

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 2, 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, Ramish, Schneider, Spicer

Members Excused: Li

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Kevin Lloyd

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 19, 2014 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Thomas Yakich, 371 East Howard Street, in regard to refuse fees and cost structure associated with those. This letter was turned over to the Water/Sanitation Committee for review and recommendation.

- A letter from Donna L. Reese, Secretary, Walker Township, informing the Borough that they agree with the position of Spring Township regarding the MPO and the emphasis of having the I80/I99 Interchange completed prior to looking at SR322 as well as they do not want to see a new SR322 go over Centre Hall Mountain. Council previously sent a letter of agreement.

- A letter of request from Kevin Lloyd, Big Spring Spirits. Mr. Lloyd is present for any questions. He is requesting the use of the extended area of Talleyrand Park for the grand opening of his distillery on August 9.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve this request. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Lloyd will be providing a Certificate of Insurance listing the Borough as an additional insured. Mr. Schneider requested that be added to the motion. Mr. Beigle felt it didn't need to be added because this is customary. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Jennifer Bortz, 619 E. Cherry Lane, requesting a zoning change for the Cherry Lane corridor between Monroe and Wilson Streets. This letter will be turned over to the Planning Commission.

- A letter was distributed to Council members from residents of the 600 block of Bishop Street, but it was more toward the decision of the property line and who should pay in the case of the possibility of an apartment going up. The letters were hand delivered to Council members.

Mr. Stewart stated there was a meeting with residents in regard to a project that is being looked at in the 600 block of Bishop Street, Cherry Lane. Mr. Stewart stated they are double and triple checking the zoning ordinance. If there are zoning changes that would come into play it would be after the fact. The Planning Commission would look at this and consider it and then bring it back to Council for an amendment of the zoning ordinance. The plan is to follow every existing requirement before granting any zoning permits. To date, an application has not been made.

It is recommended that this be added to the books. Mr. Schneider stated this is a customary practice, that it was not on the ordinance but it was incumbent that the property owner who made application for the project must be able to document where the property corners are.

Mr. Schneider made a request that staff write that ordinance piece to be added to the ordinance so it is ready.

ORAL

- Mr. Halderman thanked Tim Schreffler and the Undine Fire Company for their help installing a new flag at the Catholic cemetery using the new ladder truck.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft IDA meeting minutes from May 14, 2014 are in the packet for review.

- The minutes from the Nittany Valley Planning Committee were sent out via email today. Mrs. Dunne reviewed the affordable housing discussion. She questioned the portion that says "and we have assistance for owner-occupied and rental housing." She asked if that would fall under a land trust discussion. Mr. Brachbill stated it would be better to discuss this with someone from the County.

- Scott Russell, Vice-president of Environmental Group, Buchar Horn, gave a presentation of the Waterfront Plan. There will be opportunity to walk from the trail to the stream edge. They opted for a recessed-type lighting to provide lighting on the trails. They just completed the ED Phase. They have completed the hydraulic analysis along this concept. The appropriate and required paperwork has been submitted to the regulatory agencies for review. The permit has been considered to be administratively complete. It has now entered the technical review portion of the process. They are ironing out a few of the final construction document details along with the IDA and will be working toward finalizing the construction documents in the coming months.

The ramps at the Lamb Street end provide ADA access. There will be no handrails at the planted areas. The slope drop-off between that and the stream will be 1' - 3'. The walkway sits back 8' to 10' from the water's edge. The plantings will be native. There are fish habitat changes that are being considered. There is consideration for the possibility of an amendment to the submitted permit application to include some fish habitat elements across the entire length of the project.

Mayor Wilson feels the aesthetics of this are almost institutional. He asked if there is any way to make it aesthetically more pleasing and functional. Mr. Schneider asked if there is any way to build into the wall with planting boxes. Mr. Russell stated the option to step the wall is there. Mr. Stewart stated there is concern over losing square footage but Mr. Schneider is not discussing stepping the entire wall. Mr. Halderman stated there is not a developer on board yet. The fill will be a controlled fill, but not an engineered fill that you would put under a building pad.

The first portion of the June 11 IDA meeting will be open to the public for comments on this project. The meeting will be held on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse Annex on Wednesday, June 11, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a public meeting.

The wall color will match the existing wall. Ready-Rock will bring a portion of the segmental wall and will be placed on site near the red freight building.

There will be two direct access points to the water. Mrs. Brown feels two will not be enough.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reminded the citizens of Bellefonte and surrounding areas of the Annual Bellefonte Children's Fair that will be held on Saturday, June 7, on Curtin and Armor Streets. The funds from this go to playground equipment, and it is headed by the Sunrise Rotary Club.

The annual Bellefonte Cruise will be held June 14 and 15. There will also be a 5k walk on the 15th. You can check out the website www.bellefontecruise.org. There will be a street dance on Friday, the 13th.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- Draft minutes from the May 27, 2014 Planning Committee meeting are in the packet for review.

HARB

1) The Match Factory, fencing of the upper patio at the Big Spring Spirits made with recycled storm drains.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for fencing the upper patio at the Big Spring Spirits. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne commented that right across the railroad from Big Spring Spirits there is an edible landscape garden.

- Mr. Schneider made a motion that the alternate to HARB be referred to the Human Resources Committee. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB draft meeting minutes from the May 27, 2014 meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - Mr. Schneider reported included in the agenda packet is a blog that was written by DVGBC (Delaware Valley Green Building Council) about focusing on why the next governor must update Pennsylvania's Building Codes. One of the reasons the codes are stagnant is new technology and new ideas and some of the corrections to problems that exist in the 2009 codes cannot be used because they are less restrictive. You want to continue to update the codes because they continue to fix problems as they go along, as well as incorporating new technology into the code. Mr. Schneider encouraged Council to continue to put forward a request as they go forward for staying current in the codes. The proactive nature helps in building safety and to fix problems along the way.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to write a letter to the representative at the state level encouraging them to become current with the 2015 codes. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne requested that Mr. Schneider paraphrase the second paragraph where it discusses the cost effective ways of reducing disaster recovery costs. If the buildings are up to date with respect to the building codes, there is anticipated less damage and less recovery costs.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - No report.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mrs. Brown reported the planters have been planted and the park looks very nice. She requested that a thank you letter be sent to the garden club for the plantings of all the planters downtown. There are a lot of visitors and ducks in the park.

The trail at Governor's Park is completed.

New signage has been installed at Masullo Park. The Police Department will provide more enforcement. The temporary fencing has been improved. The ordinance has been reviewed and does not need modified because it clearly states the dog must be on a leash.

Kepler Pool opens June 12. Howard Long, representing the Nittany Valley Recreational Authority, is planning to attend the Council work session on June 16.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer reported the Borough is working to hire a compliance officer and hopefully within the next week or two that will be done.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry has approved the application for Certification Renewal of the Workplace Safety Committee effective July 31, 2014. It saves 5% on workmen's comp.

The Bellefonte Safety Committee draft meeting minutes from the May 14, 2014, meeting are in the packet for review.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported there is an Authority meeting on Tuesday, June 3.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati read the Sign Replacement Policy, which states the Bellefonte Borough's Sign Replacement Policy consists of the replacement of street signs on an as-needed basis, which is at the time when signs are faded or damaged to the extent that they may not be readable. New signs are to have PennDOT-approved reflectivity levels and dimensions in use at the time of replacement.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to adopt the Sign Replacement Policy as read. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. The question was raised whether signs should be replaced when street repairs are being done. Mr. Schneider stated it is intentionally

written this way because it is not meant to handcuff the Borough and make them spend lots of money. Staff has been following this policy even though it has not been in writing before. A voice vote was unanimous.

The Street Committee met this evening. In front of the Bellefonte Market a 15 minute parking space has been installed for a 90-day trial period.

In front of the Bellefonte Twist 15-minute parking meters have been installed. In front of the former State Store on Spring Street the 15-minute meters have been taken out and regular meters have been installed.

Still pending is changing to one-side parking on Logan Street.

The crews will begin painting the downtown streets to prepare for the cruise.

The Committee reviewed several parking ideas that were brought by the Chamber of Commerce and Eric Haupt, the Parking Enforcement Officer. Those and other ideas are being evaluated.

There was discussion previously about right-turn-only at the intersection of Badger and Bishop Street. This will be done.

With the storm last week there were a lot of complaints about storm water run-off. Mr. Holderman will provide this information to the Streets Committee.

Regarding the Streetscape, Mr. Holderman is working with John Nastase to get a schedule so the information can be provided to the downtown business owners.

Anywhere in the Borough where there has been fire hydrant replacements or water line repairs the Borough crew will repair the soil that was disturbed.

Mayor Wilson reported numerous people had questions regarding the trailer that was parked on Bishop Street near the former Campanis store. There was a two-day permit issued for the trailer.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Mr. Stewart stated the neighborhood street lamps are on a five-year re-lamp time frame. There is a potential for the energy bills to go up because a two-year contract ends this year.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT - Nick reported that Bellefonte graduation is Wednesday, June 11th. This will be his last meeting as a junior representative. He felt that this was a very valuable experience. It was an honor for him to be a Junior Council member. He wanted to keep his name tag.

Mayor Wilson thanked Nick for his dedication to the town on behalf of Council and the Borough.

Nick will be attending Penn State University Park.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Solicitation Ordinance was amended. A form has been placed on the website. If anyone wants to get on a "do-not-disturb" list where the general vendors will not be coming to their door, they can sign this form or call the Borough office. Youth and non-profit groups can still come to your door. Go to www.bellefonte.net and go below the calendar on the right-hand side, click on the link and fill out the form. The vendor will receive only your address and are not to go to those residences.

Mr. Schneider wants to know why the name must be included on the form. Mr. Stewart stated there are some exemptions to "right to know".

- The appeal that was pending by the Bellefonte Historical Cultural Association at the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has been denied. The proceeding has ended.

- Mrs. Brown has received phone calls at the Chamber of Commerce asking for the date and time of the fireworks and parade.

The parade is July 5 at 5:00 p.m. Registration starts at 3:00 p.m. at the Logan Fire Company, 120 East Howard Street. Lineup will occur near the High School/old Weis Store location. It will proceed down Bishop Street to Allegheny Street; Allegheny to High Street; High Street to the Park.

There are no fireworks this year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion that the recently released Final Report from the Fire Protection Task Force be approved as suggested. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Mr. Halderman thanked Mrs. Dunne for her hard work on that committee. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart reported there was a meeting with Benecon, the Health Insurance Provider, and reviewed the 2012 and 2013 claims. He will share them with the Human Resource Committee and then with the Finance Committee. There are things that can be looked at in the future in contracts that may reduce some of the premium costs.

- Mr. Stewart reported that a representative with SEDA-COG or an engineer that works with SEDA-COG will be attending a work session before the June 16 Council meeting.

- Mr. Brachbill reported trash is being left behind the old location of the Garman Theatre and Hotel Do-De on Cherry Lane. It is outside the fence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 2, 2014 at 8:40 p.m. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.