

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JULY 7, 2014**  
**www.bellefonte.net**

**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, Halderman, Harvey, Spicer,

Members Excused: Dunne,

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty, Bellefonte Keystone Community Coordinator  
Harry Brooks, Code Compliance Officer

Guests:

**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 16, 2014 meeting minutes
- Mayor – Police Exonerations
- Communications – Block Party Request for Burnside Street
- Old Business - Banner Resolution re Bellefonte Touchdown Club

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- A letter from Mike Young, 246 West Curtin Street, in regard to overgrown trees, shrubs, vines, weeds, thorn bushes, etc., that are impacting both Church Alley and Shugart Alley. Mr. DeCusati spoke with Mr. Young. There are Code Enforcement Officers coming onto staff and the Nuisance Ordinance Officer will help in that regard.

Harry Brooks, the new Code Compliance Officer, introduced himself to Council. He was welcomed. Mr. Brooks stated this situation is on the radar and it is being examined.

Mr. Young left Mr. DeCusati a note on his door, but Mr. DeCusati was away the entire week. When he got home he did call Mr. Young. He also contacted Mayor Wilson and said he plans to attend the Council meeting. He asked Mayor Wilson to pass on that he is very disappointed with Borough management and Council.

Mr. Halderman stated there is an ordinance on the books that says if the property owner is notified they are supposed to trim it and if notified they have a certain amount of time to get it done. Mr. Stewart stated that he informed Mr. Young not to talk to the maintenance department but come into the Borough office and they would try to get things moving quicker. Mr. Stewart will check to see if a letter was written.

Mr. Brachbill stated in the community there are a lot of overgrown areas. Mr. Halderman stated you must have someone certified to spray and the Borough does not have anyone on staff certified to spray. The Borough does not do weeds on the sidewalks for property owners. The Borough does trim trees in the downtown area every other year.

- A letter from Bruce and Teresa Davis in regard to storm water issues at 332 East High Street. It is a location on High Street where the road slants over to where the water runs through. The Borough crew will examine the situation.

This will be turned over to the Streets Committee for review and recommendation.

- A letter from Jessica Lloyd, Student Council Co-Advisor, Bellefonte Area High School, requesting permission to have the annual Homecoming Parade Thursday, October 16, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. It will begin at the Bellefonte Elementary School, proceed south on Allegheny Street to Bishop Street, proceed east on Bishop Street to Rodgers Stadium.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Jon Seaman, PSU Agricultural & Extension Education Program, Co-curricular Programs Manager, requesting permission to do a tree inventory for Bellefonte August 1 and August 8.

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

- A letter from Gail Miller, Event Chair, Bellefonte Relay for Life, thanking Bellefonte Borough for all the support and assistance with the Relay for Life that was held at Governor's Park on May 30-31.

- A letter of appreciation from Shirley Vinkle Gray to Chief Weaver for the assistance of two officers during an emergency.

Mr. DeCusati suggested the Chief post that letter on the Borough bulletin board. Mr. DeCusati thanked the officers for being sensitive on the issue.

- A letter from Jonathan Eburne voicing his support for saving the Kepler pool and his support for levying a \$20 recreation fee to restore the pool.

### **ORAL**

- None.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Brachbill reported that the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17, and will be hosted by Marion Township.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson reminded the citizens that this is the height of weed season and requested they be aware of their property and the weeds. If the back of your house borders a lane please check to see if any trees or bushes are hanging into the right-of-way, and if so get them trimmed. Around houses there are a lot of properties that are not in compliance. Please clean up the weeds.

Tuesday, July 8, he and Mr. Stewart will be on WBLF at 8:30 a.m. with Jerry Fisher. They will try to cover some of the progress being made with the Keystone Project.

Mayor Wilson announced that Bellefonte hosts JazzPA July 25 and 26. A lot of jazz artists participate in this event.

Mayor Wilson noted there was a nice turnout for the Logan Fire Company parade on Saturday, July 5. Allegheny and High Streets were quite full. He expressed his appreciation to the Logan's for holding the parade.

The train excursion that came into town on June 28 was very successful. It was a beautiful day.

Mayor Wilson congratulated the Bellefonte Little League for being the District V Champions.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- The June 30, 2014, draft Planning Commission meeting minutes are in the packet for review.

### **HARB**

1) 137 West Curtin Street - Adding a concrete pad 12' x 34' in front of garage and house back door. Add a 4" x 36" concrete walking path along side of garage. Concrete will be tinted to Borough code. (Also replacing existing driveway with new asphalt - this is in kind and needs no approval.)

2) 431 East Curtin Street - New front door.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve both Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. Mr. DeCusati abstained.

- HARB Draft meeting minutes from the June 24, 2014, meeting are in the packet for review. Mr. Stewart reported the entity providing code services is willing to have a person available for HARB as a building inspector so a zoning officer will not be required and the ordinance will not have to be amended.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** - Mr. Brachbill made a motion to sell the white Ford Crown Victoria by auction. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Stewart reported the Train Station has been having a downspout drainage system problem. The drainage system is under the brick pavers. It is not working and is causing water to back up and create issues for the building. The Building & Property Committee will check the sump to see if it is functioning properly and if not they will develop a plan to address and correct the problem.

Mrs. Brown reported the lease does not expire until September 2014.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - No report.

**PARK AND RECREATION** - Mrs. Brown thanked Mike Lyons for being on duty and discovering that the Train Station was not locked and took care of the situation. She asked Mayor Wilson to thank him.

- The drinking water fountain is fixed.

- Ms. Harvey reported the Lock Haven Express had an article regarding the train excursion and made a lot of favorable comments about Talleyrand Park. Mrs. Brown reported the Talleyrand Park Committee, the Garden Club and the park workers do a fabulous job.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Mr. Spicer reported they received three resignation letters for the Civil Service Commission from Michael Covone, Thomas H. Mensch Jr., and Joseph A. Leiter. Mr. Spicer thanked them for their time and service.

It will be advertised that there are three positions available on this Commission.

- Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Contract changes - they are working with their legal counsel to become tax qualified with the IRS. Two items that need to be addressed to include in the contract are 1) What is considered compensation for pension purposes; and 2) Excess Interest distribution.

- A letter of resignation from former Councilman Walt Schneider was received. Mr. Spicer thanked him for his time and efforts on Council. Council has thirty days to fill that position.

**SAFETY** - Mr. Brachbill stated there will be a Borough Safety meeting on Wednesday, July 9.

- On July 31 there will be a Fire Prevention Task Force meeting at 6:00 p.m. and a Fire Executive Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Holderman reported there was a change and the Fire Executive Committee meeting will be at 7:30 p.m.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - Mr. Beigle reported the Authority meeting will be held on July 15.

- The daily water withdrawal report shows usage up slightly.

**STREETS** - Mayor Wilson reported there was a meeting on June 2 in regard to merchant parking. There were a lot of good suggestions. A survey will be taken regarding the parking. Ms. Dainty has a survey available. Mayor Wilson would like to know who will collect the survey; what dates to plan to tell the merchants; and what progress is being made. Mr. DeCusati encouraged Mayor Wilson to attend the next committee meeting. Mayor Wilson feels there needs to be an action plan. Ms. Dainty is willing to attend the next meeting and provide input.

- There is no paving scheduled for this year. There will be pothole fixing. Mr. Stewart stated the Borough is waiting to see if there will be any funds for Lamb Street.

Mr. Holderman reported the Borough did get reimbursed for the approximate \$50,000.00 that the Borough used for it. The total project cost is nearly \$300,000.00.

- The signage for Logan Street and Badger Street onto Bishop Street is on the schedule for the Borough crew.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - Ms. Harvey questioned whether PennDOT gave a time frame for testing LEDs. Mr. Stewart stated it was West Penn Power and they were looking at a two-year time frame. They would need to go through the PUC to get a rate to charge.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- There will be an informal meeting with the Centre County Commissioners on Thursday, July 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

- There is a new code service that is in place as of July 1. That includes the rental housing inspections, the fire safety inspections and the building code inspections. If an applicant comes in, nothing is changed at this point because the process still begins at the Borough.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve both the Cooperation Agreement between Bellefonte Borough and the Bellefonte Main Street Revitalization Project and the Municipal Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for designation as Keystone Community with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. There was a question for item 4 of the resolution. Mr. Stewart stated it was a boiler plate agreement and Mr. Beard reviewed this and felt it was okay to sign. The motion was passed with Mrs. Brown voting no.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Brachbill made a motion to adjourn the meeting of July 7, 2014 at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.