

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 3, 2015**  
**[www.bellefonte.net](http://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, Walker

Members Excused: Dunne, Spicer

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty

Guests: Joanne Tosti-Vasey; Romaine Naylor; Sally Houser; Gary Hoover;  
Troy Knecht; Wade Newman; Dr. Masters; Dr. Dankanich; Vern (?);  
Jennifer Myers; Bryce Taylor

**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 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Letter request from Bellefonte High School regarding the use of Governors Park
- Communications - Email regarding Mattress World

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes removed. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. DeCusati noted on page six (6) of the minutes it says he made a motion to cancel the August 17th Council meeting, but he was not present at the meeting.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- Information on the 2015 Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Fall Leadership Conference is in the packets. The conference is October 16–18, 2015 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort.

- A letter from Charles Salvanish, Parade Chair, Logan Fire Company #1 thanking the Borough for the use of Talleyrand Park, picking up all the barricades after the parade and acquiring the necessary permits for the parade that was held on Friday, July 3, 2015.

- An email from David Pontzer & Terry Rudy expressing interest in having a bike park built in Bellefonte. This was turned over to the Parks & Recreation Committee for review and recommendation.

- Updates were provided from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs regarding upcoming training opportunities.

- A letter from Randy Brachbill in regard to CATA funding as well as recommendations on budgeting and financial status of the Borough.

- A resolution for the "Roll on Raiders" banner. The banner would be installed on August 21, 2015 and be removed November 16, 2015. The banner is 30' x 24". The resolution is a PennDOT requirement.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the resolution for the "Roll on Raiders" banner. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There were five letters received in regard to the CATA funding. They appear to be form letters in support of maintaining the CATA funding. One address is from Pleasant Gap and the others were from Bellefonte Borough addresses.

## ORAL

- Sally Houser thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting. There are a lot of exciting things going on and she is very excited about the Hometown Hero Banners program. Sally took the program to the Executive Board and the Executive Board took it to the School Board. They explored the costs of the banners, how many poles are available, how much hardware is needed, etc. The banners will be sponsored by family members, merchants or banks. Approximately 60 applications were passed out and they are beginning to be turned in. The banners will be the same size as other banners that are up. The event banners will still be put up. A committee has been formed. Council members are invited to be on the committee. The committee consists of Romayne Naylor, BHCA; Renee Brown, Council Woman; Gary Hoover, Chamber of Commerce; Sally Houser; and Brian Hartle. The banners will be up for two years and when they are taken down the person sponsoring the banner will receive it. The applications are due by August 31, 2015. There is space for 146 banners to be hung up.

- Gary Hoover came to talk about the Brookville trip that the Chamber of Commerce sponsored and also to inform Council that there will be an "After Hours" event at the Train Station on Tuesday, August 11th, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. sponsored by the Chamber Board.

On July 22nd the Chamber sponsored a trip to Brookville. It is very similar to Bellefonte. Everything looks like the 1890's but freshly painted. A delegation went made up of members of the Chamber Board, representatives of Bellefonte Borough, the Keystone Development Program, HBI, and BHCA. It was people that Gary wanted to show that this can be done and build enthusiasm. The mayor welcomed them and they were given a guided walking tour of downtown Brookville. They had wonderful historic street tablets like at Gettysburg or Lancaster. They discussed rehabilitating destroyed buildings. They had a historic one that was completely gutted by a fire and they found funds and were able to redo it. They discussed the parking situation. Their parking is \$.05 for 1/2 hour. They saw the History Center that is in a Historic Building. It has a huge model railroad display in it and a lot of rotating historical exhibits locally. It cost them half a million dollars but they raised the money locally and through grants. They talked a lot about how those things were brought about.

The first thing they learned is they did it two ways. They became very expert on what kind of funding sources and grants are out there and they put themselves on various committees that reviewed those kinds of grants to pick up a feel for what the state wanted and what the state will approve. They used that information to craft their grants.

The second thing is they hired a local fundraiser to design a local fundraising program for sustainability. They develop local fundraising to get sponsors and memberships to the History Center and various other things to bring in local money.

They all work together. They did aggressive research to identify grants and money sources and useful legislation. They use a professional fundraiser. They established a very effective partnership in local government and economic development organizations and cultural preservation organizations. They all keep each other

informed about what they are doing. He was really impressed with a brand new Town Square project that they are doing with an empty lot. In the back of it they have a huge banner, an artist's concept, of exactly what it will look like when it is done. They expect to have it done this fall. They have a wonderful sense of urgency about getting things done.

Gary feels a lot of useful information was obtained and he hopes it can be used to benefit Bellefonte. There were 19 people on the trip.

Last week the Chamber sponsored a meeting between state officials and many of the groups that went along on the Brookville trip to talk about revitalizing Curtin Village. It is also the Bellefonte and Inter-valley Chamber of Commerce. Curtin Village is in danger of not being around too long if steps are not taken. It can support local history and bringing tourism in. The stronger the net of things to show people when they come into the area, the better things are. A lot of people come into the Train Station and ask what gave Bellefonte its start. They tell them the iron industry, and they ask where they can go to see it. Well...there is Curtin Village, but it is only open on the weekends and by appointment.

- Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Spring Street, strongly recommends the Borough chooses the decorative lights rather than the industrial lights PennDOT is offering because the location is truly in the Historic area.

- Wade Newman, a Borough resident, is a dentist that works in the Borough. He wanted to address the decision to remove fluoride from the water source. When he received the card providing this information, he was shocked that the Water Authority did not reach out to the dental community to ask for input. The information put out was not enough so he called the Borough Manager and discussed it with him. He understands the financial issues that cause change. He reminded Council that each member is here to protect and serve the community as well as the dentists. He attended the meeting to see how much it will actually cost to put fluoride back in the water. He wants exact costs and not generalities. Removing fluoride from the water source harms the most vulnerable people - the kids and grandkids. He requests Council review their decision and put out the necessary information so the community can decide what is in their best interest.

Mr. DeCusati said the Water Authority made the decision to send out the cards but it did not come to Council. Mr. Stewart stated it did not come to Council. The card clearly stated Bellefonte Borough Authority. Bellefonte Borough Authority sets the policies for both the water system and the wastewater system. That is the entity that made the decision to take fluoride out of the water. Mr. DeCusati advised them to visit the next Water Authority meeting, Tuesday, August 4, at 6:00 p.m.

- Bryce Taylor, owner of Jakes Cards & Games on High Street. He owns the property also and has rental tenants. He serves on the Mid-Centre County Authority as Chairman of the Board. He works in public service with the Lions Club. He sees things from many angles. Two things have happened in the last few weeks that have raised concerns for him and many of his customers and neighbors in the downtown Central Business District. One is the bus issue. Speaking as a business owner he is strongly in

favor of not cutting but adding more buses to downtown Bellefonte. It brings customers and allows his employees to get to and from work. Buses are much too important to the people that need them. He realizes the problem has a short-term solution by a private donation, which he thanks the person for. He asked Council to work on a solution that allows the buses to come.

There is a petition that was submitted by a group of downtown merchants about the parking in front of the Food Bank. He gets the impression that a compromise may be reached but he still has to say this made him really mad. He didn't know about the petition. He was not approached about it and would have refused to sign it. The first time he learned about it was when it appeared on the front page of the Gazette and the Lock Haven Express approximately two weeks ago. He feels that gave Bellefonte a black eye to see Bellefonte air their dirty laundry and the headlines reading "Merchants Fighting the Food Bank". He feels the food bank is important. It is not a business. It is a private non-profit social service that many residents need. He feels it is exaggerated regarding the impact those two parking spaces have on downtown businesses. He also feels it is wrong for downtown business owners to use the parking spaces for their personal use and blame the situation on the food bank. As a merchant he does not support this letter.

- Troy Knecht, representative of Progress Development Group, the company developing the Bellefonte Mews, which includes the Garman House and Cadillac Building. It will provide work force housing in the community. They are strong supporters of public transportation. They have pledged a commitment to fund the \$3,600.00 for the CATA 2015-2016 budget.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. DeCusati reported the CCMPO had their meeting on Tuesday, July 28. They reviewed several things. The CCMPO had extra funds granted to them and they are exploring a Travel Training Program Project that would be targeted at helping those with disabilities or those that now need to use the special Para-transit buses from CATA. It would help them use the larger main transport buses. There will be more details provided later this year.

The Nittany Valley needs to consider who the representative will be and the alternate for next year.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson volunteered to negotiate something that would suit everybody and still have parking available. He talked with Nicole at the Faith Centre and she developed a compromise. The days will change but the times will remain the same. The two meters will be there. When those meters are used for people to pick up their food, it will be a fifteen minute allotted parking. It will now be on Tuesday and Thursday. This is a situation where some of the parking problem is exacerbated by so much construction going on. He feels the merchants are not against the food bank. Mayor

Wilson is upset with how the media portrayed the situation. In many instances the full story is not being printed.

- Mayor Wilson met with Mayor Elizabeth Gorham of State College because there is a resurgence of activity towards looking at the bike path that was explored seven or eight years ago that runs between Bellefonte and State College. There are a number of different organizations moving in that direction. They are going between Boroughs and Townships and looking for state funding.

- Mayor Wilson reported Sergeant Brower received a nice award from the Bellefonte Kiwanis at their annual picnic at Governor's Park for his service in the schools. He is in the audience to answer any questions regarding the police service in Bellefonte.

- The PA Jazz festival went very, very well. This year was the largest turnout to date.

- The Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Festival will be held at Talleyrand Park August 14 & 15.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- Draft Planning Commission meeting minutes from July 27, 2015, are in the packet for review.

### **HARB**

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- 1) 101A North Allegheny Street - Replace the back door with staff final approval of the design.
  - 2) 101A North Allegheny Street - Signage with the bracket final approval by staff.
  - 3) 122 West Bishop Street - Signage - both the hanging sign and the above the storefront using the dark green.
  - 4) 106 North Spring Street - Replace wood hand split shingles with Owens Corning Fiberglass Architectural shingles in a Slate Stone Gray.
  - 5) 252 Match Factory Place - Centre audiology - approve signage
- Ms. Harvey made a motion to approve all five Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Draft HARB meeting minutes from July 28, 2015, are in the packet for review. Mr. Brachbill questioned a motion regarding staff approving things rather than them going to HARB. Ms. Dainty said sometimes people do not realize the ordinance

covers signs, such as the one the Blonde Bistro has in the window. Ms. Dainty brings them before HARB and most of them are compliant and will pass. This is in regard to clings hanging in the window...nothing on the outside. HARB gave Ms. Dainty permission to approve these clings administratively.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** - No report.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - In relation to the financing approved for the Bridge Loan for the Waterfront Project, a bank account needs to be opened at Northwest Savings.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion as part of the Bridge Loan agreement with Northwest Bank a new bank account is required to be opened with the title Borough of Bellefonte Flood Control Account. The following will be signers on the account: Debra A. Burger, Treasurer; Connie Peters, Assistant Treasurer; and Ralph W. Stewart, Borough Manager. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

**PARK AND RECREATION** - Mrs. Brown reported there was a meeting this evening before the Council meeting to discuss the installation of playground equipment. That project is moving forward with funds from the Children's Fair and the Kiwanis check that is received every year.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - No report.

**SAFETY** - Mr. Brachbill reported there was a meeting to forward the name of an applicant to replace Chief Schreffler as Bellefonte Fire Chief. That name has been approved and will be sent to the Fire Executive Committee for approval at their meeting of Thursday, August 27.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - Mr. Beigle invited anyone interested to attend the Authority meeting on Tuesday, August 4, at 6:00 p.m.

- There will be no brush and grass pickup the week of Labor Day.

**STREETS** - Mr. DeCusati thanked everyone involved with the food bank parking situation for coming to an agreement.

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve payment of an invoice in the amount of \$25,850.78 to Ameron Construction for the Lamb Street project once the punch list has been completed. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. This will be the final payment. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve payment of an invoice to Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, LLC in the amount of \$14,509.20 once the punch list has been completed. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. This will be final payment. A voice vote was unanimous.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - Ms. Harvey was contacted by a new member of the Sustainable Communities Collaborative at Penn State. She is interested in coming to Bellefonte to discuss some possible projects. Ms. Harvey suggested perhaps the fall would be a good time to do this. In the meantime she will provide Ms. Harvey with a list of current projects they are doing and projects they will be doing in the fall.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Traffic signals at West High/Water; West High/Spring; and Water/Lamb - Mr. Stewart is currently waiting for PennDOT to do measuring at those intersections and look at foundation placement for those lights. No action will take place until more information is received from PennDOT.

- Members of the Planning Commission will attend a work session at the September 7th meeting.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion that the money proposed from Progress Development Group be accepted as the additional payment required for CATA. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. Mr. DeCusati was curious if the comments in the media gave the impression that Bellefonte Borough did not approve any funding issues. He feels the CDT has done a disservice to the Borough residents because they did not report all the details. He reported the increase CATA requested was a 20% increase. Bellefonte Borough was trying to protect the residents because that is an unfair increase for one year.

Ms. Harvey reported she was very disappointed in the CDT coverage. If you wanted a complete both-sides story you had to read the Lock Haven Express. CATA requested the 20% increase after the budget was passed.

The Streets Committee is going to take a proactive approach of following the CATA meeting minutes.

Bryce Taylor stated there were two things he emphasized when he sat down with CATA. First there needs to be more public input in the process from the people using the buses. On the week of the meeting, the bus drivers began handing out the flyers advertising the meeting. The second point he emphasized with CATA - the picture given was that negotiations broke down to a point where the Borough was being the unreasonable party - he told CATA that it is not all Bellefonte Borough. He told them all County stakeholders need to sit down in a meeting. He told them they need to go back and come out when they have a workable deal.

Ms. Harvey reported the Commissioners have reduced the amount of money they have funded to CATA. They encouraged Mr. Taylor to talk to them.

Mr. Halderman reported there was no negotiation between the Borough and CATA. The Borough just received a bill.

Mr. Brachbill thanked Progressive Development for their offer. He feels it is a great gift. He voted no against the CATA increase to support the Borough budget. He feels other municipalities are watching, and he feels it was worth questioning CATA. He does feel public transportation is needed.

A voice vote was unanimous to accept the money from Progress Development Group.

- Mr. Stewart reminded everyone that the August 17, 2015, Council meeting is cancelled to give Council a summer break.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the 2015 CDBG Application & Project which would be sprinkler systems for the downtown area. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The project could be changed at a later date if necessary. This would not be received until 2016. If the half million dollar grant is received the CDBG money would supplement it. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Fair will be in the expanded area of Talleyrand Park August 14th & 15th.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Beigle made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of August 3, 2015, at 8:37 p.m. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Council went into Executive Session to discuss some real estate matters.