

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**
September 18, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

5:45 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

**6:30 p.m. Work Session –
- HARB/Council**

CALL TO ORDER:

The September 18, 2017 regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ms. Gay Dunne, President.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gay Dunne
Randall Brachbill
Melissa Hombosky
Doug Johnson
Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Taylor Lake
Joseph Beigle
Renee Brown

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Courtney Dickman

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Tom Wilson, Mayor

GUESTS: Emma Gonsalvez, The Express
Robert Nesmith, Soap Box Derby
Alan Uhler, Soap Box Derby/HARB
Kyle Uhler/Soap Box Derby
Jayma Nesmith, Soap Box Derby

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Brachbill moved to approve the Minutes of the September 5, 2017 Council Meeting;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered 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).

Communications - Letter Request from HBI re: Halloween Parade

The parade route will close State Route 144 and 150 on October 28 at 1 p.m. beginning at the Bellefonte Elementary School.

Mayor – Police Exonerations

Mayor – Police Report

Finance – Invoice from Stover, McLaughlin

Finance – Voucher Summary August 2017: \$916,781.63

Ms. Hombosky moved to approve the Consent Agenda;
Ms. Lake seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Written:

Letter from CC Board of Commissioner re: 2018 County Liquid Fuels Program

The application is due November 17, 2017. This is an annual application process.

Letter from Yadin Flammer re: Unattended vehicles and Ordinance

Council would like to look into this further and referred it to the Streets Committee.

Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary Club Donation to Liberty Swing Project

Copy of a check from the Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary Club for \$6,000 towards the Liberty Swing project and to purchase some additional playground equipment for Governor's Park. Mr. Holderman thanked the Rotary for this and all the donations to the Borough. Council also thanked the Rotary for the donation.

Letter from Joe Jovinelli re: No Smoking

There is no smoking in or around the courthouse. Now people are crossing the street and smoking in front of the rentals on High Street. He has requested that Council reach out to Centre County. He does not believe that the County has given any other smoking area options to the courthouse visitors. Ms. Tosti-Vasey inquired about talking with the commissioners about a designated smoking area on the courthouse property. She indicated that Danville has an area outside of their hospital for this very reason. Mr. Holderman saw it appropriate to send a letter to the County from Council making the request.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to craft a letter to the County regarding the smoking issue;

Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;

Motion carried via voice vote.

Thank you from Spring Township Police

Public Notice re: proposed modification to FFY 2016 Centre County CDBG Contract

There will be a public hearing regarding the Borough's proposed modification on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 10 a.m. in Room 116 at the Willowbank Building.

Letter re: Acquisition of Nittany Engineering by Century Engineering

Nittany Engineering is the engineers for the Bellefonte Water Authority. This is just a reassurance that there will not be much change in services provided.

Letter of Appreciation from CATA

Thank you to Council for allowing CATA to use the armory property for bus storage during CATA's construction. They have corrected any issues left from the busses.

Email from BHCA re: Concerts in Bellefonte

Email re: Smart Growth Community Planning Public Workshop and Monthly Sold by Area for August

Hosted by the Centre County Realtor's Association – Thursday, October 12, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Oral:

Alan Uhler – Soap Box Derby, Dubois, PA

Mr. Uhler shared some photographs from the derby this past summer. He gave a brief presentation on the derby and the races they compete in. The club also hosts fun races for a chance to get the kids together and have fun and introduce new racers. He also explained that the experience is educational to the racers. He stated that many racers, their families and friends complimented Mr. Uhler on how beautiful Bellefonte was and how they were so gracious to allow the Derby to take over the town. There were 13 children from Bellefonte in the race. Six kids from the race actually got sent on to the final races in Akron, Ohio. It was a big jump from previous years and a great experience for the children in the derby. He thanked the Bellefonte Borough, the Cruise and HBI, Downtown Bellefonte businesses, the residents of Allegheny Street, the Episcopal Church, the American Legion, Logan Fire Company, Domilite, Johnson Motors, and Chip Aikens for allowing the use of the parking lot. He presented a plaque to the Borough Council and Mayor in recognition of the help and support of bringing racing back to Bellefonte. (*applause*). Mr. Uhler invited Council members to the Fun Fall Race held at Mt. Eagle, October 1 at 9 a.m. Potluck supper around 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Dunne – Nittany Valley Symphony

Last year the symphony held two concerts in the Bellefonte H.S. Auditorium. The symphony will again perform at the high school. Ms. Dunne wanted to announce this to the public as it is an excellent musical experience for residents of Bellefonte. The first concert is September 24 and the other one will be late in the year. Also, there are two concerts at the Centre County Historical Library and Museum on Sunday afternoon – October 1 and November 12.

Public Comment: None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IDA Draft Meeting Minutes September 13, 2017

DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK EVENT

Ms. Tosti-Vasey and Ms. Lake both attended the Drive Electric Week Event in State College on September 17. There was a brochure handed out and it provides a good background on the benefits and advantages towards moving toward hybrid and electric vehicles. She was only able to obtain one copy. She will have copies made for anyone interested in having a copy. Ms. Tosti-Vasey stated that Rick Price is the executive director of the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities which is part of the Department of Energy. Centre County is part of the Pitt region. She spoke with him and he indicated that the Borough can contact him at any time. He also chairs the statewide PEV (PlugIn Electric Vehicle) coalition committee on procurement and he can also help us with moving this program forward in the Borough.

NITTANY VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Brachbill indicated that a meeting will be held on September 21 at 6 p.m. at the new Benner Township building from 6 – 8 p.m. They will be reviewing the Nittany Valley demographic chapter of the comp plan, the revised economic development comp plan and some revised comp plan goals. Mark Higgins will be present for the meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilson reported that hopefully by the next meeting in October he should have an idea of the results of the feasibility study for the Milesburg/Bellefonte bike trail.

September 24 – 26 the Mayor will be attending the PA Parks and Rec Greenway Trails Summit in Reading, PA. Grant opportunities will be explored in anticipation of the trail. The Summit is statewide.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

ZONING/PLANNING:

HARB:

Certificates of Appropriateness: Freight Station, 448 E. Linn St, 203 N. Spring St; 127 W. Curtin St –

Mr. Brachbill moved to approve the certificates for the aforementioned projects;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote;

HARB Draft Meeting Minutes September 12, 2017

BUILDING AND PROPERTY: Courtney Dickman, Chair

Consider outlining parameters from Armory Property sale by Bellefonte IDA

Mr. Holderman reported that the IDA had discussion in executive session regarding the armory property. One of the things thought beneficial was including Council in the sale process. Mr. Beard, solicitor for the IDA, can be a negotiator but would like to establish some parameters. A meeting is in the works with the property committee and the IDA to come up with some parameters so that Mr. Beard knows where to go with negotiations.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE: Renee Brown, Chair

Current v. Prior August 2017
Budget v. Actual August 2017

Finance committee met before Council this evening and this was the second 2018 budgeting meeting. Mr. Holderman indicated that some budget figures will be coming before Council probably the next several Council meetings.

PARK AND RECREATION: Melissa Hombosky, Chair

Ms. Hombosky thanked Sunrise Rotary again for the generous donation towards the Liberty swing and the park.

Krauss Park Clean Up - to be scheduled

Mr. Holderman mentioned that there was some vandalism in Talleyrand Park over the weekend. One of the urns was completely broken. It was one on the raceway near the train station. One of the larger urns was broken. Surveillance cameras were mentioned again with hopeful installation next year. Ms. Dunne indicated that there is a need.

Mr. Holderman also stated that staff met with SEDA COG Railroad and some members of the Bellefonte Historical Rail Society regarding the CDBG program – the platform extension and walkway across the bridge. He anticipates a draft of the drawings to be done fairly soon by John Conrad, P.E., who is working on this for the Borough. It will most likely be circulated within the interest groups. He will come into Council to present the plan. This plan will also go through HARB.

The railroad track patch job was discussed briefly (Water Street near Exxon Station).

Bob Bowersox indicated that signage should be up in the next couple of weeks.

The Talleyrand Park Sign was mentioned and thanks were sent to the Talleyrand Park Committee who used their own funds for the sign.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Chair

Memo from Ralph Stewart re: NRWA Conference September 18-20

Mr. Stewart is at the National Rural Water Association Conference in Reno, NV this week. The Rural Water Association is paying for travel expenses.

The part-time receptionist position has been advertised. Mr. Holderman does not know if any applications have been received. The position has been open for a few weeks. Position available ASAP.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Randy Brachbill, Chair

Centre Region COG Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Draft August 8, 2017
Centre Region Comparison and Monthly Code Stats
2017 Code Administration Rental Housing Customer Satisfactory Survey – Final report

Mr. Brachbill reported that he was unable to attend the COG Public Safety Meeting held last Tuesday. He was unable to find a replacement attendee. Bellefonte was not represented at that meeting.

There is a Fire Executive meeting at 7 p.m. on September 28 in Council Chambers. Mr. Brachbill cannot attend due to a work function. He is cancelling the Fire Task Force meeting for the same evening 6 p.m. as he cannot attend.

Ms. Dunne inquired about the property rental survey. She inquired about Bellefonte's response percentage. She was unable to find the response rate. This survey was sent only to the properties that were inspected in 2016.

WATER/SANITATION – Joe Beigle, Chair

Authority Meeting Minutes Draft September 6, 2017

Mr. Beigle reported that Nittany Engineering is merging with a company out of Maryland. The company does give more options.

The sewer plant projects are waiting for DEP approval. Once the approval is given then the projects will go out to bid and get started in the spring. He commented that Pennsylvania is behind in nitrate management. He offered that the Federal government is going to put some stringent measures to work. He stated that he mentions this because of

the nature of the sewer plant. Ms. Dunne stated that the Spring Creek Watershed MS4 groups will work to assist the Borough with any issues with DEP and future regulations.

STREETS: Doug Johnson, Chair

Letter from Franson Engineering re: various stormwater issues

Mr. Franson gave a report on three sites visited a few months ago. Mr. Johnson would like the committee to meet and make recommendation to Council on which projects can be afforded next year. Ms. Tosti-Vasey questioned the budget for next year and a timeline for these projects. Mr. Holderman indicated that a pricing can be done before the next Council meeting. Ms. Dunne indicated that the Streets budget will be discussed more towards the end of the budgeting sessions.

Mr. Johnson also indicated that Mr. Holderman is in the process of applying for the Green Light Go funding for \$130,000.00. If funds are achieved, they will go toward the funding of the safety light (caution) on North Thomas Street and a caution light at the Undine Fire Company site for safe egress of the fire equipment when they are going to and from a fire call. Undines are located on Bishop Street.

The gas line replacement on North Thomas is going well. There have not been any complaints from the residents. They did hit a water line. Ms. Lake noted that there are NO flaggers in the morning when she goes through there. Mr. Holderman will ask about this.

The hand rails are being replaced along Water Street by the creek in front of Talleyrand.

Route 144 West Linn St. project is behind schedule but is moving forward.

Mr. Holderman indicated that the stop light and stop line at Lamb Street makes it hard to see the light. HRI will move the line back to the appropriate location before the project is finished.

Pricing on caps and lights will be provided to the finance committee.

Ms. Brown indicated that she has been in touch with Tel Power to better coordinate the light at High and Water. In the morning when the traffic is heavier, the light timing has been adjusted and the traffic seems to be flowing better through Bellefonte.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: Taylor Lake, Chair

Consider approval for advertising and adoption of Solar Energy Systems Ordinance

The most recent draft of the Solar Energy System Ordinance was in the packet. Comments were requested from Council. Ms. Lake has received no suggested changes.

Mr. Brachbill would like to see this go to HARB and Zoning for review before advertising. HARB would review the solar panel request in the historical district on a case-by-case basis. They would not be permitted in the front yard unless Council approved it.

Ms. Dunne referred this ordinance back to Planning Commission and HARB. DirecTV and DISH Network dishes were discussed briefly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Consider switching on new Borough website

Mr. Holderman suggested a conference call sometime next week to discuss where the new site is and what the next step is.

Lease from Café on the Park

The Borough has not received any paperwork from Café on the Park as of this date. Mr. Beigle stated that it seems too much to leave the lease lay out there for this long without it being commented on or signed off on. Staff can send an email regarding the lease to Café on the Park asking them to address this before year's end or this will need to be pulled back to new Council.

Mr. Brachbill moved to send a letter to Mr. Stewart, owner of Café on the Park, requesting his wishes as to the lease of the property next to the Café, giving him to December 30, 2017;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.

Ms. Lake inquired about the cones at the raceway at the parking area near the train station. She has not seen anyone working on the area at all. PennDOT asked that the cones be kept there until the work was done. Mr. Holderman will check on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider approval of 2018 non-uniform pension plan minimum municipal obligation (MMO)

Consider approval of 2018 Police Pension Plan (MMO)

Mr. Beigle moved to approve both the non-uniform and police pension plans (MMO);

Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;

Motion carried via voice vote.

Mr. Holderman indicated that these will be signed and sent in and resolutions will follow.

Memo with attachment re: PA Economy Legal report: Communities in Crisis

HB 1620 -

Ms. Tosti-Vasey offered that letters were sent to the representatives regarding the HB 1620 and wondered about feedback. Mr. Holderman is not aware of any at this time.

Trees for downtown –

Mr. Holderman indicated that they are going to plant some trees downtown and are hiring a few people to do some landscape clean up downtown. A few residents have inquired about trees. Shade trees will be accommodated for in or about October. Residents would pay for the tree but get it planted free of charge. Mr. Holderman will see about sending the School District a letter regarding replacement of trees by the Elementary School on Linn Street.

Bellefonte Mart –

Ms. Brown indicated that a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held Friday, September 22 at 11:30. All are invited. Lunch will be served and door prizes as well. They would like to know who is attending from the Borough. Mr. Holderman requested a head count of who is attending to pass along.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

Mr. Brachbill moved to adjourn the September 21, 2017, Council meeting;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.