installed on the bridge. He is assuming the Borough does not have to follow the life safety violations that he has to obey. Mr. Halderman reported that intersection is controlled by a traffic signal. Mr. Smith stated he is controlled by three STOP signs. He removed the bushes and planned to remove them even before he received the letter. His comment is "we do not talk anymore, we send threatening letters."

Mr. Smith also wanted to inform Council that he is opposed to the 1/4 mill increase for the swimming pool. He feels the pool is a luxury. He does not mind paying taxes for streets, lights, police, etc.. He stated a lot of people he talked to are opposed to the 1/4 mill increase. They said they are not coming to a meeting and wasting their time because they know Council will vote for it. Councilman Halderman is his representative on Council and he asked him to vote against it. He knows Councilman Halderman will not listen to him because he has not listened to him for 50 years. Mr. Smith does not feel Bellefonte can afford the luxury.

Mr. DeCusati feels Mr. Stewart should share Mr. Smith's complaint with the Code Enforcement Officer. Ms. Harvey stated the Code Enforcement Officer does attempt to contact people.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to move the Fire Task Force meeting minutes to Special Committee reports and they appear there in future agendas. Mr. Halderman reported that will be moved.

- Mrs. Dunne received a comment from a non-constituent that is a frequent motorist through Bellefonte and also a pedestrian and they are concerned about the intersection of High Street and Water Street and the fact that cars frequently run the red light. It is dangerous for people crossing the street even if they have the walk sign.

- Mr. Brachbill asked if there is an update from PennDOT regarding the lights on Willowbank Street that have been out. Mr. Stewart clarified that light is in Spring Township. A vehicle ran into the light and broke the control box.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Beigle reported on the Airport Authority. The airport manager went down to Atlanta and negotiated with Delta. They will fly again March 7 through August 27. It will be one flight on Saturday. They cannot have more flights because there is a shortage of pilots.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported he and Romayne Naylor did the WBLF radio show this morning at 8:30 a.m. They did a history overview of some of the buildings in town.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the final plans for the Shoemaker Lot Consolidation. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The October 27, 2014 draft Planning Commission meeting minutes were in the packet for review.

HARB

1) 127 North Spring Street - Removal of small side porch.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to award a Certificate of Appropriateness for 127 North Spring Street as recommended by HARB. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB Draft meeting minutes from the October 28, 2014 meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - Mr. Walker made a motion to approve this list of items for auction: 1999 Ford Crown Victoria; 1991 Case Backhoe; 2004 Ford Crown Victoria; 1997 Chevy Bucket Truck; Air packs & masks; Pager System; Radios; Vibra plate; Air Compressors; Lights; Street light globes. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mr. Walker stated this list and additional information for the bidding process will soon be available on the Borough website at www.bellefonte.net. The streetlight globes are old and are made of Plexiglas. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Walker reported the Building and Property Committee met with the engineer for the Army Corp property to review preliminary land development and use potential. At this point the committee has a couple of open questions to be clarified.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne reported the Finance Committee will have several meetings during budget season regarding previews of the budgets and the funds in the coming year.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mrs. Dunne reported there is a discussion regarding the Girl Scouts Little Free Library. The Borough will take care of installation of that sign.

- Mayor Wilson reminded Council that the Talleyrand Park Committee will be receiving an award at the Centre County Visitor's Borough on Sunday, November 9, at

3:00 p.m. He will be attending and encourages Council members and Bellefonte citizens to attend this ceremony.

HUMAN RESOURCES - No report.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill reported the draft October 15, 2014 Safety Committee minutes; the draft October 23, 2014 Fire Task Force meeting minutes and the draft October 23, 2014 Fire Department Executive Committee meeting minutes are in the packet for review. Mr. Halderman feels the meeting minutes are very well written. Mrs. Dunne would like Council members to read the Fire Task Force meeting minutes because it involves all of Borough Council. She feels the Task Force is making good progress and they are having conversations that would not otherwise occur. A representative from the Undine Fire Department will be named.

WATER AND SANITATION - The water withdrawal for September and August is very good. There is very little fluctuation.

- The next Authority meeting will be Tuesday, November 4. The budget will be discussed. The Authority is in need of money.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati reported the Committee discussed several items, including the bids for engineering services for the Lamb Street project. That will be done in the spring of 2015. The committee ranked those bids and gave staff direction in terms of awarding those bids.

- The Logan Street paving project still needs to be completed this year. Mr. Holderman clarified that the paving will be done on the Logan Street extension off of Blanchard Street. It will involve approximately 100 feet.

- The Streetscape project is nearing completion of construction. Mr. DeCusati made a motion to pay an invoice for the Streetscape project in the amount of \$91,833.12. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. The sidewalk had to be a certain maximum grade for ADA purposes so they had to slant the brick the way it is to get the grade required.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Ms. Harvey provided an update on the Energy Purchase Contract. Because of time constraints and deadlines the Borough will continue with the current supplier, but will have several months to review other options and other providers.

- Mrs. Dunne and Mr. Stewart attended a Learning Lunch last Friday, October 31, that was presented by Land Studies, which is a firm from Lancaster. They shared storm water solutions from Lititz. Mr. Stewart stated Bellefonte is not under the mandates but probably will be someday.

Mr. Beigle stated the last Borough magazine had an article about storm water authorities and how they are starting to be formed. He encouraged Council members to read the article because it is something that is coming.

Mrs. Dunne reported the Spring Creek Watershed Commission has had some conversations about the role of an Authority in managing storm water in the Spring Creek watershed. They will be having a speaker from the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland, that comes in and helps municipalities work together to develop solutions for storm water, which might or might not include the formation of an Authority.

JUNIOR COUNCIL - No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- At the last Council meeting there was a question related to Storm Water Ordinances. Mr. Stewart checked into that and it actually was an issue with the Flood Plain Ordinance. The Borough was to update the FIRM (flood insurance rate map) date. That was done approximately a month ago. In that process the same reviewer stated they want to review the entire Flood Plain Ordinance and look for any need to amend it and bring it into compliance. That has been done and the ordinance was submitted. There are some areas that they are not sure are in other sections of the zoning ordinance or if they are even there. Mr. Stewart has to complete that review. It may come before Council as an ordinance amendment or a complete adoption of the model ordinance. The deadline is sometime in January 2015.

- Mayor Wilson clarified questions from the police report from last month. The number four under drugs are either citizen- or officer-initiated investigations. They are not arrests, but ongoing investigations. Mayor Wilson talked to Chief Weaver to be more specific on the report. They also plan to put together a quarterly comparison.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Veteran's Day Holiday Refuse Collection schedule change is the refuse collection for that day (Tuesday) will be picked up on Wednesday.

- Mr. Walker made a motion to approve Fair Housing Resolution 11032014-01. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the Vehicle Key Policy as submitted. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Bellefonte Borough employees shall comply with the vehicle key policy related to all Borough-owned vehicles. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. DeCusati thanked the officers for being out on Thursday night making it a safe night while the children were going trick-or-treat.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting of November 3, 2014 at 8:40 p.m. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.