

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2017 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823

www.bellefonte.net

**6 p.m. Building and Property Committee Meeting – High Street Land Purchase;
Real Estate Brokerage Firms.**

6:30 p.m. Work Session

- PAWS and Hundred Cats Foundation – trap and neuter release program
- Talleyrand Park Projects - funding

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Mr. Brachbill at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Mayor Wilson swore in Ms. Lake, the new Council member. Members welcomed her to Council.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randall Brachbill
Renee Brown
Melissa Hombosky
Doug Johnson
Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Courtney Dickman
Taylor Lake
Mayor Tom Wilson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joe Beigle
Gay Dunne

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

GUESTS: Andy Dressler, Walsh Granite
Mike Bloom, Centre County, MPO
Chris Scottish, PennDOT District 2-0
Paul DeCusati
Holly Foy, resident
Scott Rhoat, Bellefonte EMS

CONSENT AGENDA:

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered 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 the March 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes
- Minutes – Approval of the March 27, 2017 Special Council/IDA Meeting Minutes
- Communications – Letter request from S. Corman re: Pavilion 12 at Governor’s Park for Ethel Beaver 5K Race
- Communications – Letter request re: Lions Club Annual Rib Sale
- Communications – letter request re: Arts and Crafts Festival

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the consent agenda minus the Minutes.

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Minutes were pulled and revised.

Ms. Hombosky moved to approve the Minutes of the regular Council meeting dated March 20, 2017, as revised;

Ms. Dickman seconded the motion.

Motion carried,

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the Minutes of the joint Council/IDA Meeting dated March 27, 2017, as revised;

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;

Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

WRITTEN:

Thank you letter from Spring Township Police Department – This letter thanked Bellefonte Police Department for assistance in a March 17 incident.

Email Request for CATA re: Use of the Armory – Request to store 30 busses on armory property from May 8 to August 18 during their construction project. (moved to New Business).

Email from Sen. Corman re: Chronic Waste Disease Seminar – An FYI regarding a seminar on April 4 at Bald Eagle High School.

Letter from H. Keen – Holly Keen tendered her retirement as of March 30.

Letter from E. Stewart – (owner, former Café on the Park). Concerns about the Talleyrand Park restroom being closed off-season. This issue will be turned over to the Park and Recreation committee. Perhaps a year-round opening of the restroom can be considered with some minor restroom modifications.

Request by Bellefonte High School Boys' Lacrosse Team – request to use Governor's Park soccer field. Mr. Stewart suggested a conditional approval of this request contingent on no prior reservations approvals by Council to other groups on dates requested. A Certificate of Insurance needs to be provided as well.

Ms. Brown moved to approve the request of the Bellefonte High School Lacrosse Team, conditionally based on prior Council approval to other groups, and requested insurance certification;

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;

Motion carried.

ORAL:

PennDOT Construction Projects:

Andy Dressler and Chris Scottish

Project detours are discussed. Regarding the project in Spring Township at Route 144 by Allegheny Street, the intersection needs to be closed. There are significant safety issues at this project site. In working with the Borough the detour was adjusted and everyone will

be detoured at High Street, to 150 to 144 and bring back around. Only the intersection will be closed for the bridge rebuild.

PennDOT Linn Street project is similar but starts higher at West Linn Street.

Schedule driven by utility relocation. At this point, the tentative scheduled runs May and June 2017 for 5-6 months. Detours will be in effect from start to end. The work schedule is 5 days a week (Hawbaker is doing the work). Four ten-hour days or six eight-hour days work schedule is anticipated. End of September completion date is anticipated if work starts in May. No guarantees can be made.

Truck test was done on April 3 at High and Water Street. Truck turns were able to be made and a stop bar would need to be moved back 6 to 8 feet. Suggestion is to run trucks straight through from High Street Bridge, with the same detour before. Stray truck issue was discussed briefly as well as the detour start. Residents of Linn Street will still be able to park there as local traffic only. There is preferred no pedestrian access down the hill. Signage is preferred to block the sidewalk. Most homes on West Linn park on the street. Access to parking is important. There may be no parking on spring and Linn for about 6 weeks due to equipment parking. Equipment will not be staged off site. Some sidewalk patching work will be done, but no replacement. Stormwater issues have been addressed. Street light project is a separate project.

Emergency personnel are notified of detours in the area. Press release is sent out three weeks in advance and a public meeting was already held relative to this project.

Holly Foy at 246 West Lamb questioned the noise, dust and shaking and if residents would be given any information on this. Letters are sent out 1,000 of wherever work is performed. The letters go out from the contractor directly.

Danny Eisenhower will be the PennDOT inspector on site full time. Any questions can be directed to him or he will direct them to the proper channel.

A final note, Route 144 will not be closed, only the intersection with Allegheny. The intersection of West Curtin Street with 144 will be open.

MPO Report

Paul DeCusati and Mike Bloom

Mr. Bloom continued reporting on the MPO. County commissioners are suggesting adding a \$5 fee on vehicle registrations. That money will generate funds for use in municipalities. That money will be used in a lot of matching grants for local projects. This was also discussed at the Nittany Valley Planning Commission meeting. It met mixed reviews. If Bellefonte is in favor of this, an ordinance should be adopted addressing same.

PennDOT came up with \$300,000 to assist with the safety study for safety improvements around Exit 161 off I 80. Asking Nittany Valley to have a study done, which is taking place now. This is a hazardous area which needs improvement. Council supported this and that helped secure the funds. To date, 19 of 35 municipalities have responded; 12 in favor 6 opposed. Public meetings were held, the last one to be held here in Bellefonte at the Courthouse, this Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Scott Rhoat, director of Bellefonte EMS spoke briefly. Updated fact sheet was handed out. Stats were presented. 50 percent increase in call volume in the past 10 years. Paratransit numbers are down. Equipment replacement and costs was briefly discussed. Personnel and wages were also discussed. Average is \$10.33 per hour. This year's budget is \$1.2 million.

Phoenix Avenue construction is also a concern of the emergency personnel. Not concerned about their property but are concerned about their building and functionality. The street is very narrow. Truck traffic was discussed. EMS vehicles will be delayed due to traffic sitting on Phoenix Ave. or vehicles existing out of the new plaza on the corner. Parking needs have increased as well. Moving some dumpster and filling in some grassy area may create four parking spaces and then parking between the Match Factory in between buildings, two more may be able to be created. Parking getting really tight. This has come up in the past with the Borough staff. Bellefonte EMS is more than willing to move from the location if possible. Would like to get out of the flood plain as well. Coverage area may shrink if a move is made. The armory property would be a great long term improvement to the EMS function, if it would come up for use.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Bellefonte to Milesburg Trail – Mayor thanks the County for taking this project on. Moved ahead and picked an engineering firm. Eight proposals were received. \$85,800 total project. A lot of work to be done by the consultant. Hoping for a “go to” destination in the future for fly-fishing and other areas of interest.

April 15, 2017 will be the **Bellefonte Easter Egg Hunt**. 15,000 eggs will be put out with lots of prizes. The hunt is sponsored by local businesses. It is held at the Talleyrand Park. Begins at 1 p.m. rain or shine.

Chief Weaver, Report- A part time officer from Indiana County wants to relocate to this area. He is No. 2 on the list of hirees. The proposal is to get him on board to assist the department.

Centre County Board of Police Chiefs meet once a month. All chiefs from all over the area meet over breakfast and discuss issues around the region. Guest speakers often come in to speak. AEDs, Narcon policy was reviewed. Bellefonte has not had to use the Narcon, although the Borough has had several overdoses. The opioid problem was discussed. The issue is dealt with on a daily basis in the Borough and throughout the County.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

ZONING/PLANNING:

Planning Commission meeting minutes March 20 and March 27, 2017 have been received.

HARB: Mr. Stewart presented the application for a free standing sign at 101 South Spring Street has been received. The signage will be refreshed. HARB recommended approval of the sign. The company is in the IT business.

**Ms. Hombosky moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 101 South Spring Street signage;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion.
Motion carried with one opposing.**

Draft meeting minutes were received from the HARB March 28, 2017 meeting.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY:

Ms. Dickman reported on the committee meeting held on April 3, 2017. Decided to schedule a joint meeting with the IDA to discuss the RFP and three bids received regarding the proposal of the sale of the properties at the water front property and marketing those properties. This will be held prior to the next Council meeting.

Mr. Stuart will also be contacted relative to the purchase of property next to the winery. Also, Ms. Tosti-Vasey received an email regarding some community charging stations. Two Borough members are attending a meeting on April 13 in Harrisburg regarding funding from the VW Clean Air Act Civil Settlement through the PADEP ZEV fund. More information will be obtained at that meeting.

The building site at the corner of Phoenix and Water Street was briefly discussed relative to parking. This parking issue was moved on to the Streets Committee.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE:

Ms. Brown reported that the auditors have completed their in-house audit.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Ms. Hombosky reported that there is a spot picked out at Governor's Park for the Liberty Swing. Location and funds were discussed. April 6 at 4 p.m. they are meeting at the park to do a site visit to see the exact location, parking, access street. Goal is to have this fully ADA compatible.

The Talleyrand Park Committee met on March 30 to discuss a policy on donations. It was decided that cash donations only going forward would be accepted at least for Talleyrand Park. A brick fundraiser was discussed. Options will be explored.

The pickle ball court was discussed. Randy Hoffmann will work with Rodney on helping line the court and the crew will paint. The court will be in contrasting color to tennis.

Temporary No Fishing Signs at the water front was discussed. The temporary signs were installed. They are very tiny and are located coming down the steps. Less people were observed fishing.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported that interviews were held for the mechanic's position. Two persons were interviewed. Job was offered to Randy Neff. He accepted and will be starting on April 17.

Nepotism policy was discussed. A report was received from the Borough Labor attorney. There are some changes recommended.

Friday three positions were announced – Zoning Planning Coordinator, HARB coordinator, and one BelleKey Coordinator. Jobs are currently posted under the H.R. tab on the website. Recommended that jobs be posted on the front page of the website.

New website should be up and running by the end of the month if possible. Issues with browsers, etc...in particular with the employment application.

SAFETY:

Mr. Brachbill indicated that modifications were made to the Borough Policy Handbook. These had been approved. These pages should be replaced in the policy books.

WATER/SANITATION:

Mr. Stewart reported that there is a tentative meeting for tomorrow evening, April 4 at 6 p.m. Most likely there will not be a quorum. The meeting will be held anyway to get updates. There is one vacancy on the Authority. The Nestle water proposal may be discussed at that meeting.

STREETS:

Mr. Johnson reported on the streets committee. The unordained streets issue was discussed on March 31 with the solicitor. Mr. Stewart reported that the opinion is that the Borough has no ownership of these ROWs and no responsibility. It falls back on the resident to take the initiative. A few ways were recommended. A legal process can be stated to obtain ownership of that ROW. Our solicitor can guide someone through, but the Borough would not pay the cost of this. The Borough is not responsible for these unopened, unordained ROWs that may exist on paper. Somewhat owned by an ancestor of whoever laid out that part of town. The Borough has some utilities in these ROWs. In those cases, there may be an interest in obtaining an easement on those ROWs sometimes referred to as paper streets.

Art museum parking was discussed. There was research done by staff relative to giving spaces to other organizations in kind. This has not been done. To stay consistent, the museum is not being offered two spaces and this is the recommendation of the streets committee. Council members didn't think it was a good idea. Ms. Dickman was not opposed on discounting parking, but not free parking. Sundays they are packed with visitors from out of town. Ms. Dickman understands Council's apprehension.

Ridge and High Street issue. Going to go forward with line painting but some one way street possibilities were discussed previously. There are some ideas on how to do the one way street change. A survey will be done with the residents after a plan is devised, if a one way street is decided on. The "proceed with caution" signage was discussed. This may eliminate the one way street idea.

Raingarden at High Street – keep it in line with the light post but move it (the post) about a foot to the East on High Street. This was agreed to before. The concrete sidewalk issue will be left alone. There is no ADA issue with this.

Stormwater on North Spring and Simpson Street issue – a resident called the office and would like to meet with Don Franson, Mr. Stewart or Mr. Halderman and would like all residents to know the plan.

The parking spaces previously discussed on Thomas Street will be accommodated by adding spaces instead of squeezing in five spaces to resolve the parking issues during events and with the residents. We will add give spaces to the extra roadway. This issue has come up a few times.

April 5 begins brush collection.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION:

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Linda Magro, new transcriptionist – the minutes were discussed. Minutes do not need to be approved and were put into the packet for a comparison.

Open Building Code Proposals – Mr. Holderman discussed the building code proposals which were due today at 4 p.m. Two were received, one from Keystone Inspection and one from Centre Region Code. These will be distributed before the special meeting scheduled for April 24 at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Stewart suggested trying to get the two companies in at the next Council meeting on the 17th.

A County/Borough Town Hall Meeting was discussed. Mr. Stewart indicated that the date will be June 8.

NEW BUSINESS:

CATA's request to house 30 busses at the armory was discussed. They request to park the busses for three months. Marketing of the property was discussed. Payment was raised, possibly a rental payment for that period of time. 30 busses was considered quite a bit of busses. Something will be brought back to the next meeting relative to a possible rental fee.

Mr. Stewart provided a listing of Borough seminars coming up.

Council contact listing was also provided at the table.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Brown moved to adjourn the April 3, 2017, Council meeting;

**Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.**