

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
May 4, 2015
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: Brachbill, Brown, DeCusati, Halderman, Harvey, Spicer, Walker

Members Excused: Beigle, Dunne, Li

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

Staff Present: Chief Weaver

Guests: Eric Bernier

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 April 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Finance - Approve McQuaide Blasko Invoice

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

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A news release from Joleen Hindman, Area Manager, FirstEnergy Corp., West Penn Power, reminding homeowners and contractors to dial 8-1-1 three days before beginning a job that requires digging to avoid hitting underground electrical cables and other utility installations. Mr. Halderman noted that there was an incident in the Borough last week with a contractor that did not call 8-1-1 before beginning the job.

- A letter from Louwana S. Oliva, General Manager, CATA, with information on the CATA FY 2015/16 Budget - Local Match Shares.

- A letter from Lanny and Christine King, 1231 Parkwood Drive, regarding the condition of Parkwood Drive and questioning whether the street would be repaved in the near future.

This will be turned over to the Streets Committee for review and recommendation.

- A notice from West Penn Power that they will be performing tree trimming and removal, brush clearing and herbicide application, as needed along electric line rights-of-way. Their contractor is Asplundh Tree Experts. If a resident has a question about this, they should contact West Penn Power.

- Information from the Boroughs Associations Conference in regard to the resolutions that were approved at the conference is provided in the packets for Council members to review. Mr. Halderman reported Bellefonte's resolutions were not approved by the Steering Committee or the Resolution Policy Committee. He talked with the Executive Director about that and learned that people were confused and didn't understand the resolutions. Mr. Halderman informed him that they would be resubmitted next year with more detailed information.

- Information regarding PSAB Webinars was provided in the packet. On May 6, 2015, there will be a webinar "The Role of an Effective Council President." On May 20, 2015, there will be a webinar "The Benefits of an Effective Planning Commission."

- An email was received from the Appalachian Regional Commission regarding the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. They are requesting information on their strategic planning process. There will be a meeting on Thursday, June 11th, in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

- There is information from Janet Fleming in regard to consulting services that they offer.

ORAL

- Louwana S. Oliva, General Manager, CATA, addressed Council to answer any questions they may have regarding the 2015-2016 Local Match Shares Budget. For Bellefonte the Operating Share is \$17,407.00 and the Capital is \$4,098.00. Ridership on the two Bellefonte routes is up. Last year it was 13.4%, and they expect it to be up another 4.6% this year. They are finding that most of the ridership is circulating among the different communities along the route. CATA Ride, the service for older adults and people with disabilities is not part of the formula for the local share, but that does come along with the routes. In the last three months there have been 629 CATA Ride trips in the Bellefonte area.

The question was raised if the bus is circulating residents between the communities why is there such a discrepancy between Benner Township's portion and Bellefonte Borough's portion. The way the local share is done is based on the miles in each community and more of the miles take place in Bellefonte Borough. 37% of the ridership on the XP is from the Borough. On the XT Route (Pleasant Gap) about 16% of those trips are people coming or going from Bellefonte. CATA added a complete and a half trip on the route.

Council approves the Local Share Match, not what routes and trips are done. That is done on a regional basis. Each dollar that comes in for Local Share Match equates to almost \$10 of state funding that comes into the region.

Council members feel they should have the option to approve or deny trips. It was explained that perhaps informal discussions have happened in the past where Council was asked about routes, but the local share is not necessarily tracked with service. There have been years when service was added to Bellefonte and the local share has gone down. The Local Share is not associated with the trips. The total CATA budget requires a minimum local share of approximately \$550,000.00. The way the participating municipalities divide that amount is by how many miles of service are in each municipality. It is an imperfect solution.

They were commended for increasing ridership 13% but Council feels an increase of 16% is very high. CATA will provide Mr. Stewart with a ten-year look at the Local Share so Council can see that there are peaks and valleys. If there is sensitivity to adding trips, it was felt by CATA that they could reach out much earlier in the planning process with the Borough staff.

The County contributes \$2,000.00 to the route, and they pay the Borough directly. CATA tracks ridership on a daily basis. Council was asked not to view the Local Share strictly through the number of people that ride the bus because it is based on mileage.

- Mr. Brachbill wanted to revisit a couple things. The banners in the Historic District downtown are permitted to be there thirty days. He feels they hang there longer than the permitted time.

Mr. Brachbill had a question about the Temple Court Building. He mentioned that previously there was an announcement that there would be no retail space, and he would like to know what changes will take place there. Mr. Stewart stated the storefronts will be used for County offices and the outside changes have gone through

the HARB process. They met with the contractor a week ago, and there will be work done on the exterior windows, cleaning the brick, etc. There will be a lift in that area. They will cover the sidewalk so pedestrians will be able to use the sidewalk.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. DeCusati reported that the CCMPO Coordinating Committee meeting was this past week. The State Transportation Commission is working on their twelve year plan and they would like to get input from the public about that plan. Their website is www.talkpatransportation.com. Residents are encouraged to visit the website and provide feedback about what projects they would like to see PennDOT do over the next twelve years. Some projects being looked at are the improvements coming over 322. They have not finished the Bellefonte Bypass. Public feedback is very important.

SR144 is being repaved. Work has already begun in Milesburg with the bridge and it will continue through Bellefonte. They will know in a week or two when they will move into downtown Bellefonte. The Linn Street project is still on the schedule. That portion will be skipped during the SR#144 repaving and probably be completed in about a year.

SEDA-COG would like the public to be reminded that they should not be walking on the railroad tracks and especially they should not wear ear buds around the tracks because they will not hear a train. Since 1997 more people have died walking on railroad tracks than in vehicles.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported that he and Council President Halderman were on the Jerry Fisher Show on WBLF this morning. They tried to fill the citizenry in a little bit about some of the activities that will be going on in downtown Bellefonte this summer.

Mayor Wilson thanked the Borough for allowing him to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs conference along with Council President Halderman and Assistant Borough Manager Holderman. They had a fine time and split up the workshops to cover a lot of ground while they were there. The fall Conference of Boroughs will be at Seven Springs in October. He feels it is a very worthwhile conference. There were a lot of workshops targeted specifically for mayors.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- Planning Commission draft meeting minutes from April 27, 2015, are in the packet for review.

The question was raised as to what the discussion in the minutes regarding street level retail and residential was about. The Planning Commission can review a zoning ordinance and make recommendations to Council. That is part of what they do.

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1) 109 & 111 East Bishop Street - to approve installation of the awnings, black cloth with the address on the awnings above the doors and the awning above the windows.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB draft meeting minutes from the April 28, 2015, meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - No report.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - No report.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mrs. Brown was absent at the last meeting and did not realize something was sent to Park and Recreation for review. Mr. Holderman said it was not urgent but the committee needs to begin reviewing it before next year.

- Mr. DeCusati reported that the staff maintains the field. He suggested implementing a system where the teams that use the fields volunteer to help with the fields to reduce cost. Many man hours are spent to maintain the fields, so perhaps it is time to explore what other municipalities do to maintain the fields. If they do not want to volunteer, perhaps a small maintenance fee could be charged to help maintain the fields.

- The water fountains need to be turned on in the parks.

- Mrs. Brown reported the Big Spring Festival will be held in Talleyrand Park on May 17th from 12-4:00 p.m. They will be stocking fish that weekend and there will be lots of activities.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer reported there was a Human Resources meeting to interview for the mechanic position. This was the final three. The decision was made, and the candidate will be notified.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill reported they attempted to have a meeting to discuss the '98 Fire Prevention Review Plan on April 26th, but it got cancelled due to an emergency call. The next meeting for that will be Sunday, May 31st, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

WATER AND SANITATION - The Community-wide Yard Sales are May 15th and 16th. Riff-raff collection will be the week of May 18th - 22nd. There is information on the

Borough website about what will be collected. Per the ordinance, one small pickup load will be permitted for each residence. This is for Bellefonte residents only.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati reported the street cleaning is nearly completed. He feels the town looks good considering the hard winter we had.

- Ameron Construction will begin the work on Lamb Street redoing the entire road and repairs to the sewer/drainage system on May 11th. The work will last until approximately June 17th. During this time Lamb Street and the intersection will be closed, so please expect some rerouting and delays in that area.

- PennDOT will be paving SR#144 so line painting will not be done downtown until that work is done. Mr. Holderman reported the line painting done on Bishop Street and Allegheny Street was part of the Streetscape Project.

- There was a retaining wall on Reynolds Avenue that was repaired.

- All the residential handicap parking signs were audited. They will be monitored.

- The intersection curbs with the SR#144 paving will be rebuilt. Handicap access will be done in those intersections.

- Mr. Holderman reported the stoplight at the intersection of Allegheny Street and Bishop Street will possibly be repaired next week sometime so it does not stay red in both directions.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Mr. Holderman, Ms. Harvey and Megan Tooker will be attending a Shade Tree Commission conference at Penn State the end of this month.

- Mr. DeCusati said some residents have trees that are no longer small and the roots are beginning to bulge out of the sidewalks. The recommended solution is to bring in an arborist to examine the tree and give a recommendation. His neighbor is a landscape architect, and she provided him with an article. One of the solutions is when they get too big for the spot to take them out and plant small trees. Ms. Harvey cautioned residents that you cannot just cut down trees in the Borough right-of-way without approval or you would pay a fine.

JUNIOR COUNCIL - No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to write a letter opposing the Statewide Consolidation of Municipal Pension Plans. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve as submitted Ordinance 05042015-01, an Ordinance of the Borough of Bellefonte amending the Codified Book of ordinances, Chapter 530 Vehicles and Traffic. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Information was in the packet regarding Parkmobile, Parking Made Simple. It is a program where you can set up an account on your cell phone or smart phone and add money to your parking meter electronically or by phone. You would get a notice when your meter is going to expire. It is used in State College. You would not have to change out the parking meters. It would work with all the local ordinances.

This was turned over to the Streets Committee for review and recommendation.

- A memo was included in the packet in reference to request for proposals from General Liability, Auto, Workers Comp, etc., and Health Insurance.

This will be discussed in a work session.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. DeCusati made a motion to adjourn the meeting of May 4, 2015, at 8:37 p.m. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.