

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 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, Brown, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Schneider, Spicer, Ramish,

Members Excused: Li,

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Joanne Tosti-Vasey; Nancy Noll; Gary Hoover; Joseph Griffin

**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 January 20, 2014 meeting minutes.
- Communications - Letter Request re Arts & Crafts Fair.
- Communications - Letter Request re Sunrise Service at Talleyrand on Easter Sunday.
- Communications - Email Request re 2014 Croquet Tournament
- Communications - Letter Request re American Legion Easter Egg Hunt

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as provided. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Ms. Harvey requested the letter request for Sunrise Service at Talleyrand be removed and placed under new business for discussion. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- A letter from Charles Kormanski, President, Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce, in regard to the Keystone Committees and suggesting they should be inclusive.

- A letter from Denise L. Elbell, Director of Financial Management/Deputy Administrator, Centre County Board of Commissioners, in regard to the 2014 County Liquid Fuels Application. The Borough did not receive any funding.

- A letter from Thomas S. Schrack, McQuaide Blasko, (Borough Solicitor) for review in regard to Solicitor Reappointment.

- An invitation from Bellefonte Emergency Medical Services to their annual banquet on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at the Bellefonte Moose Lodge. Council members must RSVP by Monday February 17, 2014

### **ORAL**

- Joseph Griffin, 133 North Spring Street, received a letter from National Penn Bank informing him they are closing their Bellefonte office and closing their ATMs. This will make an inconvenience for him to do his banking. He asked if the Borough makes any effort to influence the bank's decision and if there is any program of monitoring the plans of other downtown businesses.

Mr. Stewart stated the Borough is a local government that does not monitor businesses. The Borough would do whatever possible to keep a business in town. If they will not stay then an effort will be made to get someone else in that storefront.

The Chamber of Commerce is not aware of this move.

- Mr. Stewart stated in the January 31st CDT in the Letter to the Editor section there was an accusation made that the Borough did not use the Borough code appropriately for the sale of the Garman. He clarified that the Borough never owned the Garman property and therefore the Borough code did not apply to that sale. He stated there were also accusations about the agreement associated with the transfer. That agreement was reviewed and approved by the Court system. There have been several appeals and each one has been found to be baseless. He wrote a reply that will be printed sometime this week.

Mr. Beigle stated there is a time to move on. He also reiterated whatever goes out of your mouth cannot be taken back and there were a lot of things said. Borough Council has not said anything in reference to any of this at all. This is an example of what goes on.

- Gary Hoover, Director of the Chamber, wanted to give Council some good news. The February Winter Blues Breaker After Hours is February 12th at the Train

Station, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The Borough is invited to come at no charge. There are five Chamber member restaurants providing food.

The annual volunteer fair will be held on March 1. Any non-profit can set up a booth free of charge.

The Croquet Tournament is June 1.

There will be a picnic on July 1.

All Council members are on the list to receive the Chamber weekly update. Any member can put in a notice or advertisement free of charge.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- None.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson reminded the citizens that according to the Borough Ordinance snow and ice must be removed from the sidewalks within 24 hours from the end of a storm.

- Mayor Wilson will have regular office hours beginning on Monday, March 10th. He will be in every Monday and Friday from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. He is also researching other locations to have casual meetings with citizens.

- Mayor Wilson stated in the last month he has had quite an array of calls, letters and conversations both positive and negative and a lot of very nice ideas to work on over the next few years. Mayor Wilson looks forward to working with a lot of different groups throughout the upcoming years.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- Draft Planning Committee Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2014 are in the packet for review.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to appoint Mr. Dave Provan, 421 East Curtin Street, to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **HARB**

1) 120 West High Street/Bellefonte Elks roof replacement and soffit repairs.

2) 210 West High Street/Halo Boutique Signage.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to issue Certificates of Appropriateness for 120 West High Street and 210 West High Street. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. Mrs.

Dunne would like to see further elaboration in the minutes as to what takes place in the meetings before they issue their recommendations. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Schneider stated under the HARB items the signatory line does not seem to be consistent. He questioned who the contact is with HARB - either Robert Keal or Vana Dainty. Mr. Stewart will check into this.

Mr. Halderman questioned why things that were installed downtown before they went to HARB and were then disapproved. They were told to replace some soffit material or gutters on the Decker Building. He asked why things are not enforced. Mr. Stewart will try to get an update.

Robert Keal is still the HARB consultant.

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

### **BUILDING AND PROPERTY** - No Report.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - Mrs. Dunne reported information was received from the library comparing library support over the last three years and quantifying contributions from Spring Township and Benner Township. She feels the contributions from Spring and Benner Townships are not proportionate with that from Bellefonte Borough. Mr. Beigle feels the information from Spring and Benner Townships are not necessary. It is more important how many citizens from Bellefonte Borough use the library.

Mr. Schneider specifically requested a complete picture of the usage of Bellefonte Borough residents versus the percentage of total allocation to better determine what contribution would be matched to what the citizens are using. Mr. Schneider requested this be discussed in a future work session with someone from the library to explain the statistics and data provided.

There was a brief Finance Committee meeting and they are in the process of reviewing bids from financial institutions for funding of the Armory property.

### **PARK AND RECREATION** - No Report.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Mr. Spicer reported there will be an Executive Session for Contractor/Personnel.

Mr. Spicer commended the Streets crew for their cleanup of the snow.

Mr. Holderman has a pamphlet in his office regarding a conference in March at the Penn Stater. He thinks it would be beneficial if Mr. Spicer is able to attend.

**SAFETY** - Mr. Brachbill attended the Fire Executive Committee on Thursday, January 23. There was an update on the Logan Engine and the Undine Engine. There is a new engine that is being equipped and stocked.

There was an update on physicals and improvements in healthcare for fire fighters.

There are now 40 Knox Boxes in place in the downtown area.

There was a brief discussion on accessibility of fire apparatus in Coleville and recycling at Lambert Hall.

Mr. Holderman reported the Logan's had their annual awards ceremony a few weeks ago. He commended Walt Schneider and Chuck Salvanish on the nice job they did with the ceremony.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - Mr. Beigle reported the Authority meeting will be Tuesday, February 4, at 6:00 p.m.

**STREETS** - Mr. DeCusati reported the Streets Committee met and discussed several items carried over from last year.

They discussed painting of curbs planned for the High Street and McAllister Street intersection. Council has a study received from that. Part of the study includes painting the curbs further back on all corners to improve visibility at that intersection.

The gas company will start their work on West Beaver Street this spring. If that occurs the Borough expects them to start repairing lines along West Beaver and move in toward town.

Some funds were received from FEMA for the damage to Spring Street and West Lamb Street. They indicated only a small amount of money will be received unless the Borough can prove all the damage was related to the last storm.

The Borough installed additional street lights on Thomas Street and Cherry Lane. The Streetscape Project is progressing. Bids were put out today and hopefully a contractor will be selected soon.

Issues regarding how to handle "one-way" issues were discussed. The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding this.

Mr. Brachbill commended the workers that repaired the water break on the corner of Cherry and Badger. It was two of the coldest days and they were out there both days. They also fixed a leak on Benner Pike on the cold days.

Council noted that the Street Crews are doing a fine job and are commended for it. They are thanked for the hard work they are doing.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - Ms. Harvey will be attending a conference in Boalsburg on February 20. She hopes to learn about grant opportunities for parks and conservation.

Mrs. Dunne announced there will be an educational lecture on Medications and the Environment: What's in Your Drinking Water. This will be held on the same evening as the Chamber of Commerce's After Hours at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Nittany Medical Center at the Dreibelbis Auditorium. The speaker will be tracing the routes of entrance of medications consumed by humans and animals that end up in the water supplies. There will also be discussion regarding appropriate disposal of personal medications.

Mr. Halderman thanked the Police Department for the container they have to collect medicine.

**JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT** - No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Schneider made a motion to adopt the Municipal Records Manual Resolutions #02032014-01 and #02032014-02, declaring the intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records and authorizing the disposition of records, as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual, as presented by Staff. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Zoning Ordinance Amendment will be advertised.

- The Borough Council Code of Conduct will be discussed at a work session.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Policies as submitted and revised as amended (approval with the condition that there is a \$500.00 annual limit on solicitor fees by the Commission. If it needs to be higher it must be justified to Council; the polygraph language will be deleted from the Commission policies.) Mr. Spicer seconded the motion.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to amend with the change of \$500.00 be for the first year and thereafter the fee be the fee in the budget adopted by Council on an annual basis. Mrs. Dunne seconded the amendment.

A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment.

A voice vote was unanimous on the first motion with the amendment added.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Stewart will be attending the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA) Board Trip in Washington, D.C., February 11 and 12.

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the request from Pastor Greg Shipe, First Baptist Church, Bellefonte, PA, to offer a sunrise service to the public on Easter Sunday morning, April 20, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Ms. Harvey would like this to be reviewed by the solicitor because of the contentious issue of religious services in public places. Mr. Halderman stated all religious things have been accommodated as long as he has been involved in Council. Mayor Wilson recalls

this discussion from a previous year and is unsure whether a fee was paid or not. Mr. Holderman will check previous minutes to clarify this. Mr. DeCusati stated non-profits request use of the park with the fee waived. He feels there needs to be uniformity in this.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to table this until further information is obtained. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mayor Wilson informed Council that he has been invited and accepted an invitation to attend a breakfast at CATA on Thursday to tour the newly expanded facilities and to meet the new director.

He will also be representing the Borough at CPI for a luncheon on the 13th as part of them showcasing their Culinary Department.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 3, 2014 at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Council went into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel and contractor issue.