

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
July 5, 2016
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CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Council Vice-President Randy Brachbill in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council remained standing for a moment of silence in honor of former Mayor Stanley Goldman. It was requested that cell phones either be placed on vibrate or turned off.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Brown, Clark, DeCusati, Hombosky, Johnson, Tosti-Vasey (via telephone), Beigle, Brachbill, Dunne (via telephone)

Members Excused:

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty

Guests: Troy Knecht; Bob Jacobs; Bob Dannaker; Emma Gosalvez, Lock Haven Express; Jim Mills; Carla Conklin; Shirley Gryczuk; John Kostas; Rob Wagner

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 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- Communications – Letter request from St. John School to use Governor’s Park
- Communications – Letter request regarding the 400 block of Beaver Street.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the minutes removed for changes. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey had the following changes for the minutes: on page three there were two places where the transcriptionist did not get the full gist of the conversation. The first one is page seven, half-way down she placed three periods for missing words. The rest of the sentence should be “take the initiative to hold public hearings and then capitalize “this”. The second one is on page eight under the Streets Committee, fourth paragraph, sixth line, “...compacting and testing of the stone and the (?) drawings.” She recommends reviewing the tape or watching C-NET to find the missing word. On page three there is a typo approximately the 11th line down in the first full paragraph where it says “there is an arch showing 2013 being a high” and it should be a chart. There is one on page eight – it reads “Argyle” and it should be “Ardell.” Under Old Business there are two words “judicator” and “judication,” and they should be “adjudicator” and “adjudication.”

Mr. Beigle made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Mrs. Brown said in the section where there was discussion about the buses it indicates that Mrs. Brown asked for a letter to be sent and it was Mr. Johnson that requested the letter be sent. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- An email from FirstEnergy regarding a workshop that SEDA-COG is hosting at Celebration Hall on Friday, July 22nd, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for commercial/industrial customers. The guest speaker will be Todd Kirkpatrick from FirstEnergy. Rebate money is still available for customers of FirstEnergy (West Penn Power) as phase III of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 129 became effective June 1, 2016.

- A letter from Jenny Wagner, M. S., Young Lungs at Play. Their emphasis is on tobacco free playground areas. A few years ago the Borough adopted some of the model policies. They are asking the Borough to add electronic cigarettes to the tobacco free areas in the Borough. This will be turned over to the Parks and Recreation Committee to review and make a recommendation.

ORAL

- Mr. Brachbill noted that the Waterfront Walkway Ribbon Cutting Ceremony has been postponed. The IDA will determine an appropriate date at their meeting on Wednesday, July 13, that works with more individuals' schedules.

- There is a resolution at the table that Mr. Stewart would like Council to consider under New Business. It is in regard to the financing that was approved at the last Council meeting for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The resolution extends the life of the Bellefonte Borough Authority. The Attorney that was working on the ordinance updates noticed that the financing outlives the Authority by two years.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft Centre Region COG Public Safety Committee meeting minutes from May 10, 2016 are in the packet for review.

- Mr. DeCusati reported the Centre County MPO meeting was held on Tuesday, June 28. One of the main items was that they had the Centre County Transportation Improvement program. A draft of it was put out for public comment and they discussed it. Through the meeting there were no substantial changes made to the transportation improvement program. Mr. DeCusati noted that three important projects for Bellefonte Borough are still on. One is the Route 144 Linn Street Wall. The project is still on and is funded. It should be starting in 2017. Another project is the Route 150 Water Street Congestion Corridor Program. That will start in 2017. This is the traffic lights that have been discussed and it is funded. The third project is the Route 150 Phoenix Avenue intersection safety improvements. That is scheduled for 2019 and is not yet funded. Mr. DeCusati feels it is important to stay visible at the CCMPO because things can change over time and projects disappear sometimes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson thanked the Logan Fire Company for their efforts to provide the town an opportunity to honor the baseball team and showcase some of the organizations with their annual parade. It is an effort and expense for them to put it together.

- Mayor Wilson thanked the Borough for stepping forward with the finished product of the feasibility study for the Bellefonte to Milesburg Trail System. They were able to find a grant. They needed a 15% match and the Borough helped with that along with the County, private owners, residents, business owners, organizations, the Visitors Bureau, ClearWater Conservancy, and a number of bike organizations. Within a two-week period they were able to obtain the match money for this grant. If the grant is obtained, completion will be in 2020.

- Mr. Brachbill felt the firemen's parade was well attended. He felt there was a large variety of different apparatuses and groups. They did a good job setting that up.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1) 302 East Curtin Street – Replace the windows on the second floor; the windows are on the back side and the west side of the house. They will be Andersen 400 Double Hung Windows.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey recused herself as she did not have the HARB information in front of her. Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Tosti-Vasey abstaining.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Mack Mahan as a member of HARB and Maria Day as an alternate. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Maria Day will be an alternate. Mack will fill the position of a person interested in Historic Preservation. Mrs. Brown would like them to attend a Council meeting and be introduced. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart noted that there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission. They meet the fourth Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m. The meetings are typically over by 6:00 p.m.

- Draft meeting minutes from the June 28, 2016, HARB meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – The West Howard Street storm drain project for the parking lot has been completed. When a tar buggy is rented in the fall, the pavement will be sealed.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE – Mr. Stewart recommends considering continuing with the Hartman Agency for insurance coverage for the upcoming year. He will ask Tom McKee to come to the next work session to go over the numbers. Typically, the increase is modest. Renewal needs to be done by August 1.

PARK AND RECREATION – Mr. Stewart reported on the ordinance amending Chapter 405 Parks and Recreation Areas. It was approved for advertisement involving some policies for the new Waterfront Walkway. It was felt that the simplest way to adopt some policies was to modify the Park Ordinance. Very minor changes were made to the ordinance. Under letter L “or along the Waterfront sidewalk(s) located

between High Street and Lamb Street” was added. Under S “or along the two sidewalks and/or wall along the Waterfront located from High Street to Lamb Street.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to adopt Ordinance 07052016-01 an ordinance of the Borough of Bellefonte Amending The Codified Book of Ordinances, Chapter 405 Parks and Recreation Areas, Article 1 Regulations, § 405-2 General Regulations. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne said regulation “U” said smoking is prohibited in all Borough parks and the Walkway is not included in that prohibition. If you want to support the “Young Lungs at Play” recommendation, you need to change the wording from substance that contains tobacco to substance that contains nicotine or additional wording could be added to describe what e-cigarettes are. Mr. Beigle asked if somebody buys the Waterfront project, will the ordinance just relate to the Walkway, which it will. The Borough will keep the Walkway. He felt if the person builds close to the Walkway, and if they build an outside Café, the smoke will drift over to the Walkway. Mr. Holderman said when this was first drafted they looked at the Parks Ordinance as a vehicle to get bicycles, skateboarding, etc., to ensure that it did not occur on the sidewalk and the wall. They weren’t looking at the other issues at that time. He feels this is a separate issue that can be addressed at a later date. Mr. DeCusati asked if there was anything regarding smoking in the current draft of the 2016 Ordinance. Mr. Stewart said there is but it doesn’t apply to the Walkway. Under letter “U” the words “Waterfront Walkway” can be added to include it in the no smoking area. Mrs. Brown agrees that it should be done now. Ms. Tosti-Vasey said Krauss Park is not listed, but it is listed on page 6, but Council members did not receive that page. The consensus is that Item “U” should go back to the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Mr. Brachbill stated this would be tabled and sent back to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Ms. Tosti-Vasey said three interviews were conducted Thursday, June 30, for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. The first choice, Alec Coble, accepted the job offer for this position and will begin Monday, July 18, at 7:00 a.m. He will be the youngest member of the Wastewater Treatment Plant program.

SAFETY – No report.

WATER/SANITATION – Mr. Beigle reported that the Water Quality Report is in the packet for Council members to review. Mr. Stewart said the Borough used to be required to mail out the Water Quality Report and now it is only required to be posted on the website and to be available in the Borough office.

STREETS – Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the Street Paving Bid to Glenn O. Hawbaker for Blanchard Street, Shoemaker Avenue, High Street and Cherry Lane. They will do a portion of each of these streets. The Street Committee met and felt these were the most important streets to get repaved within the paving budget. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. There will not be enough money to do Allegheny Street when the construction is completed. Mr. Stewart said it is out of the question to do it this year

because the paving will be completed before the construction is finished. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the financial commitment letter to PennDOT to initiate process of installing a flashing warning light at North Thomas/Coleville Road/SR3006. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. The flashing light will have solar power. It warns about the upcoming curve. There is a sample letter at the table that PennDOT needs to start the process. There are monies available, but grants will also be sought. Ms. Tosti-Vasey said there was another accident there 1 ½ weeks ago and she feels this is critical for the safety of the community to get this in as soon as possible. Mrs. Dunne believes Ted Conklin was notified that Council was going to act on this tonight. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Troy Knecht, representing PDG for the Garman House on East High Street addressed Council. During the last Council meeting where the loading zone was discussed and the proposed angle parking was an option brought up, they went back to PennTerra Engineering for them to evaluate the directional parking at a 45 degree angle. They presented two scenarios: one was starting the angle parking just east of the County Rain Garden and then the loading zone past that further east, which makes the loading zone just over 50', but puts it on the steepest portion in front of the Garman House. That makes it challenging for anyone to load or unload their vehicle and presents some safety concerns. The other portion was to put the loading zone first directly east of the Rain Garden, and it shrinks the loading zone slightly and gives three angled parking spaces east of the loading zone. PennTerra raised the concern that there is a typical PennDOT standard for maintaining a travel lane with approximately 13 feet. The end of the parking stripe would give you 12¼ feet. The problem is when they superimposed a standard PennDOT vehicle in one of the parking spaces in an angle it leaves you approximately 9½ feet travel lane, which would make it difficult for a large truck traveling up East High Street. PennTerra's recommendation went back to a parallel parking with the loading zone either first just east of the Rain Garden, or one parking stall loading zone and a second parking stall just east of the loading zone. You could put restrictions on it making it compact parking only, but then it becomes an enforcement issue where a vehicle over a certain length would be ticketed. That would give you the few feet that were lost on the larger vehicle.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the last configuration presented with the loading zone in the center and two parallel parking spaces at each end of the loading zone that are 22 feet long. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Ms. Tosti-Vasey would like to turn the stalls into compact stalls because there is a parking issue so she will vote "no" on this motion. With the angled parking, Mr. Brachbill and Mr. DeCusati feel there is a safety issue with vehicles backing out, so they like the motion made by Mr. Johnson. The motion passed with Ms. Tosti-Vasey and Mrs. Dunne voting no.

- The rubber on the railroad crossing at Water Street has begun to fail. Mr. Stewart notified the railroad company and they will repair it as soon as possible.

- Mr. Stewart reported the storm drain project was approved for School Street between Bishop Street and High Street. If everything goes as planned it will begin soon. That portion of School Street will be one-way heading north until early September.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- A letter from Debbie Hamilton, Director, Bellefonte Arts & Craft Fair, informing Council that they are working in conjunction with Herbie's Hometown Loop during the fair August 12 and 13.

- There will be a special Council meeting on Tuesday, July 19, at 6:00 p.m. to review Property Maintenance Codes that are currently in place, as well as changes that are being proposed.

- Ms. Hombosky contacted the YMCA regarding the request to build a Pickleball Court.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Resolution No. 070516-01, a resolution of Bellefonte Borough, Centre County, Pennsylvania, approving the ownership and maintenance agreement for the existing strain poles with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. The poles are in front of the Governor's Pub. They are higher poles that are used to hang banners. PennDOT will turn them over and the Borough agrees to maintain them. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve Resolution 07052016-02, a resolution of the Borough of Bellefonte, Centre County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of a petition to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for a hearing to consider an exemption from the statute regarding amplified music being heard off the premises of the licensed establishments. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart is going to apply for a three-year exemption. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Resolution #070516-03, in reference to the Borough Authority extending its years to July 1, 2066. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart said currently the Authority would expire in 2037 and the Bonds go to 2039. When Authorities are extended, it is a 50-year extension. Mrs. Dunne abstained from the vote because she doesn't have a copy of the resolution to review. The motion passed with Mrs. Dunne and Ms. Tosti-Vasey abstaining for the same reason.

- Mr. Wilson requested that the Bee Friendly PA be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting. Ms. Tosti-Vasey feels the Environment Sustainability meeting needs to be held before this is done.

- Mr. Beigle said the Post Office has completed the repairs and did a nice job with their landscaping.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. DeCusati made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting of July 5, 2016, at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Following adjournment Council went in to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.