

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
September 15, 2014
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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, Spicer, Walker,

Members Excused: DeCusati, Li

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty, Bellefonte Keystone Community Coordinator

Guests: Tim Snyder; Jeff Powell; Girl Scout Troop 40023; Harry Mills; Jim Quici

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 September 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- Communications - Letter request re Girls Just Wanna Run Program
- Mayor - Police Report - July 2014
- Mayor - Police Report - August 2014
- Mayor - Police Exonerations - July 2014
- Finance - Treasurer's Report August 2014
- Finance - Voucher Summary August 2014: \$622,113.27

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne requested the minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

The motion was amended to approve all items in the Consent Agenda except the minutes. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne would like additional wording for clarification on the top of page 4. At the end of the Building & Property Report she would like it to be more specific about the request that Mr. Emel presented, which is spelled as Immel. She would like it to say "Mr. Immel presented a request for support regarding the property on 121 East Curtin Street".

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the minutes with the added clarification. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- An email request from Girl Scout Troop 40023. They would like to place a free library in Talleyrand Park.

Various Girl Scouts from Troop 40023, 203 North Allegheny Street, addressed Council to present their project. They would like to place a little free library in Talleyrand Park. It is a library where you can borrow books or recycle books. For more information visit www.littlefreelibrary.org.

Information was passed out. This project would be for the Girl Scout Bronze Award. This would be a permanent fixture in the park. They would like to place the Little Free Library between the Gazebo and Spring Creek. The books would be donated. The books would be for all ages. They think Talleyrand Park is a great place for the library because a lot of people use it year-round and it is a beautiful place to be and read. The troop will take care of the maintenance and the books. They will tend to it monthly.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve the Little Free Library project. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. The Girl Scouts were advised to work with the Park and Recreation Committee to determine where to place the library. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Jamie and Victoria Shivery expressing gratitude to Officer Bathgate and Officer Holt for assistance during an incident they were dealing with.

Mayor Wilson requested the letter be placed in Officer Holt's file and expressed appreciation for singling out one of the officers for their assistance.

- A letter from Steven W. Bair, Fire Director, Centre Region Council of Governments Regional Fire Protection Program thanking Borough Council and the Citizens of Bellefonte for making Dunlop Street and the adjacent mill race available to Centre County Fire Companies for the purpose of annual fire pump testing.

- A letter from the Bellefonte Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses requesting permission to display their literature at Talleyrand Park and the Farmers Markets.

Harry Mills addressed Council along with Jim Quici. They want to display literature and the displays will not be permanent. No one will be approached. No money will be taken, not even donations. They have been in the community for sixty years. They want to place the literature in areas where it will not disrupt businesses. In Talleyrand Park they would like to place it near the Train Station or wherever it is recommended. Council is invited to go to jw.org to see how it is done.

Mr. Stewart recommended getting the opinion of the Borough solicitor before a decision is made. Mr. Beigle made a motion to have the solicitor review this before making a decision. When a decision is made then have the Park & Recreation Committee review for recommendation. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Debbie Hamilton, Director, Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Fair, thanking the Bellefonte Borough and the Borough staff for the tremendous amount of support and help prior to and during the fair.

- A FYI regarding a "State of the County" Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, September 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Penn Stater Conference Center. It is sponsored by the Centre County Chamber of Business and Industries (CBICC).

- An invitation to the Route 45 dedication in honor of Sgt. Adam Hartswick on Thursday, September 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Lions Club Community Park in Pine Grove Mills.

- An invitation to attend CATA's groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction for the Authority's new transportation and maintenance facility expansion project on Friday, October 10, at 11:00 a.m. at the CATA Main Office located at 2081 Whitehall Road.

ORAL

- Tim Snyder, Project Manager, Weis Markets in the Architecture Department, with a demolition request to demolish property at 987 East Bishop Street, which are the Army Reserve structures owned by Weis Markets. The former Weis store is adjacent to this property. The intent is to remove the building from the site. The existing buildings total approximately 21,000 square feet. There is a main building and a separate building that was part of the motor pool. There is a concrete slab and sidewalks as well as a flagpole and a masonry planter. Hazmat surveys have been taken at the site and all hazmat has been removed from the building so they are clean at this point. They want to demolish the existing buildings, reseed the area and then proceed for further land development.

Mr. Beigle asked why good buildings would be torn down. Mr. Snyder stated it is hard to lease space inside a building as is. He asked why they don't tear the Weis building down, but they are trying to lease the Weis building. At this time there is no intent to tear the Weis building down. Mr. Snyder stated there are multiple levels inside the reserve building and ramps would have to be built to make it ADA accessible.

There is interest in the property when the building is torn down. The property is approximately 3 1/4 acres. A property-site survey was done in 2012. The survey showed that the corner of the building was 6" inside the line. Mr. Stewart would like a copy of the survey.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve demolition of the property. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mrs. Dunne voting no.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft IDA Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2014 are in the packet for review.

- Mr. Brachbill reported there will be a Nittany Valley Joint Planning Committee meeting on Thursday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the Walker Township Building.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported the July and August ticket exonerations are in the packet as well as the police statistical reports from July and August. In doing comparisons Mayor Wilson feels there was significant increase in traffic patrol over those two months. He reminded the citizens that primarily most of the streets in the Borough are 25 mph. Please "slow down when you are in town".

Mayor Wilson reported the Youth Service Bureau moved into their new building on Spring Street. He thanked Vana Dainty for a great idea in having some of the high school band members come down and conduct a small parade for the kids from their old building to their new building. They were super excited for their new facility on Spring Street.

Ms. Dainty thanked Mayor Wilson for participating in the parade.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

None.

HARB

1) 240 Match Factory Place - Install a sign for Careerlink Centre County - The sign will be the same size as the current sign (Tapestry of Health) but will have the Careerlink logo colors being red, white and blue.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB draft meeting minutes from the September 9, 2014 meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - Mr. Walker made a motion to grant approval based on Mr. Calvert's letter from August 26 requesting permission to access the Borough property and place three additional test wells and then convert one of those to a monitoring well. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart reported that Mr. Calvert provided a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured. A voice vote was unanimous. It is unknown how often the monitoring will be done, but Mr. Walker stated those will be determined by DEP.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne reported the August 2014 fund totals are generally close to budget. Financial activity is proceeding at a regular pace through the year.

The Finance Committee met before the Council meeting and discussed several issues that they need to continue to pursue.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mrs. Brown reported the Park and Recreation Committee had a meeting on Thursday, September 11, at Governor's Park. They walked the whole park, including the trail, looked at all the picnic tables and pavilions and have a lot of recommendations that need taken care of there.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to assist Joe Menna and the baseball team to move the back stop at the baseball field five feet back so it meets requirements for tournaments. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A grant was received for this so it will not cost the Borough anything. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Antique Fair went over very well, in spite of the rain, on Saturday, September 13, at Talleyrand Park. There was an appraiser inside the Train Station and 64 people showed up to have items appraised. They would like to have it for two days next year and more vendors. All the antique vendors were very pleased with how the day went.

- Mayor Wilson reminded the citizens of Bellefonte and the surrounding areas that fishing in Spring Creek is only permitted downstream from the High Street bridge.

- Mr. Beigle asked what happens if one or two of the municipalities decide not to participate in funding the pool at Governor's Park. Mr. Holderman reported it will not go forward if even one municipality does not participate. The agreement with the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority states the pool would come back to the Borough.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer reported the estimates prepared under Act 205 for the 2015 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Bellefonte Borough Pension Plans is in the packet. There are three pension programs: the Defined Contribution Program and the MMO for that is \$22,108.00; the Defined Benefit Program for the non-uniform employees is \$438,018.00; and the Police Pension Program is \$162,557.00. According to guidelines, Council must approve this by the end of September.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve the 2015 MMO's for Bellefonte Borough Pension Plans. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart will be attending the National Rural Water Association Conference October 6–8 in Seattle Washington. The conference expenses are being taken care of by PA Rural Water Association. Following the conference Mr. Stewart will be on vacation October 9–17.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve Barton Associates as the design engineering firm for the fire houses' sprinkler system design, developing the contract documents, advertising the RFP and providing contract management services for the project at a cost of \$15,000.00. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There will be a Bellefonte Borough Safety Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, in the Council Chambers.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported the August 2014 Daily Water Withdrawal report is in the packet for review.

The Water Authority is getting low on funds. They have experienced some maintenance projects that have reduced funds so there may need to be a water rate increase.

STREETS - Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve payment of the invoice to Hillis-Carnes engineering Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$3,782.50. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Holderman reported on the Streetscape Project. It is on schedule. The invoice was for concrete inspections that are going on throughout every pour. The Borough is trying to lay conduit and rewire street lighting throughout this project. There will be four additional lampposts added in the project. The root system was getting cut up as sidewalks were dug so to prevent a problem in a few years with possible dead trees it was decided to remove some of the larger trees. All trees that were removed will be replaced at the end of October. The Borough did not anticipate having to pay for PennDOT inspection services, but that was part of the project so they are looking for ways to cover that throughout the project. The next phase will be the other side of Allegheny Street up to Cherry Lane, then back to the Bishop Street intersection and then work up to Cherry Lane on that side.

Ms. Harvey reported the Shade Tree Commission is on board with the project. She feels people will be pleased with the variety of trees used to replace what was cut.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - No report.

JUNIOR COUNCIL - No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Stewart reported at the last meeting there was a question on the Treasurer's Report on the Special Projects fund...that was taking unused money and putting it into the General Fund. Ms. Walker addressed to Council via email that she was using funds that had been designated for Special Projects and that there were not any projects the funds were being used for.

- There is a meeting with PennDOT Tuesday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m. in regard to West Linn Street.

- Mr. Brachbill reported on the '98 Fire Prevention Task Force Committee. He stated a scheduled meeting was cancelled. It was rescheduled for Thursday, September 25.

NEW BUSINESS

- Information from the new Code Inspection Service Provider, Centre Region Code, which includes information on building permits that were issued or closed. Council members would like to continue receiving these reports.

- The Fall Leadership Conference for PSAB will be October 17–19. Any Council members interested in attending need to let Mr. Stewart know. He requested Council members review a spreadsheet he sent out because the budget is very tight. Mrs. Brown suggested those who went in the spring refrain from going to this one and allow new people to attend.

- There is a piece of legislation called Senate Bill #1023, which is related to the UCC mandate for an additional third party contractor to do inspections. The Boroughs Association and some other City and Municipal Leagues are requesting municipalities to oppose it because it will add a nightmare to trying to manage code services underneath the municipality.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion that Mr. Stewart write a letter expressing the opposition of Council to the legislation. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Walker presented the Borough Council Code of Conduct that he signed and dated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. Brachbill made a motion to adjourn the meeting of September 15, 2014, at 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.