

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 19, 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, Brachbill, Brown, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Schneider, Spicer,

Members Excused: Li, Ramish,

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Gary Hoover; Chuck Kormanski; Scott Rhoat;
Sue Hannegan, Sarah Walter, Bob Jacobs, CCPCDO;

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 May 5, 2014 meeting minutes.
- Mayor - Exonerations
- Mayor - Police Report
- Finance - April 2014 Treasurer's Report
- Finance - April 2014 Voucher Summary: \$647,271.47

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. The May 5, 2014 meeting minutes were removed for a correction. A voice vote was unanimous.

On the May 5, 2014 minutes there was a presentation under the Oral Comments by Beth Whitman from Belle Market concerning the parking request. Mr. Brachbill voted "no" rather than Mr. DeCusati. Also Mr. Spicer was present and Mr. Schneider was excused.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A fax from Donna L. Reese, Secretary, Walker Township, requesting permission from Council to request the assistance of the Fire Company Fire Police for non-emergency traffic control for the Annual Nittany Valley Benefit Auction to be held in Hublersburg on Saturday, May 24, 2014.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the request if it has been approved by Chief Schreffler. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Cory Cunningham requesting permission on behalf of the Pleasant Gap Peppers baseball team to use the baseball field located inside of Governor's Park for the upcoming season. They have coordinated their schedule with the Bellefonte Legion baseball team who also plays their home games at the field.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve the request. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. They must show their certificate of insurance with the Borough listed as an additional insured. A voice vote was unanimous.

ORAL

- Mr. Schneider asked Mr. Stewart to forward an email, which was an opinion piece, reporting the updating of the statewide building code and encouraging municipalities looking at this being an important issue going forward in the gubernatorial election coming up. When they begin considering the 2015 codes, they will probably be stagnated again and by the time it has been completed it will be almost ten years since a code was updated with significant negative affects both in fire and life safety and also in energy savings and other things as far as advances in building technologies that cannot be put in place currently because the codes are lagging.

Mr. Stewart reported it will be in the packets for the next Council meeting.

- Ms. Harvey received a complaint about people parking cars on lawns. She does not want to see that become a trend so she requests that the ordinances be reviewed that forbids that, and if there is not one, then one be created. Mr. Halderman asked her to give the staff the address and it will be investigated.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Brachbill attended the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission meeting on May 15th. The minutes are not yet available but he will share them when he receives them.

- Mr. Beigle attended the airport meeting. He said things are going very well and the long-range planning for the future of the airport is progressing. Ridership is up. Delta will be starting a flight to Chicago in June.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson read an EMS Week Proclamation for the week of May 18–24, 2014 as Emergency Medical Services Week. The theme is EMS: Dedicated for Life. He encourages the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Scott Rhoat, Executive Director and Chief of Bellefonte EMS, thanked the Mayor for the proclamation and the support and recognition that Bellefonte Borough has provided their organization over the years. He hopes that trend continues in the future with cooperative efforts and working together.

Council members thanked Scott for all he does.

- Mr. Stewart stated the Big Spring Festival was very nice.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- None.

HARB

- 1) Centre County Courthouse Walkway - Bollard design CBH12DTL for installation in the pedestrian walkway between the Annex addition and the Courthouse.
- 2) 106 North Allegheny Street - New awning and signage for new Allstate broker.
- 3) 133 North Allegheny Street (Bellefonte Art Museum): Front Entry Way - Use blue stone for the top of the steps with the width of it being 7 ½". If that cannot be found, use concrete, boost it up. Pieces of Limestone will be placed along the edge of the stone on the front, side and back.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve all three Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB Draft meeting minutes from the May 13, 2014 meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - No report.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - No report.

PARK AND RECREATION - No report.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer reported there were twelve resumes that came in for the nuisance officer. The committee will be reviewing those. (Walt Schneider excused himself from this portion of the meeting and sat in the audience.)

There were three third-party inspectors that came in last Wednesday. The Human Resources Committee spent the evening reviewing them. One of the things that sticks out is fire protection.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to contract with Centre Region Council of Governments for code inspection services as per their proposal pending certification from their office. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Mr. Halderman felt from the interviews that in order to make Bellefonte a much safer community the buildings should be up to code. The ISO rate of the Centre Region is very good because they have good inspections there. Mr. Beigle asked the cost. There will be no cost to the Borough. They issue the permits and receive the fees. The fees were comparable. Mr. Beigle stated five people (three contractors and two business people) expressed themselves very vehemently that they are not pleased that the Borough went with Centre Region. Mr. Beigle is disappointed in the fact that this selection was made. Mr. DeCusati stated the Committee did understand that by going with Centre County Code Enforcement, there would be an education process for the contractors that serve Bellefonte citizens. They will see most of the change with this. They have an internal process you go through. If you are not satisfied with that, there will be an appeals board that you will go to. Mr. Beigle said all the nit-picking turns people off and causes an uprising. Some of the criteria to choose was fire protection. There were several fires in Bellefonte and fortunately there hasn't been a fatality. That has to be taken into consideration moving forward. Mr. Spicer feels you need to move forward and be proactive before there is a fatality. Mr. Beigle stated he is for safety. Mr. Halderman stated this is a three-year agreement. COG requested five years, but the Borough took three years. The final details have not been received yet. There will be reports. They will have someone on site in the Borough. The motion passed with Mr. Beigle and Mrs. Brown voting no. Mr. Schneider abstained from voting.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill reported there was a Bellefonte Borough safety meeting on May 14. The minutes will be provided at a later date.

WATER AND SANITATION - No report. Mrs. Dunne wanted clarification on the riff-raff collection. Electronics are included in riff-raff collection.

- Mr. Holderman reported a small water and sewer grant was submitted for \$143,000.00 to the State of Pennsylvania.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati reported the Streets Committee and the Shade Tree Committee had a joint meeting on May 6 to hear a presentation by the County of their proposed new walkway that would be used for the Courthouse Annex entrance.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to accept the County's crosswalk plans as presented with the condition that the County will maintain the crosswalk and the plantings. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. Mrs. Brown asked how wide the walkway is; it is 14' wide. One parking place will be lost, but two parking places will be installed in front of the former Hotel Do-De where the loading zone was. The approach slope for the crosswalk is 8.3. Mr. Schneider has a concern with this regarding ongoing maintenance and plowing. He feels this does not need to be a speed bump and therefore the slope shouldn't matter so those could be lengthened out and lower the slopes so the plow trucks can go over it and not tear it or the trucks up. He also requested the slope be lowered to handicap accessibility heights. The total height of the slope is 4". Mr. Brachbill questioned why there needs to be two crosswalks so close together. Mr. Stewart stated they are creating a campus atmosphere with the main Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex. The County stated they would do the maintenance of this crosswalk. Mr. Spicer questioned why there needs to be a speed bump used. Mr. Stewart stated it provides a little bit more safety for pedestrians. This will be the only entrance into the Temple Court Building and Courthouse Annex after it is constructed. Ms. Harvey asked for the pictures the County provided to Council be given to the Shade Tree Commission. A meeting will be set up for the Shade Tree Commission. The walkway would be built in 2015. A roll-call vote was taken: Beigle - yes; Brachbill - no; Brown - yes; DeCusati - yes; Dunne - yes; Halderman - yes; Harvey - no; Schneider - no; Spicer - no; The motion passed with 5 yes votes and 4 no votes.

- Another Streets Committee meeting will be planned.

- A storm drain is being installed on East Beaver Street and will be completed as soon as possible. This project has been on the burner since last summer. Mr. Stewart reported the property owners came to the Borough last summer requesting this be done. It was suggested that a letter be sent to property owners informing them of work. Mr. Schneider would like the signage policy be reviewed.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - No report.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT - No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Stewart reported he received notice from BASD personnel that the School Board turned down the request to have them take over all expenses and administration related to the crossing guards. Their preference is to keep things as they are. Currently the costs are shared 50/50.

Mr. Schneider requested that appropriate committees begin looking at this issue.

Ms. Harvey questioned if the school board is aware that the Borough does not have to assume any of the expense. If there were less employees the worker's

compensation premium would be reduced. Mrs. Brown suggested putting them on a 1099. There are approximately 5-6 crossing guards.

- Bill MacMath (Spring Township) was appointed as a representative to the MPO tech committee. Jim Heckman (Walker Township) is the alternate.

Mr. Beigle made a motion that Jim Heckman, Walker Township, be appointed the alternate for the MPO. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The online auction is closed. Documentation was provided showing the results of the auction. To date (8/1/13 - 5/16/14) the auction receipts are \$29,109.25. A lot of older vehicles (junk) are still at the landfill. Mr. Schneider commended Borough staff on this. Ms. Hartle does a majority of the work and does a fantastic job.

- Fire Chief Vehicle Replacement - Mr. Stewart reported they went to the state auction and purchased an Explorer. There is a larger Expedition that is rarely used so it was offered to the Fire Company. They had it checked out, and it is more usable for them, and the Explorer is more usable to the Borough. The numbers will be worked out on this. As soon as the title and tag comes for the Explorer, the Expedition can be let go.

NEW BUSINESS

- SEDA-COG is going to begin rehabilitation of the railroad bridge very soon. Mr. Stewart asked the SEDA-COG representative about the possibility of a pedestrian bridge being added to the current bridge. They are open to a pedestrian bridge being added on to the iron bridge. They would prefer any new bridge being placed on the town side of the current structure. In addition, we will try to make a connection over to Reynolds Avenue, which could also be a parking solution for the APS. SEDA-COG does not want anyone in between the iron sides of their bridge. If a walkway is constructed, SEDA-COG wants their area fenced off. The railroad bridge will also be raised 3".

- Mr. Holderman applied for an Industrial Sites Reuse Grant. The Borough received the grant in the amount of \$75,000.00+, which will go toward getting the waterfront properties that the IDA has cleared environmentally. Mr. Holderman was thanked.

- Ms. Dainty talked about Bellefonte's Keystone Community Designation survey. It is being done through the PA Downtown Center. Part of it is for the designation and was on the front page of the CDT. At this point there have been 340 responses. On Friday it will be taken down. You can get to it by going to www.bellefonte.net and click the link on the home page that will take you to PA Downtown Center where the survey is located. Ms. Dainty thanked everyone for taking it. It would be a difficult process to have the survey put on paper.

- Mr. Holderman reported the Union Cemetery Association is seeking volunteers to mow the cemetery a few hours each week. If anyone is interested, call the Borough office. The inmates come on Saturday and do trimming. It was suggested the District Justices be called and be put on the list of community service jobs. Another suggestion would be to call the high school for students to do this for their community service hours.

- Mr. Holderman stated the Borough is planning to bring in four or five Careerlink students. He is developing projects they could do.

- Mr. Halderman reported Sue Hannegan requested he represent the Borough for the unveiling of the James "Billboard" Jackson Historical Plaque. He encouraged everyone to read the plaque.

- Mr. Schneider suggested a posting be placed on the website for volunteers to do research and establish a walking tour to highlight the markers on the website. There are nine or ten markers in Bellefonte. Mrs. Brown reported there is a Chamber Guide that tells where they are.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting of May 19, 2014 at 8:52 p.m. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.