

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823

www.bellefonte.net

6:00 p.m. HR Committee

6:30 p.m. Work Session

- CRCS Director
- ELA Group Parking Lot Overview

CALL TO ORDER:

The June 5, 2017 regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by President Gay Dunne at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gay Dunne
Joe Beigle
Randall Brachbill
Melissa Hombosky
Doug Johnson
Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Courtney Dickman
Taylor Lake

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Melissa Brown

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Tom Wilson, Mayor

GUESTS: Brian Miller, ELA Group
Todd Smith, ELA Group
Walt Schneider, CR Code
Emma Gosalvez, The Express

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The May 15, 2017, minutes were revised.

**Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the minutes as revised;
Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.**

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).

No items were brought forth.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Written:

Letter Request from Watermarke Church re: Banners

The church would like to place two 2 x 8 foot banners for one week prior to their September 17 use of the park.

**Mr. Beigle moved to approve the request for banners;
Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.**

Email re: Doggie Poo Station in Front of Museum

Ms. Hombosky suggested putting the mitt muff dispenser across the street from the post office near the grassy area. There are only two downtown. The one from the museum was removed as they were having an event this past Sunday. Mr. Beigle suggested near the new parking area with all of the green space. Staff will check with the library to see if they would mind it being near them. Cost of bags was discussed. Council was okay with the Borough purchasing the bags. If bags are not available, there will be a bigger issue.

CBICC Economic Development Summit Invitation

Invitation to this event to be held June 20 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Email re: Recognition for Appeal to Postgrads

Email recognizing Bellefonte as one of the best places for postgraduates to move to and start a career.

Thank you from Water Resource Monitoring Committee re: Donation

Thank you for the Borough's donation.

Letter from PA State Mayor's Association re: Mayor of the Year

Application for Mayor of the Year award with June 30 deadline submittal. Ms. Dunne nominated Mayor Wilson. Mayor Wilson declined as he wanted some of his projects to come to fruition.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: C-NET presentation

Ms. Candice Dannaker spoke as representative for the Borough on the C-NET board. She thanked the Borough for allowing her to serve on the board. Handout was presented by Cindy Hahn. A brief summary of the 2016 annual year was reviewed which included programming, funding, finances and sponsorship and a brief overview of online viewership. Ms. Dannaker explained her position on the board briefly and the by-law changes. Appointment dates were also discussed by Ms. Hahn. Volunteerism was also discussed. Ms. Dannaker was thanked for her service on the C-NET Board. This position will be added to the ABC application.

Special Committee Reports:

Fire Protection Task Force Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2017 – Mr. Brachbill explained the frequency of these meetings has changed to three a year.

Fire Executive Committee Minutes of May 25, 2017 – A complaint letter was discussed. The HR committee reviewed this letter and will determine if it warrants any investigation. The anonymity of this complaint was discussed.

Safety Committee Meeting dated May 10, 2017

Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission meeting minutes

Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting was held. Ms. Lake and Ms. Tosti-Vasey attended this meeting in May. The Spring Creek Watershed Atlas web-based tool is now live for public use.

Fees may be raised to about 7.5 cents. This funding can be used as leverage for grants. Ms. Dunne commented on how the watershed commission is being revived.

Mayor's Report:

Sgt. Holliday was present for questions.

Mayor Wilson requested that the Mayor's report get moved up in the agenda so as not to hold the police officer sitting in the meeting for an hour. Ms. Hombosky liked that the police were around in the meeting for Oral Public comment.

The transitional house on Linn Street was discussed briefly. Permitting was also discussed. Ordinance allowance of this home was discussed and Officer Holliday can forward questions to the Board. Ms. Dunne requested information on the zoning of the previous facility to see if this facility qualifies as a boarding house and see if there was a grandfathering issue.

Work session meeting time was suggested for new businesses and services to speak with Council and introduce themselves to members so that the public is aware of the new business coming in. Zoning will be verified. Mayor Wilson will forward the email containing the rule and regs of the transitional home to Council again.

**Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to address zoning issue with Borough Solicitor;
Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.**

Mayor Wilson also mentioned that on June 8, 2017, a second joint county/borough meeting will be held at the annex building of the Courthouse.

Office of Community Affairs:

Springboard Business Incubator was opened last Thursday. Ms. Shannon Wright participated. There were three applicants to be considered as members.

HARB Items

Certificates of Appropriateness: 348 E. Linn Street, 128 W. Howard Street, 163 E. Linn Street; Talleyrand Park Expansion

Mr. Brachbill moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 348 E. Linn, 163 E. Linn and Talleyrand Park Extension (pollinator garden) be approved;

**Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.**

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 128 West Howard Street;

**Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried with Mr. Johnson recusing himself from the vote**

HARB Minutes for the May 23, 2017 meeting were presented to Council.

Building and Property

Ms. Dunne discussed the Electric Vehicle Workshop June 6, 2017, from 10-3 at the State College Borough Building.

Mr. Holderman discussed the Armory property and that a hole was punched through the cinderblock portion of the wall. A backhoe accidentally punctured the building. The insurance carrier has been notified. It will be fixed within the next few weeks.

The lease with the Café in the Park was discussed. There was nothing to report.

Finance and Gov't Performance:

Gamble Mill Reimbursement Request – Mr. Holderman discussed the subdivision reimbursement regarding this property. \$15,250.00 is being requested in reimbursement for work done at this property. At closing, this will be made part of the particulars.

Finance Committee Meeting May 24, 2017. The police portion of the budget was reviewed at this meeting. The budget is well within the means as suggested by Council.

Parks and Recreation:

Ms. Hombosky reported on the Krauss Park clean up. Jason Detar from Fish and Wildlife will meet with Parks and Recreation on June 9 at 1 p.m. ADA access and clean-up of the park will be highlighted.

The Governors Park baseball batting cage placement was also discussed with Joseph Menna. A batting cage is being donated and installed next to the field in Governor's Park.

Mr. Beigle moved to accept the donation of the batting cages;
Ms. Hombosky seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.

Thank you to Faith United Methodist Church for painting the bridges in Talleyrand.

The Liberty Swing is in the U.S., waiting to arrive in Bellefonte. There will be a donor plaque and ribbon cutting. There is another meeting this Thursday with the contractors on the site of the swing. Mr. Holderman will confirm the time with Ms. Hombosky.

Mr. Holderman updated Council on the Talleyrand grants. He indicated that the Borough has entered into an agreement with John Conrad, engineer for Seda COG to work on the design for the bridge walkway. That process is going forward.

The DCNR grant phone call was initiated with the grant administrator and the architect. This is on the pergola mud sill and ADA walkway. The mud sill work probably won't happen this summer or late fall as Mr. Holderman had hoped due to bid requirement and contractor scheduling.

Human Resources:

Ms. Tosti-Vasey stated that there is an application for the vacancy position at the Authority. The application (Joseph Falcone) will be held until the next meeting to make sure there are no other applicants.

Karen Bjalme has resigned from the Zoning Hearing Board. There is a vacancy here now. That should be put on the website.

Refuse position is also vacant. This is a paid position. This is on the website. The deadline for application is June 19 at 3 p.m.

The Nepotism Policy was discussed again. All comments were taken into account. The policy on the table is the final draft.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to accept the Nepotism Policy as presented;
Ms. Hombosky seconded the motion;

The current employee and future employee designation was discussed briefly. Mr. Brachbill is not in favor of the policy and finds it to be far reaching. He indicated he felt that many of the paragraphs should not be included. The Ethics Committee financial disclosures were discussed. The purpose of the Nepotism Policy was challenged by Mr. Brachbill. Ms. Lake discussed possibility of family conflicts, i.e., letting a family member

go home earlier than other employees. Ms. Tosti-Vasey indicated that the policy would allow the Borough to be open to the entire community. Ms. Hombosky indicated that she did not think it was right for the Borough to employ entire families. This could happen in the future, although it is not presently an issue. Mr. Beigle interjected that the smaller the area, the bigger chance of people being related exists. Ms. Dunne mentioned that it may be a matter of perspective and opinion. It was the consensus of some that government entities should have a nepotism policy as opposed to companies in the private sector.

Roll Call Vote:

Johnson	Yes
Lake	Yes
Tosti-Vasey	Yes
Beigle	Yes
Brachbill	No
Dickman	Yes
Hombosky	Yes
Dunne	Yes

Motion carried with one nay.

Safety:

Mr. Brachbill discussed the renewal of the workplace safety committee certification.

EMS Meeting May 23, 2017. Good representation was noted. Coverage in the CDT was also noted.

CRCA Agreement was finalized on May 22, 2017. Reports and Attachment A were done and the agreement was fully executed.

Other:

Water/Sanitation.

Mr. Beigle indicated that the Water Authority meeting was postponed for June 6. Mr. Beigle asked that an Executive Session be held on June 19 so that some issues can be brought up.

All remarks and comments are deferred to the 19th.

It was noted in the Daily Water report that the averages are going up. (May 2017).

Riff Raff collection rendered 100 tons. This is averaged out. This is down from prior year.

Streets.

West Linn Street is closed as of June 5, 2017, with completion date in August, 2017. Ms. Tosti-Vasey noted a signage issue. There are temporary detour signs. The one at Linn and North Spring, the detour sign says turn right into the closed road. This needs to be changed. Mr. Holderman will contact the contractor.

Officer Walters brought up the mailbox crossing against traffic issue at the Post Office at the safety committee meeting. This is continuing. Mr. Johnson did not think a sign was needed as crossing over is already against the law. The post office has been asked to move the boxes to the other side of the street. They said no. Mr. Holderman indicated that they can ask again. Council members themselves have experienced an issue with this. Mr. Holderman will do a letter putting in another request to move the mailboxes.

Crosswalk line painting will begin soon. This will occur in the downtown area and work out into the other areas. Centre Crest, at Wilson and Howard, the lines are almost completely gone. Also, at McAllister Street and Howard Street, the lines are almost completely gone.

Residents at North Spring and Simpson Streets are pleased with the stormwater mitigation in the area. We will continue to monitor North Spring Street.

Work at Route 144 and Log Cabin Motors is continuing as far as Mr. Holderman knows. As far as the Borough knows, there is no change in the construction schedule.

South Thomas Street parking (five spaces) is being utilized.

Mr. Johnson reported that the doggie bags and funding for such has been resolved.

Weeds in the curbing and bricks were discussed. No one is certified for spraying in the downtown area.

Humes Street and Monroe Street at the stop sign was discussed. There is some brush hanging and there is a site distance issue pulling out of the stop sign. Hamilton and Humes there is an issue. It is a stormwater management problem. Borough Engineer meeting was requested. Mayor Wilson is aware of this. Water comes from Ripka Lane and comes both directions onto Humes. It lies on the left hand side and runs through what was formerly a woods and down to Hamilton Street (corner of Hamilton and Logan) and prior to curb repairs ran into yards and damaged some basements. It has gotten a little better of the years but is still an issue. A resident at Logan and Hamilton is still getting water in his basement. This is a runoff issue that needs to be addressed. Mr. Holderman will contact Don Franson and set up a meeting.

At the end of Shady Lane and Oak Lane in Parkview, there is some washout at the curb. Mr. Beigle indicated that it is on Oak Lane. There are more areas of washout.

Mount Nittany Medical Center is occupying the new facility and a traffic study was discussed after they occupied with school back in session. This would determine if a light is needed at Parkview Blvd. Grant application prior to September was discussed. Residents were promised that this traffic study would be done. PennDOT would be the grantor. Mr. Johnson would like to begin the process. Mr. Holderman will check to see if the application is open at this time.

Sidewalk going up High Street up from Domino's, bushes are blocking the sidewalk. This occurs twice going up the hill. Mr. Holderman indicated that he has received calls on this and being without an enforcement officer, staff is trying to get out. Letters have been going out with fifteen day notices.

Mr. Holderman wanted to thank the Garden Club and all volunteers for plantings done in the downtown area.

Energy and Environmental Conservation

Ms. Lake indicated that the committee met on May 22, 2017. The Air Pollution and Solar Panel Ordinances were discussed.

Discussion was started on the air pollution ordinance and was modified to include mercury and noxious gasses produced by incinerators. An air pollution control board needs to be reestablished. Air pollution monitoring devices were discussed. Mr. Stewart will set up a meeting with the DEP to inform the committee regarding standards.

The solar ordinance was proposed with changes. Some were historic district specific. Fire safety, visibility, and roofing matter were discussed. Mr. Stewart will schedule a meeting with the DEP Codes Enforcement and a certified solar panel installer on this issue as well to better inform the committee or regulations and inspections. A doodle poll just went out and the committee is waiting for these two meetings to move forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fire Department Relief Fund.

Mr. Holderman reported that the Fireman's relief fund gets about \$70,000 per year in their budget. Additionally, the County contributes \$1,500 per department.

CNET Board of Director Term.

Discussed prior.

Topics for Town Hall Meeting.

June 8, 2017. Agenda not completed at this time. Ms. Dunne will meet with Mr. Stewart to get it finalized. Ms. Tosti-Vasey proposed a resolution regarding the cuts to be discussed at the town hall meeting. Some affect the Borough. Court services are being cut; i.e., probation, juvenile program. The draft resolution will be used to send concern about the budget to the local representatives. More information will be presented on Thursday evening.

Ms. Dickman indicated that the meeting is only posted on the Centre County website. It is not on the Bellefonte website or calendar. The agenda should also be posted on the site. Some topics may include state budget, business incubator, Bellefonte to Milesburg bike trail, opioid epidemic, historic preservation, among other topics, subject to change. Q&A will take place as well.

Mr. Holderman reminded everyone to check the website. Downtown lighting issue needs to be addressed. The sign on the water front is still in limbo and finally, the last application was submitted for the RCAP grant for \$300,000. This has been approved and moving forward. Reimbursement will occur in the next week or so.

Ms. Lake indicated that she checked out the website and had trouble navigating back to HOME.

Mr. Brachbill mentioned the cell towers in the rights of way in PA municipalities. Guidelines have been set.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Ordinance No. 06052017-01 re: Chapter 425 Property Maintenance and Safety.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to pass the ordinance with an amendment to Section 315.1, after the word “space” add the following: “Vegetative growth commonly recognized as having an ornamental purpose shall be permitted.”

Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;

Motion carried via voice vote, with Mr. Beigle opposing.

Mr. Beigle mentioned that the password for the Council packets needs to be changed. He asked that the password be changed to something new due to the change in Council members over the last few years. Ms. Lake indicated that it should be changed often.

Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn;

Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.