

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 2, 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, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Spicer, Walker,

Members Excused: Li

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty, Bellefonte Keystone Community Coordinator

Guests: Gary Calvert, Gary V. Hoover,

**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 Amended July 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- Minutes - Approval of August 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Letter request for Governor's Park for 2015 Relay for Life
- Finance - Treasurer's Report July 2014
- Finance - Voucher Summary July 2014: \$741,395.85

Ms. Dunne made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. There was question on the Treasurer's report - under the Special Projects that were budgeted for \$550.00 and it is up to \$3,229.00. Mr. Stewart will get details on that. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- A letter from Denise L. Elbell, Director of Financial Management/Deputy Administrator, Centre County Board of Commissioners, informing that the 2015 Liquid Fuels Grant Application is due no later than Friday, October 24, 2014. It is for street-related work. The safety lighting on East Bishop Street near the Undine Fire house is a suggested project for this grant. The light would help the fire trucks get in and out of the fire house. Other projects will be reviewed as well, and a recommendation will come to Council.

- A letter from Donna Enrico, Chief, Community Development Operations Division, which is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program stating that the allocation for the Borough for 2014 is \$99,204.00. There is some programming that needs to be done, and Mr. Holderman will be working on that.

- An email from Dawn Yates, Watermarke Church. They are holding a Fall Festival in Talleyrand Park on Sunday, September 14. This will be a free community event. They would like permission to hang a banner on the walkway in front of the park to advertise. They would like to hang the banner on Wednesday, September 10, and would remove it at the end of the event on Sunday, September 14.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve this request. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. Mr. DeCusati asked if they needed to fill out a form. The form is only required when the banner is hung above the street. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **ORAL**

- Mr. Brachbill had a phone call from Mr. Yakich at the beginning of August to touch base regarding a letter he wrote concerning grass pickup and his question on the charges of the 95-gallon versus the 35-gallon container. No-one has gotten back to him yet, but Mr. Stewart stated a meeting will be scheduled to discuss utility rates. There have been meeting scheduling difficulties during the summer.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Draft IDA Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2014 are in the packet for review.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson reminded that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Antique Fair will be held on Saturday, September 13. It is an HBI event. It will be held in Talleyrand Park from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. In conjunction with that, there will be an auction that 3WZ has been collecting items for throughout the summer. The proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House. There will be an antique appraiser for the antique items, Snyder from Apple Hill, and there will be an auctioneer.

- Citizens are reminded to bring their trash cans in.
- Mayor Wilson swore in the new Council member, Mr. Brian Walker.

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**ZONING/PLANNING**

- Draft minutes from the August 25, 2014 Planning Commission meeting were in the packet for review.

- The Planning Commission approved the plans for a lot consolidation for 115 and 120 East High Street (Mews Development project). It was approved as a preliminary final.

Chad Stafford, PennTerra Engineering, explained it is a simple lot consolidation of the Garman House Property and the Hotel Do-De Property. The consolidation is primarily for financing. The group that is helping financing wants both tracts consolidated. From a zoning/planning standpoint it eliminates a lot line. The three comments from the Planning Commission were to remove all mentions of Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority and Texas Eastern Gas; with the corrections to the survey features/legend that shows the new lot line; and all comments made by Centre County Planning are addressed.

When they filed to have the plan reviewed they paid the price to do a preliminary and final together, which is part of the way you can do things.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the plans as presented. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mrs. Brown and Mr. Brachbill voting no.

**HARB**

- 1) 347 East Linn Street - Install "K" style gutter, downspouts
- 2) 125 West Bishop Street - Signage
- 3) 217 West Curtin Street - To replace porch with wooden parts to create a replica of the original porch.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve all three Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB draft meeting minutes from the August 12, 2014, meeting and the August 26, 2014, meeting are in the packet for review.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** - Mr. Walker would like to meet with the Building and Property Committee before making a recommendation on the request from Gary C. Calvert LLC to Characterize a Release of Petroleum near the common property line of Talleyrand Park and the J.J. Powell, Inc. Property, known as Snappy's.

- Downspout work on the Train Station is scheduled for September 15.

- At the last meeting Mr. Immel presented a request for support regarding his proposal on 121 E Curtin St, but Mr. Stewart stated he has decided not to follow through and apply for a variance. He is going to use the property as a single family residence.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - Mrs. Dunne will find the answer to Mr. Brachbill's question regarding the "Special Projects" line on the Finance Report.

- Mrs. Dunne reported the Treasurer's Report reflects the end of July, which is 58% of the year. Budgeted receipts received to date are 45.6%. Only 38.1% of the budgeted expenses have been spent to date. She reported things are going well. Mrs. Dunne reported the Dog Sign revenue is booming.

- There will be a Finance Committee meeting prior to the September 15 Council meeting.

**PARK AND RECREATION** - Mrs. Brown needs to have a Park & Recreation Committee meeting for the mud sill work that will begin soon. Mr. Holderman reported the work will begin in the next week or so.

- A meeting needs to be set to discuss the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority pool options. Mr. DeCusati is amazed at all the information stating the pool will not re-open, and Council members are not aware of anything. Mr. Holderman stated the pool would be closed in 2015. If all the participating municipalities agree to a tax increase to fund renovation, it will re-open in 2016. If it is not approved, it is unlikely the pool will open again.

- Mrs. Dunne showed a few pictures of the Edible Landscape Garden at Talleyrand Park. It is harvest time. The Edible Landscape Garden has been redesigned and expanded. They are using the fence to grow certain plants. The main crop to send to the food pantry is rainbow Swiss chard. Bricks were used to create walking paths through the garden. The Edible Landscape Garden is planned, planted and maintained by a committee of approximately eight people. The garden is not a community garden and is not meant to feed people. It is meant to be a demonstration garden to introduce edible plants to people. There is a design key there to identify the various plants.

- The Streetscape Document stated there will be extra trees. Mrs. Brown recommended the trees be planted in Masullo Park. Mr. Holderman stated there will not be any extra trees, but the extra shrubbery from the Streetscape Project is going to Talleyrand Park. He stated it would not be a problem to put some of the shrubbery in Masullo Park.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Mr. Spicer reported a letter was received from James L. McAneny, Executive Director, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Public Employee Retirement Commission. It is a notice of the 2014 Distress Determination. The total

Distress Score is "1," which is minimally distressed, which means no mandatory remedies need to be implemented. It is based on assets and liabilities.

- The Vacancy Hearing Board meeting minutes from August 18, 2014, are in the packet for review. Mr. Spicer congratulated Brian Walker for stepping up to serve on Council. He also thanked Sheila Steiver, Claudia Wilson, and Mike Scott for being willing to serve on Council.

**SAFETY** - Mr. Brachbill stated the Fire Executive Committee Draft Meeting minutes from July 31, 2014 are in the packet for review.

- Draft Bellefonte Borough Safety Committee meeting minutes from August 13, 2014, are in the packet for review.

- The Fire Executive Committee will have a meeting on Thursday, September 4, at 7:00 p.m. They will be reviewing the 1998 Master Fire Prevention Plan. There was one meeting where approximately a chapter was completed. He feels the January 2015 deadline will be required because there is a lot of work to do. Mrs. Dunne thanked Mr. Brachbill for giving a little push to the Master Plan.

- A letter was received from Walt Schneider, Bellefonte Logan Fire Department Chief, giving notification that they have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$199,000.00 to provide automatic sprinkler systems in both fire stations. \$189,000.00 will be the grant and each fire department adds \$10,000.00. Mr. Schneider is congratulated for his hard work in achieving this grant.

- Mr. Halderman attended a Safety Committee Meeting for COG and the regional fire departments thanked Bellefonte for being able to use Dunlop Street for their annual pumping certifications for their pumps. They sent a letter to the Borough thanking them.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - Mr. Beigle reported a letter was received from Stephen G. Copeland, NPDES Permits Branch, Water Protection Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, thanking Mr. Cook for submitting the 2013 Annual Report. The overall Program Rating for 2013 was 98.1%, which is a category 1. The Borough is congratulated for this achievement.

- In reference to the Daily Withdrawal report there was one day that the withdrawal was very high. Mr. Stewart stated a very large leak was fixed that day.

- Mr. Beigle would like to schedule a Water and Sanitation meeting to discuss rates.

- The next Authority meeting will be held Wednesday, September 3, at 6:00 p.m.

**STREETS** - Mr. DeCusati reported the Streetscape Improvements Job Conference No. 3 Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2014, and the Streetscape Improvements Job Conference No. 4 Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2014, are in the packet for review.

Work is progressing on the Streetscape Project. Mr. DeCusati requested residents and Council to be patient and understanding as the work is going on at Allegheny and Bishop Streets. There is a little bit of discomfort while changes are going on, but it is for a long-term benefit. Currently there is insufficient lighting because the street poles had to be removed so work could be completed. Staff is working with the contractor to try to have the poles back in place next week. The contractor still says he will make the October completion date.

Some planting will be done in that area in the fall, which is the appropriate time.

- The Borough received a FEMA award for the Lamb Street Appeal. The Borough will be reimbursed up to \$386,063.00 in addition to the \$48,906.00 already received.

Mr. DeCusati thanked Mr. Stewart, Mr. Holderman and others on staff who were diligent to work hard to consistently push with FEMA to get that. A comment from a Federal Representative said it was largely their effort that kept things moving along.

The plan is that work will begin in early spring for this work and some of the other streets projects on the list to be completed.

- The Streets Committee met before this Council meeting and went over a lot of projects. There were 15 that have had work done so far and approximately 10 that have been added since. The committee was diligent to work on some of the ones that residents wrote. There was a complaint earlier in the year about getting trimming done and the Code Enforcement Officer has been diligent on that. It is the responsibility of the residents to trim hedges and other vegetation so it does not come into the streets or lanes. You will get a warning, and if it is not done, the Borough will trim them very hard.

On High Street there was a drainage issue. It was examined and the Borough staff did some modifications to allow storm water run-off. Mr. DeCusati stated we are seeing more frequent events of heavy rain and run-off, which is resulting in more complaints of storm water run-off in the wrong place. The systems were not made to handle the more frequent storms in Bellefonte and other places in the Country. Next year when paving is done they will spend more money on milling to keep the curb heights maintained.

- The Streets Committee will be setting up a meeting soon with the Chamber to review suggestions for helping with downtown parking.

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the Streetscape Invoice No. 2 in the amount of \$75,903.33 to Murphy Weber Fox. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Ms. Harvey thanked Mr. DeCusati and Mr. Holderman for confirming that greenery will be replaced at the Streetscape Project.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - No report.

**JUNIOR COUNCIL** - No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Ordinance 09022014-01, which is an ordinance of the Borough of Bellefonte amending the codified Book of Ordinances, Chapter 307 Flood Hazard Areas. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. At the last meeting this Ordinance was approved to be advertised because it had not been advertised, but it has since been advertised. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to continue the Public Comment Period at the end of the Council meeting. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve amendment No. 4 to Lease Agreement, which is an agreement between the Borough of Bellefonte and the Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce, whose principal offices are at the Train Station. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. The agreement is to extend the lease for an additional twenty-five (25) year period beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2039. A voice vote was unanimous.

The Centre Region Code office is performing informational sessions on the code enforcement transition. The first two were really well attended. He attended one and felt they did a nice job explaining their processes and how they propose to work with the Borough and the property owners. On September 18 in Council Chambers from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. there will be another opportunity. Anyone that has property will receive a letter from Centre Region Code informing them of this. Approximately 50 people attended the previous sessions.

Mr. Halderman reported Centre Region Code is going around to all the people with Fire Permits and helping them fill out the new forms and making sure they have the correct amount of floor space.

Mr. DeCusati stated in the questionnaire that was sent out you do not send any fees now.

Mr. Halderman stated a pilot program will be run for Bellefonte where you can pay your permit and pick up your material in Bellefonte rather than going to State College. If it works well they will go to the other townships.

- Mr. Brachbill stated Talleyrand Park has an ordinance stating it is a "dog-free smoke-free" area. He was involved with the Bellefonte Arts & Crafts program, which had the most vendors ever and wonderful crowds, but a lot of people in the crowd had their dogs with them. He told them was a dog-free environment, but the people said

they did not know that. He feels when people use the park they include in their ads that the park is "dog- and smoke-free".

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adjourn the meeting of September 2, 2014, at 8:40 p.m. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.