

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 4, 2016
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SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Wilson swore in Karen Harvey, a newly elected Council member.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Wilson 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, Brown, DeCusati, Dunne, Harvey, Johnson;
Spicer, Tosti-Vasey

Members Excused:

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty

Guests: Emma Gosalvez; Joseph Griffin; Walter G. M. Schneider III;

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT –

Ms. Tosti-Vasey nominated Gay Dunne for president.

Mr. Spicer nominated Randy Brachbill for president.

Mayor Wilson closed the nominations. Nominees were told they were permitted to vote for themselves. A hand vote was taken for Councilwoman Dunne and she received four votes. A hand vote was taken for Councilman Randy Brachbill and he received four votes.

Mayor Wilson took a second hand vote for Councilwoman Dunne. She received five votes and is now president of Council.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Beigle nominated Randy Brachbill for vice president.

Mrs. Dunne nominated Paul DeCusati for vice president.

Mayor Wilson took a hand vote for Councilman Randy Brachbill. He received six votes and is the vice president.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Mr. Brachbill nominated Paul DeCusati for President Pro Tem.

Mayor Wilson took a hand vote and Mr. DeCusati is President Pro Tem.

TRANSFER OF GAVEL FROM MAYOR TO PRESIDENT

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

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 December 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- The PSAB Biennial Organization Meeting Step-by-Step information is in the packet.

- An email from the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society thanking Bellefonte Borough for their involvement and support of the recent Santa Express rides. They are looking at ideas for improving the coordination of their activities. They also would like to be involved in the extension of the platform area and other work being planned for Talleyrand Park. Their suggestions will be given to the Park & Recreation for review and recommendation.

- A letter from Kimberly George, Council 83 Representative, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, in regard to safety issues at the Bellefonte Borough Water Plant. This information will be made available at the Authority meeting on Tuesday, January 5, and will be made available at the upcoming workplace Safety Committee meeting. The Authority is

currently fluoridating the water. Mr. Stewart will work with the Safety Committee on this issue.

- A letter from Russell Bedell, Manager, Communications & Community Relations, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania in regard to some emergency preparedness information. This will be forwarded to the various Public Works Departments as well as to the Workplace Safety Committee to keep them informed.

ORAL

- Mr. Brachbill suggested Council members participate in a NIMS class, a training course through FEMA, to be prepared for outside emergencies as far as how to organize in case of some type of emergency since there are gas lines throughout Bellefonte. It is terminology and making sure everyone is speaking from the same page. It is not required, but it is recommended that municipal leaders take NIMS 100 and 200.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Brachbill reported there was a reorganization meeting of the Civil Service Commission. Dave Provan has been re-elected as president through October 31, 2020; Kent Addis has been re-elected as vice-president through 2016; and Randy Brachbill has been re-elected as secretary through 2018. Mr. Brachbill feels it would be good to have an alternate.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson noted that Sergeant Brower is in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions or concerns from Council members.

Mr. Beigle requested an update with the prescription pill collection box in the police station. Officer Brower said the program has been in effect for approximately two years. It is the only full-time collection in the County. The last time it was emptied there was approximately 25 pounds in it. When it is taken to Penn State to be incinerated there is approximately 40-50 pounds of prescription pills and medications taken. He will get the exact figures for the next Council meeting. To date it has cost an extremely minimal amount of money for this program, approximately \$100.00 per year and it takes a significant amount of medications out of homes, off the streets and away from the sewer plants.

- Mayor Wilson reported the first Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. on WBLF the program Bellefonte is done. Today an update was provided on what is being done in town and some of the projects that hopefully will be concluded within the next year.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- None.

HARB

- None.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- 1) Corning Pump House – the mounting of electrical cabinets on the face of the Corning Pump House, which would be the left face of the building off of SR#150; plus, the mini-split condenser unit mounted on at grade stand; with vegetative screening as appropriate.
- 2) 122 West Bishop Street – The project was approved however the type of windows and doors will have to change because they need to be fire resistant.
- 3) 390 East Linn Street – Replacement of the metal railing on the front stair case.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve all projects for Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The project at 122 West Bishop Street does not need approved. It was removed from the motion as it still needs more work by HARB before coming back to Council.

Mr. Beigle amended his motion to approve Certificates of Appropriateness for the Corning Pump House and the project at 390 East Linn Street. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The electrical component is fairly large and the location is the only place the component can be located. The vegetation will hide it as much as possible, but there does need to be access. The generator is not permanent. Mr. Brachbill stated that previously Council approved the transfer switch to be recessed. Mr. Stewart stated everyone agreed it would be a shame to cut into the stone. Ms. Dainty stated nobody understands that the project came to HARB twice. The first time HARB recommended putting it on a pedestal. When it came back HARB had a lot of conversation about how to do it. It was explained that everything was bigger and this is the only solution to do at this point. She feels the vegetative will hide it as much as possible and it will be less obtrusive than it would be on other sides of the building. Mr. Brachbill wishes it would not have to be attached to the building. Mr. Stewart said an electrical engineer is designing the project and the engineer feels it is not an option to mount it on posts. There is concern of anything bumping into a pedestal with a vehicle and that would loosen the wires. This is the Historic District but that building was built in the late 1960's. Ms. Dainty said there was a lot of discussion about recessing it into the building but a good thing with attaching it the proposed way is in the future if there is a smaller unit there will only be small holes bored into the mortar that can be covered up and replaced. A voice vote was unanimous.

Draft HARB meeting minutes from December 8, 2015 are in the packet for review.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Appointments/Reappointments-** Because of some discrepancies on the list Mr. Stewart would like to take them one at a time.

Borough Authority:

Mr. DeCusati made a motion for Dr. Richard Miller to be considered to serve on the Bellefonte Authority. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. Mr. Beigle questioned why you would not reappoint someone who has already served on the Authority and is qualified versus an application that just came in. He stated Mr. Brown is a viable part of the Authority. Mr. DeCusati feels it is appropriate for the Authority to have changes. Mr. DeCusati heard considerable feedback from the public at a Public Hearing that many are in favor of the fluoride issue and he feels there should be someone on the Authority that is knowledgeable on the fluoride issue. Mr. Beigle stated the Authority also operates a sewage plant. With the Authority there are obligations associated with it and you have to have guys that have experience...not so much with fluoride because you can find about fluoride. What bothers him is that somebody makes a motion to put somebody on there because they are not satisfied with the way the Authority operated on something with one issue. That is not how Council operates. A roll call vote was taken: Beigle-no; Brachbill-no; Brown-no; DeCusati-yes; Dunne-yes; Harvey-yes; Johnson-no; Spicer-no; Tosti-Vasey-yes. The motion failed with five no votes and four yes votes.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to appoint Greg Brown to the Bellefonte Authority. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. The motion passed with five yes votes and four no votes.

Mr. Stewart stated typically the Authority does their own appointments for Engineering Services and Solicitor so he is requesting Council to ignore those positions for the Borough Authority.

Borough Council:

Borough Solicitor – Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to obtain bids for the Borough Solicitor. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Treasurer/Real Estate Tax Collector – Debra Burger. The Real Estate Tax Collector is an elected position. Council is only concerned with the appointed part, which is the Treasurer position. Mr. DeCusati nominated Debra Burger for Treasurer. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Engineer – Eric Lundy – this is the Authority Engineer.

Auditor – Young Oakes Brown & Co. – Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to obtain bids for the auditor. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Sewage Enforcement Officer – Stanley Wallace – Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve Stanley Wallace for Sewage Enforcement Officer. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Centre County Library Board:

Ms. Tosti-Vasey questioned how much money is budgeted for the Centre County Library, which is approximately \$25,000.00 - \$27,000.00. She feels this should be a Council appointment.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to table this appointment to the next meeting so more information can be obtained. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

HARB Board:

There is a vacancy with a term expiring 12/31/18.

HARB is reviewing their bylaws at their second meeting in January and request that nobody be appointed until after the bylaws have been revised.

Housing Board of Appeals (five year terms)

Vacancy (expiring 12/31/17)

Vacancy (expiring 12/31/17)

Mr. Stewart will get information from Mr. Schneider regarding the positions to post on the website in anticipation of getting candidates.

Industrial Development Authority:

Ray Fisher (expiring 12/31/19) will be reappointed. (He should have been reappointed last year and was missed.)

Frank Halderman (expiring 12/31/20) reappoint.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to reappoint Frank Halderman and Ray Fisher to the IDA. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made an amended motion to vote on the names separately. There was no second so the amendment was dropped.

The motion passed with Ms. Tosti-Vasey voting no.

Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission:

Reappoint Randy Brachbill (expiring 12/31/17)

Reappoint Robert Dannaker (expiring 12/31/17)

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to reappoint Randy Brachbill and Robert Dannaker to the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Planning Commission:

Reappoint Bob Dannaker (expiring 12/31/19)

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to reappoint Bob Dannaker to the Borough Planning Commission. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Stormwater Engineer:

Mr. Beigle made a motion to reappoint Don Franson, Franson Engineering & Surveying, as the Stormwater Engineer. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. Ms. Tosti-Vasey requested it be put out to bid. No further discussion. The motion approved with Ms. Tosti-Vasey voting no.

Zoning Hearing:

Vacancy (expiring 12/31/20)

Mr. Stewart is going to put more verbiage on the website regarding what is required for this position to gain interest.

CCMPO Representatives:

Bellefonte Borough is part of the Nittany Valley Region and everyone in the region has one vote on this Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board. Mr. DeCusati is currently the alternate. The region has to pick a representative and alternate between now and the meeting in February.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to nominate Mr. DeCusati as a representative on the CCMPO. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Fire Prevention Task Force:

Mr. Walker would like to continue going to these meetings.

Vacancy Board:

Mr. Brachbill nominated Dave Provan to serve on this Board. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Public Safety Committee for COG:

When the Borough joined COG for code services they were given a seat on the Public Safety Committee, which Frank Halderman filled. A new appointment is required. The meeting meets at noon. Mr. Schneider stated the exact meeting time has not yet been determined. That will happen in the January meeting, but it will be during the day. The committee meets once a month.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to nominate Randy Brachbill as a member of the Public Safety Committee for COG and Don Holderman as the alternate. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

-2015 Report – Bellefonte Police Department Assessment and Memo from Chief Weaver – This will be scheduled to review at a work session.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Resolution No. 01042016-001, A Resolution of Bellefonte Borough, Centre County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appointing the Environmental Review Certifying Officer for the Borough's Community Development Block Grant Program. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey amended the motion to name Mrs. Dunne on the Resolution. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A voice vote was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 01042016-001.

- A PowerPoint Presentation was given: 2016 Overview, Goals and Objectives of Bellefonte Borough. This presentation will also be sent to Council members via email.

Mayor Wilson thanked the Borough Managers and anyone else involved in developing the PowerPoint Presentation.

- The Borough Council Personal Code of Conduct was included in the packets. It is a non-binding, non-mandatory document but it is highly suggested that Council members sign it.

- Mrs. Dunne will be assigning Council Members to Committees before the January 18th Council meeting. If there is a committee a Council Member would like to Chair they should contact Mrs. Dunne.

- Mr. Holderman reported the minutes are taped and sent out to Holly Keen, who types them. She will learn everyone's names but it is beneficial to hear things clearly. If someone opposes a motion, they should say I oppose clearly so she can hear that. It would also be helpful if the names could be mentioned when a motion is made.

- Mr. Stewart mentioned that each member is required to file the State Ethics Form each year. The Borough keeps the white copy on file.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Brachbill made a motion to adjourn the Council Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2016, at 9:25 p.m. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Following adjournment Council went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Real Estate and Legal Matters.