

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
July 20, 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, Brown, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Walker

Members Excused: DeCusati, Spicer

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty

Guests: Joanne Tosti-Vasey; Stephanie Fost; Charlie O'Neill, Red Cross;
Barbara Scurdato

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 July 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Letter request from Bellefonte Touchdown Club
- Mayor - Police Report June 2015
- Finance - McQuaide Blasko Invoice
- Finance - Voucher Summary June 2015: \$985,966.75

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes removed. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Brachbill had two corrections for the July 6, 2015 meeting minutes: under Zoning & Planning he did not make the motion to approve the Preliminary/Final Lot Consolidation; under the Safety Report the "(?)" should be "The 1998 Fire Prevention Plan".

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter regarding the donation from the Women of the Moose in regard to a bench the Borough placed in front of the Bellefonte Moose. They made a \$1,200.00 contribution towards the purchase of that bench. A letter of thanks will be sent for the donation.

- An email regarding the Centre County Book Bench Project. They would like to place one near the library and are requesting input and involvement from the Borough regarding this project.

- A letter and a petition from E. Bruckner (Verizon Wireless Made Simple) in regard to parking issues by the Faith Centre Food Bank. Mayor Wilson agrees with Bruckner and with the merchants downtown. He feels the decision on Streets to let it ride and ignore the letter from a person trying to reopen a business after a fire is unacceptable. Mayor Wilson wants to officially state that he is with Mr. Bruckner and the merchants that signed the petition to disallow the bagging of meters in front of the Food Bank on Allegheny Street.

Mr. Beigle counted how many empty parking stalls there were downtown today. He feels sorry for people who make quick judgments. When the Streets Committee looked at this, they understood the plight that the Faith Centre was faced with and what they have to do. They need to get food out of there for people in need. He feels giving up two parking places for a period of time each week is not out of line, and he finds it very offensive to the Streets Committee as their decision was made in the faithfulness of giving and helping out people that need that space to get the food that is available to them. He challenges the merchants to go in there and spend time and realize and understand what their plight is. They cannot leave the area to attend to the needs of the people they serve. They are a non-profit organization. There are plenty of parking spaces in the Borough; people just have to walk to them.

Mayor Wilson agrees regarding the parking spaces and the availability, but the issue is that one of the days the meter is bagged is Wednesday, which is court day. The merchants are also upset because the bags are put out prior to the agreed time and left on after the agreed time. Mayor Wilson will talk to the Faith Centre Food Bank and remind them they need to only use the bags during the allotted time. He will also see if the distribution day could be changed.

Mr. Beigle feels communication is a big problem in the situation. The designated times are Wednesday 10-2 and Thursday 1-5.

There will be no decision made regarding this until the Mayor talks to them.

Ms. Harvey pointed out that the Food Bank is not a business but rather a social service that serves over 800 Bellefonte residents every month. Many of those are elderly or handicapped. Ms. Harvey also noted available parking spaces throughout town today at various times.

- An invitation from the Bellefonte Arts & Craft Fair to Borough officials to their Artists Reception, which is at the close of the fair on Friday evening at 8:15 p.m. on August 14. The reception will be held at the large tent near the entertainment tent in the expanded Talleyrand Park area.

ORAL

- Home Fire Prevention Campaign - Charlie O'Neill, Red Cross Board - Mr. O'Neill wanted to share information regarding a national campaign they are beginning. The chapter chose Bellefonte as its kick-off point. The first day is scheduled for August 1. They have been reaching out to local organizations such as the Undine's and Logan's to coordinate some of their people to work with the Red Cross to go out to the neighborhood and share information about home fire preparedness and home fire prevention. They go into people's homes and talk with them and help them devise an escape route, educate them, check their smoke detectors to be sure they are operational, and if they do not have any, install as many as needed based on the Bellefonte code. On Saturday, July 25, they will be doing some canvassing to raise awareness and to reach out to new people in town. They will continue the events until they feel they have canvassed and prepared the community neighborhoods throughout Centre County.

Barbara Scurdato stated they have at least a five-year plan. The goal of the Red Cross is to reduce the number of deaths related to fire by 25% in five years. The campaign was started in Tennessee several years ago. Tennessee had the number one amount of deaths related to smoke and smoke inhalation and fire in the country. They saw a 20% reduction in three years with their campaign. It has become a national campaign for the Red Cross. Many people are not aware of the reality of fire and smoke. Most people do not know that a home can be fully engulfed in two minutes, so the time to escape is a very short window.

Council members appreciate the fact that this campaign has chosen Bellefonte to begin. They plan to advertise on local radio stations, Central PA Live, local businesses, and flyers. They do not need a solicitation permit because they are not selling anything. For identification, they will have a fire person with each team of three to five people and the Red Cross volunteers will wear a Red Cross vest.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft IDA meeting minutes from the July 8, 2015 meeting.

- Draft Safety Committee meeting minutes from the July 8, 2015 meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reminded everyone that JazzPA will be held in downtown Bellefonte this weekend. There will be jazz musicians performing at various venues. The Hofbrau will have Danny Stevens; Big Spring Spirits will have Arthur Goldstein; the Match Factory will have Zero Point; all day in the park there will be performances and later at the Match Factory there will be guitar virtuoso, Gene Bertatini. They are world class jazz performers.

- Mayor Wilson just returned from the Pennsylvania State Mayor's Association in Bethlehem where he attended workshops that had pertinent information for Bellefonte. He met Governor Wolf at their Thursday evening dinner.

- Mayor Wilson reported there has been a resurgence of interest in the bike trail that was explored ten years ago connecting Bellefonte with State College. He gained information at the conference regarding that and when he got back he received emails from several people that are working in that direction.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- 1) 234 West Curtin Street
- 2) 141 West Howard Street
- 3) Train Station
- 4) Traffic Signals at West High/Water; West High/Spring; Water/Lamb

Ms. Harvey made a motion to approve all three Certificates of Appropriateness with the traffic signals removed from the list. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. There was a question regarding the heat pump at the Train Station. Ms. Dainty reported it is being moving around back. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Traffic signals at West High/Water; West High/Spring; Water/Lamb - Mr. Stewart reported the project involves a congested corridor improvement project through PennDOT. They are looking to upgrade the traffic signals at West High/Water; West High/Spring; Water/Lamb. Part of the project is new poles with new lights on the poles. The lights will be larger lights. They did an environmental review of the project and are aware of the Historic District. It was proposed to do the standard poles in black, but HARB rejected this because they requested the ornamental poles. Each intersection has two main poles and four pedestrian signal poles. The total cost per intersection would be \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00 extra. HARB feels a lot of money is being spent for

the Waterfront Project and they feel this would be a good investment for the Borough also. They recommend the two intersections along High Street be done and, if the funds are available, the third intersection would be done along Lamb/Water. The ornamental poles have a slightly larger base.

Mr. Beigle wants to know where the money will come from. Ms. Harvey suggested waiting until more information is available from PennDOT. Ms. Dainty will help seek the funds to pay for this project.

Mr. Halderman postponed this until the Council meeting of August 3, 2015 so more information could be provided.

- Draft HARB meeting minutes from July 12, 2015 are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - No report.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne requested Council members take the audit home and review it.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mr. Holderman would like to set up a meeting in the near future so the equipment can be ordered for Governor's Park.

HUMAN RESOURCES - No report.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill asked if there were any updates regarding the new fire chief. Mr. Holderman reported one application was received from Walt Schneider. The ordinance states there needs to be a committee established with the Human Resources Committee along with a representative from each fire department and then Mr. Stewart or Mr. Holderman will select a third person. This committee will review the applications. There will not be a Fire Executive Committee meeting this month due to the Pleasant Gap parade. Mr. Holderman will talk with Mr. Pressler to see if he is okay bypassing the approval from the Fire Executive Committee. Hopefully the meeting could be held prior to the next Council meeting. If there is approval through the committee, Mayor Wilson could swear Mr. Schneider in as Fire Chief. When Mr. Spicer comes back from vacation, Mr. Holderman will set up a meeting.

- Mrs. Dunne cancelled the Fire Department Task Force meeting for Thursday, July 23. Their next meeting will be Thursday, September 24.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported the draft Authority meeting minutes from July 7, 2015 are in the packet for review.

STREETS - Ameron Invoice regarding the West Lamb Street Project - There are Change Orders 1-12 on the table for Council members. The road will be finished tomorrow and should be open to public traffic. Many of the changes had to be made while the project was going on. What is needed for FEMA is the approval of Council for Change Orders 1-12, which are already done. All but two of the change orders will be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement. The two change orders that the Borough

decided to do are the concrete sidewalk and apron in front of the garage building and the storm drain that was placed there.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Change Orders 1-12 for a total of \$191,147.14. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. (change order #1, \$11,483.67; change order #2, \$4,898.02; change order #3, \$87,469.53; change order #4, \$11,987.50; change order #5, \$14,691.10; change order #6, \$4,545.00; #7, \$10,183.00; change order #8, \$12,520.00; change order #9, \$2,310.00; change order #10, \$5,132.25; change order #11, \$24,139.83; change order #12, \$14,877.24.) A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve payment of Invoice #2 in the amount of \$77,310.50; and Invoice #3 in the amount of \$310,750.24 (this amount includes the amount of the change orders). Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There is a manhole cover at the intersection of Bishop and South Monroe Street that is not sitting correctly.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Ms. Harvey reported the Committee continues to receive proposals for supplying the Borough with electricity.

- Ms. Harvey reminded residents about the Shade Tree Ordinance. It is available on the Borough website and outlines very clearly that if you want to do anything to a tree along a Borough Street or alleyway you must have prior approval of the Shade Tree Commission. If you cut down a tree without approval, you will receive a fine.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to cancel the August 17 Council meeting. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Ms. Dainty worked very hard to put together a sidewalk sale promotion with downtown businesses. It will be Wednesday, July 23, through Saturday, July 25. Pamphlets will be handed out at the Jazz Festival. She requested everybody to shop local this weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Joanne Tosti-Vasey, 429 North Spring Street, asked about the Shade Tree Ordinance. If a tree needs trimmed, does she need to get permission? Mr. Holderman reported trimming is part of the ordinance. She should contact the Borough office and her request will be forwarded to the Shade Tree Commission for approval.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of July 20, 2015, at 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.