

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
June 15, 2015
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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, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Spicer, Walker

Members Excused: Brown, Mayor Wilson

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Walter G. M. Schneider; Shawn P. Weaver; Candace Dannaker

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 June 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Mayor - Police Report - May 2015
- Mayor - Police Exonerations - May 2015
- Finance - May 2015 Voucher Summary: \$1,002,422.18
- Finance - May 2015 Treasurer's Report

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

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- An email from Eric Bruckner, Wireless Made Simple, regarding a parking issue. There was a question regarding reserved spaces in the downtown area.

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

- A letter from Walter G. M. Schneider III, Agency Director, Centre Region Code Administration regarding proposed legislation about Third-party code inspection agencies. Mr. Schneider wanted to clarify that there is an Intergovernmental Agreement within the agency, and the new legislation should not affect the Borough. The CRCA will maintain the records as long as the Borough uses their services. If the Borough no longer uses the services of the CRCA the records would be turned back over to the Borough.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to send a letter opposing the legislation. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Bill Carey requesting closure of the 700 block of West Lamb Street from the intersection of West Lamb Street and Brown Street west to the intersection of West Lamb Street and Hickory Street from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 5, for a neighborhood party.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Mr. Michael Maney, Head Wrestling Coach, Bellefonte Area High School, requesting a waiver of the reservation fee associated with the use of Talleyrand Park and use of the park on the afternoon of July 28th for a wrestling showcase event to help promote the sport in Central Pennsylvania. The Bellefonte Wrestling program has volunteered their assistance in the Borough doing maintenance projects.

Mr. Spicer made a motion that the reservation fee for Talleyrand Park be waived as requested. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne reminded that they would still need to pay the permit fee. A voice vote was unanimous.

ORAL

- Candace Dannaker, C-NET Representative for Bellefonte Borough addressed Council. She thanked Council for using C-NET because it has been very enjoyable. She appreciates being able to view what is going on in Borough Government. She reported 2014 was a very busy year for C-NET. They have a staff of four full-time employees and two part-time employees along with interns from the Penn State College of Communications. They produced 484 programs last year. Ms. Dannaker gave a report of the progress C-NET has made over the last few years.

Cynthia Hahn, Executive Director of C-NET informed Council she provided them the most recent annual report from 2014 and a one-page handout to review Bellefonte Borough's sponsorship of C-NET programs last year. There were 23 sponsored programs, which included the Council meetings and the Logan Volunteer Fire Company 4th of July parade. In 2014 there were 58 bulletin board messages, which counted for 5.8 programs. The Borough's usage is approximately 4.3% of all the organizations using C-NET.

- Walt Schneider, Chief Director, Logan Fire Company, announced he is incredibly proud to present Council with a check for \$10,000.00 to make an additional principal payment on the new fire engine that is housed at the Logan Fire Company, Engine 111.

He thanked Council for their support. He will continue to try to obtain state and federal money to help pay back that apparatus in partnership with the municipalities that are helping pay through tax dollars.

Council appreciates the dedication of the volunteers.

- Mrs. Harvey has received numerous inquiries about the administration and upkeep for the future of the Union Cemetery Association. They recently buried someone in the cemetery and were unsure of the rules and regulations. They were informed there was only one member of the association left.

Mr. Holderman reported there are three members that are fairly active. They meet once a month. The active members are Bill Hughes; Paul Badger; and Jim Baldwin. Mr. Holderman suggested Bill Hughes be contacted with questions since he is the president. Jim has the plans for the lots. They are using volunteers to help with the mowing and trimming. The Borough helps in making sure the cemetery is maintained.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft June 10, 2015 IDA meeting minutes.

- Draft May 21, 2015 NVJPC meeting minutes.

- Draft May 28, 2015 Fire Protection Task Force meeting minutes.

- Draft June 10, 2015 Safety Committee meeting minutes.

- Mrs. Dunne announced that the Spring Creek Watershed Commission will have a meeting on Wednesday, June 17. The special speaker for the meeting will be Don Holderman. He will be speaking about the Waterfront Development Project. It will be televised on C-NET.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mr. DeCusati commended the Bellefonte officers for the fine work they have been doing in checking the doors of businesses.

Chief Weaver recapped that on May 27th one of the officers was on his evening rounds checking doors. They put information together and the arrest was made on Friday.

- Chief Weaver attended Council to answer any questions there on the police report. Council members feel the report provided is very helpful. Mrs. Dunne would like to continue seeing the geographical map.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- None.

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the list of 2015 Sidewalk Inspections so formal contact can be made with property owners. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Walker made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 06152015-01 for a maximum principal amount of \$2,500,000.00, an ordinance authorizing and securing a general fund obligation note to finance on an interim basis the acquisition and improvement of the Waterfront Property for the flood control and public recreation facilities project. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart explained this is a Bridge Loan to cover the cash flow for the Waterfront Project that is being worked on. Once the project is underway the contract will be paid for the work. At the end of the project everything is submitted to the state for reimbursement of the grant funds, which could take up to six months. The loan will help with cash flow while waiting for reimbursement from the state. This would be a two-year interest-only loan. Because of the way the certificate is written there needs to be a verbal vote. Halderman-yes; Harvey-yes; DeCusati-yes; Spicer-yes; Dunne-yes; Brachbill-yes; Beigle-yes; Walker-yes. The motion passed.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne reported there will be a Finance Committee meeting in the near future to plan for a session at Council.

- In looking at the May Treasurer's report, it is 42% through the fiscal year. The receipts are lagging behind and the expenses are lagging farther so things are staying on an even keel. She compared the funds to last year, and one thing she noticed is that the electricity charges are higher than last year. Police expenses are higher also.

Mr. Stewart reminded people that the borough does not operate like a business. The various incomes come at various times throughout the year. Mr. Holderman reported the next Finance Committee meeting will be held before the July 6, 2015, Council meeting. He encourages Council members to send any questions they have. At the Finance Committee meeting, the plan is to review the general fund.

PARK AND RECREATION - The Park & Recreation Committee met and decided the Girl Scouts Little Free Library will be placed near the playground. It will be scheduled soon.

- Bob Lamb reported the Children's Fair was an extreme success this year. They will provide the Borough with an additional \$2,500.00 so there is a total of \$25,000.00 to purchase playground equipment for Governor's Park.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer reported there will be a meeting with the Union Rep in the next few weeks to discuss the union contracts. Mr. Spicer requested there be a meeting prior to this. This will be done before the July 6, 2015, Council meeting during the work session.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill reported the Department of Labor and Industry approved the application for Certification Renewal of the Workplace Safety Committee effective July 31, 2015. This entitles the Borough to a 5% discount in the worker's compensation rates.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported the daily withdrawal shows withdrawals are up a little bit.

- There is an Authority meeting on Tuesday, June 16, at 6:00 p.m. He invited Council members to attend.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati made a motion to pay the Lamb Street Ameron invoice in the amount of \$103,103.99. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. DeCusati expressed his appreciation for the Borough crews for repairing potholes throughout town. He reminded residents that Allegheny Street is a state road, and it is not the responsibility of the Borough to repair the potholes.

- Mr. DeCusati requested the crew check some potholes on Ardell Alley between Water Street and Spring.

- There was a letter from a resident requesting that part of Ridge Street be made one way. This will be discussed at a Streets Committee meeting.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Ms. Harvey reported that she and Mrs. Dunne will be attending the PSAB webinar on zoning. They will try to get some information about zoning as it relates to solar panels and solar energy.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 06152015-02, Chapters 425, 482, 495, and 575 and to have the changes advertised. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Mr. Brachbill has some issues with the way it is laid out under weeds under a. with vegetative growth restriction and under b. right of way be kept clear of vegetative growth. He feels there needs to be a better definition of what the right-of-ways are. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to write a letter to CATA informing them the Borough will provide the budgeted \$17,900.00 and request they notify the Borough if they plan to add a route. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Stewart reminded everyone that the Bellefonte Car Cruise will be held Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20, in the downtown. Allegheny Street from Howard Street to Bishop Street and High Street from the Courthouse to Water Street will be closed on Saturday.

- Channel 6 will be in Bellefonte doing their "Your Town" program. They will be live Friday evening to cover the car cruise.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Dave Day, 128 South Allegheny Street. He had knee surgery two days ago and needs a pass and never received it. He wants to know why he cannot park on the street but there are two people that can park on the streets instead of parking lots and that is not fair to him.

Mr. Stewart stated he requested permission to get a pass to park by the meter on the streets. Mr. Stewart informed him that parking passes are not issued for the meters. You can use the lots. Mr. Stewart told him he would work something out with him to get a permit but it would have to be in a municipal lot.

Mr. Stewart told him there is a two-hour maximum limit even at the blue meter. Mr. Stewart informed him there is a meter enforcement officer. Mr. Stewart informed him you can park at a meter in the evening without paying the meter. They are not enforced until after 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 15, 2015, at 8:22 p.m. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.