

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2014
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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. It was requested that cell phones either be placed on vibrate or turned off.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Beigle, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Li, Ramish, Schneider, Spicer,

Members Excused: Brachbill, Brown,

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Todd & Mitchell Holden; Robert Keal; Joanne Tosti-Vasey; 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 March 3, 2014 meeting minutes.
- Communications - Letter request from Lion's Club re Annual BBQ Rib Sale
- Communications - Letter request from Chamber of Commerce re Talleyrand Park
- Communications - Letter request from Kim Gasper re Herbie's Hometown Loop
- Communications - Bellefonte Cruise event street closures
- Mayor - Police Report - February 2014
- Mayor - Police Exonerations - February 2014
- Finance - February 2014 Voucher Summary: \$660,543.29

- Finance - January 2014 Treasurer's Report
- Old Business - Resolution re Banner for Children's Fair

It was requested that the letter from Kim Gasper for Herbie's Hometown Loop and the Bellefonte Cruise event Street Closures be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the Herbie's Hometown Loop letter and the Bellefonte Cruise letter. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the letter for Herbie's Hometown Loop contingent on staff approval, including the Bellefonte Department Chief of the Fire Department and the Bellefonte Police Chief. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the letter regarding the Bellefonte Cruise contingent upon approval from staff from the Bellefonte Department Chief of the Fire Department and the Bellefonte Police Chief. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- An email to Ralph Stewart from Patrick North is in the packets for review.

ORAL

- Joseph Griffin, 133 North Spring Street, had something positive and something negative to say. He commended the Borough for the work that is going on for the pursuit of the Keystone Community Designation. He wanted to place special attention on the economic structuring component of the effort. Today he purchased the last bottle of wine he ever will in the Borough because the State Store closed and will open outside the Borough limits. He feels business retention needs to be an essential component for the Borough because there seems to be one business a month lost.

- Robert Keal, 241 North Penn Street, is an architect. He thanked Council for allowing him to speak on the importance of Building Code Enforcement. He read from his notes on the importance of Code Enforcement and the duties of a Code Official. He reviewed the major fires in Bellefonte in the past ten years and the cause of the fires. He encouraged Council to select a third-party agency that will rigorously enforce the current building codes, especially with regard to fire safety.

Mr. DeCusati reminded Mr. Keal that there is still the position of Code Enforcement Officer. The position has not been eliminated and the plan is to continue to rigorously enforce the codes. The person in the position resigned and the Borough is seeking to find an appropriate person for that position.

Mrs. Dunne stated the first Fire Protection Task Force was created by people outside the Borough and that could not be an ongoing task force. Some of their

recommendations were implemented. The current Task Force is about ready to give a report with some recommendations.

- Jim Day, 105 South Allegheny Street, is having trouble on the main highway. Signs are not put up, winter is over, and cars are not stopping in the middle of the road letting people go by. There are old people who live in the Brockerhoff and people do not stop for them. Someone is going to get killed and they want something done there because the cars are not stopping for them.

Mr. Day was referring to the crosswalks. Mr. Stewart stated the signs will be put up in April when the Borough is sure that winter is over because PennDOT will run them over if it snows even a tiny bit. Mayor Wilson will ask the Police Department to do more enforcement in that area.

Mr. DeCusati stated drivers need to drive slower, pay more attention to the signs and pedestrians walking because more people are out in the nicer weather.

- Mrs. Dunne complimented Ralph and Don on the very nice orientation tour that was given on Saturday. It included Karen Harvey, Barry Spicer and Mrs. Dunne. They visited a lot of very important sites that appealed to all of their senses. She stated it was very well organized and she appreciated the time they spent with it.

Mrs. Harvey wishes the Borough residents could take that tour. She feels there would be far fewer complaints about taxes if they saw the magnitude of that wastewater management program.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The March 12, 2014 Draft IDA Meeting Minutes are in the packets for review.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported April 2, 2014 will be the first day of grass and brush collection and will continue every Wednesday through fall.

- Mayor Wilson reminded residents to clean up after their dogs when they have them out walking.

- Mayor Wilson and Mr. Stewart did the WBLF radio show this morning and it went well.

- Mayor Wilson followed up with Streets to be sure they contacted Gary Hoover. Mr. DeCusati called, but he wasn't in the office. Mayor Wilson talked with Renee Brown and she had been in contact with Ed Bowman. Mayor Wilson also wanted to be sure something is being done with the Lamb Street thing. Mr. Schneider reported the Lamb Street property is not an issue for Building & Property because they take care of Borough Building & Property. This has been referred to staff to take care of it with respect to ordinance enforcement and zoning. Mr. Schneider requested that ordinance

enforcement and zoning come back to the next Council meeting with a report of where things are in respect to the property and how much money is owed on the property.

- Mayor Wilson informed Council that the Downtown Youth Center that is currently located in the Temple Court Building is looking for a new home because of the upgrade of the Temple Court Building. They will be asked to be out of that facility for approximately two years. They are looking for a facility that has a small kitchen.

- Mr. Beigle reported all the town residents should have received the town newsletter and he encouraged everyone to save the insert that has important dates on it. He said the newsletter is a job well done.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- None.

HARB

1) 430 East Linn Street: An addition on the side of the house where there currently is a side porch.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 430 East Linn Street as recommended by HARB. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB Draft meeting minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - Mr. Schneider reported the Building & Property Committee met with representatives from Bellefonte Little League. They have proposed modifications to the field location just off of 5th Avenue. The modifications are an extent of removing brush, clearing an area and replanting it as grass. They request that the Borough make a joint application with them for a NPDES permit.

Mr. Schneider made a motion that the Borough enter into the joint agreement with the Bellefonte Little League. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. The Little League is paying all fees. There is a copy of the permit in the Borough Building. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion in the absence of a building code official to allow Ralph Stewart and Don Holderman to act as Building Code Officials with regard to the Property Maintenance Code until Council appoints another code official. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. Mr. Schneider stated Council has the legal right to do this. A voice vote was unanimous.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne reported in comparing the 2014 expenses to the 2013 expenses she noted under the Highway Aid fund that less has been paid for snow and ice removal this year than last year.

- Mrs. Dunne reported the Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 18, at 3:00 p.m. with Centre County Library representatives to discuss general economic situations.

PARK AND RECREATION - No report.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer reported the Borough received eight letters of interest and resumes for the Treasurer's position. The HR Committee will meet before the April 7th Council meeting to discuss this.

- Mr. Holderman, Mr. DeCusati and Mr. Spicer will be going to the 32nd Annual PELRAS Conference, which is Wednesday, March 19 through Friday, March 21.

SAFETY - Mr. Stewart reported there was a list of unpaid Fire Safety Permits that has been reviewed and information will be sent out again to get everyone to pay.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported the daily water withdrawal is at the average withdrawal. He encouraged Council members to read the articles about water in the magazine from the PSAB. He stated the quality of water in Bellefonte is outstanding.

- Mr. Beigle reported the Notice of Source Water Protection Plan Completion was received.

- The new garbage truck has been put into service. Mr. DeCusati stated the refuse men have been doing a fine job, especially during the frigid winter mornings. Mr. Holderman stated because of the winter we have had the refuse department will continue to pick up ash for another month.

- Mr. Beigle reported the landfill will be open the end of the month.

- Mr. Halderman read a sentence from the Source Water Protection Plan..."the Bellefonte Borough Water Authority personnel involved with the development of the source water protection program are to be commended for taking this proactive step to ensure the quality of drinking water for the community."

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati reported the Streets Committee met recently and discussed the Streetscape Project bid. The changes discussed by Council over the last few months have been incorporated into those bids with the exception that any changes recommended by PennDOT would need to be added. The committee reviewed all the bids thoroughly.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to recommend to Council that the bid be awarded to John Nastase in the amount of \$279,951.10, which includes Alternate #1, #2, and #3. There is a recommendation for one minor change, which is to pull out of the bid and the request for bid the inspection process. The Borough will handle the inspection process and will get a credit from Nastase Construction for that. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Streets Committee reviewed the intersection of McAlister and High Street and laid out a direction for the lengths that the no parking zone will be extended for visibility. The Borough will wait for the proper season to paint the curb before that happens.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Ms. Harvey and Mrs. Dunne will be attending a Storm Water Management workshop on Wednesday, March 19. The workshop will cover several topics of present and future interest to the Borough such as "How to Implement Green Infrastructure"; "How it can be Financed"; and "New Opportunities for Establishing Storm Water Authorities."

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT - The graduation date is June 12. That date has been frozen. Occasionally classmates ask what it is like to serve on Council.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Schneider nominated Gay Dunne to be the delegate and Ralph Stewart to be the alternate delegate for the PSAB Annual conference. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion that Ordinance #03172014-01 be approved by the Bellefonte Borough as submitted. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. The ordinance has a maximum amount, but that does not mean that amount will be borrowed. There is no prepayment penalty. Mr. DeCusati has not seen a Borough plan for this and is concerned about approving the expense. Mr. Schneider stated the Building & Property Committee has requested that staff put together an RFB for that professional, but they also felt that the value of the property was such that if the Borough felt it needed to divest themselves from the property the property itself would pay for the debt itself. The Borough is not incurring debt beyond the property value. Mr. Stewart stated the state had very specific terms including a specific time frame for purchasing the property. The original plan was to lease it first, but it didn't work out that way so this is the only option at this point. The motion passed with Mr. DeCusati giving a dissenting vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Stewart met with the Health Insurance Administrators. Several years ago a new arrangement was entered in where if there was a surplus based on premiums paid in versus claims paid out that money would come back. For 2013 there is a surplus of approximately \$79,000.00. That will be reinvested into the health care expenses. Mr.

Schneider requested that before payments are lowered, staff examine that investment to be sure it cushions increases over the long haul. Mr. Stewart stated that is what is done.

- Mayor Wilson reported the streetlight is out in front of 623 East Bishop Street, his house. Mr. Holderman stated there are a few that have been going off and on around town.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 17, 2014 at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.