

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

6:00 p.m. Building and Property Committee – Parcel near John Montgomery Ward Lane

6:30 p.m. Work Session –

- NVJRA Efforts to Renovate Swimming Pool/Financing
- Executive Session – Armory Property

7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The October 16, 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
Courtney Dickman

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

GUESTS: Emma Gonsalvez, *The Express*
Sean Yoder, *The Gazette*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Brachbill moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017, Council meeting;
Mr. Beigle 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 Howard Volunteer Fire Company

Mayor – Police Exonerations

Mayor – Police Report

Finance – Treasurer’s Report September 2017

Finance – Voucher Summary September 2017: \$875,516.18

Mr. Brachbill moved to approve the Consent Agenda;
Ms. Brown seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Written:

Email from B. Smith re: SRO Program

Letter from a resident of Benner Township thanking the Borough for the SRO Program, specifically Officer Luse’s actions were appreciated. Council requested a letter of commendation be given to Officer Luse.

Proposed Changes to Certified Local Government Program

Changes are proposed to this program. Comments are due by December 4, 2017. Two webinars are coming up related to these changes.

Letter from CBICC re: Coalition formed to renew Push for Local Highway Projects

One of these projects includes the I-99 interchange.

Memo from CCCMPO re: Opportunity for Supplemental Transportation Planning Funds

Funding opportunities - Studies may need to be done to see if the projects reach the criteria. Staff will consider this. Ms. Tosti-Vasey mentioned a traffic light at Parkview Blvd. and Zion Road, a second project being the flashing light on North Thomas and a third being a stop sign at E. Howard and Wilson. The big cost would be redoing the wall along Water Street next to Talleyrand. This will be a high cost project. Mr. Stewart will look into these specific projects.

Letter Request from YMCA re: Annual Polar Bear Plunge

They are looking for sponsorships for the annual plunge at Black Moshannon. Benner and Spring both donate something to this event. Ms. Hombosky indicated that the Borough is the only main municipality that does not donate currently. The program supports the backpack program. It is a program that provides food for children over the weekend so they don't go hungry. The parks fund could be used for this if desired.

Email re: Public Plans Display for SR64/SR550 Intersection Improvement Project

Public plan display for this project. It will be on October 25 from 6-8 p.m. at the Walker Township Building.

Oral:

Mr. Brachbill brought back some materials from the seminar he attended. There is some legislation included. It was a good conference and training. He attended some classes; i.e., trends in zoning, understanding police accreditation, effective ordinance and legislative updates. The PSAB 107th Annual Conference will be in Hershey June 10-13, 2018.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IDA Meeting Minutes October 11, 2017 DRAFT
Safety Committee Meeting Minutes October 11, 2017 DRAFT
CCMPO Summary Report of September 26, 2017 Meeting
NVJPC Comp Plan Econ Dev
NVJPC Comp Plan Demographics
NVJPC Community Planning Goals – DRAFT REVISIONS 2017

Mr. Brachbill would like to do a work session on the NVJPC items. These items will also be added to the Bellefonte website. He also added that the NVJPC is in need of a secretary. This is a volunteer position. If anyone would be interested in that, please let him know.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report from the police.

Exonerations were discussed briefly. The parking violation exonerations were discussed briefly.

Mayor Wilson wanted to acknowledge the SRO program (School Resource Officer). Officer Luse intervened on a situation on a bus that came to a good resolve.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

ZONING/PLANNING:

HARB:

Update from Shannon Wright, HARB Administrator

Ms. Wright's written reports on BelleKey and HARB was received by Council. There were no HARB projects for approval.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY: Courtney Dickman, Chair

The committee met this evening to discuss an inquiry regarding a piece of property owned by the Borough.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE: Renee Brown, Chair

Current v. Prior September 2017
Budget v. Actual September 2017

Consideration of motion supporting swimming pool renovations with conditions. This was discussed during the work session this evening. A solution was discussed.

**Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to write a letter of commitment on the rehabilitation of the Kepler Pool for \$140,000 from the Borough with the expectation that the other three municipalities in the NVJRA also similarly contribute. This payment will spread out over five years;
Ms. Dickman seconded the motion;**

Mr. Beigle said he thought the commitment would be set forth without the condition of the three municipalities joining in. Ms. Tosti-Vasey explained that it is an expectation not a condition. Mr. Brachbill opined that the other municipalities should be responsible for the pool as they have residents that use the pool and it is an important item for their residents as well as the Borough's residents. He stated that the Borough should take the lead and in that, is holding up to what was requested by the committee for the community. The money won't benefit the pool if the others don't contribute as well. If all do not contribute then the work most likely will not be able to be done and the pool will close.

The community needs to understand that the Borough is not solely responsible for the funds for the pool and if it doesn't open, it was not on the Borough only to keep it open. Mr. Beigle stated

the scenario if three out of four get the funds together, then what would the fourth party be told regarding the use of the pool.

Mr. Holderman indicated that this is for 2019. The Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority will be applying for a grant. They will have to have commitment letters for their application. If funding can be had from another source, at least the Authority will know where they have to make up the difference and this will be added to the grant application. Ms. Dunne stated that a non-contributing municipality would still be a member of the Authority. She did not think anything would change legally.

Motion was repeated.

Motion carried via voice vote.

Finance Committee/Budget

Mr. Holderman mentioned that there is a finance committee meeting on Wednesday, October 25, at 5:15 p.m. This is a quarterly police finance committee meeting. The remaining funds will be reviewed at that meeting. A Special Council meeting will be held on October 30 with full Council to go over the remaining funds in draft. If all goes well there, at the first meeting in November, the budget will be put forth for advertisement.

PARK AND RECREATION: Melissa Hombosky, Chair

Ribbon cutting for the Liberty Swing will take place on Saturday, October 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Talleyrand Park Committee met last Thursday. It was a walk-through to see what would be placed on a to-do list for the committee and also some of the things that have been outstanding; i.e., problems over by the fountain and sculpture garden, and the edible garden. Things are in pretty good shape as reported by Mr. Holderman.

The donation policy was discussed. Brick selling was also discussed briefly. This should move quickly as the platform extension may take place next spring or early summer.

Mr. Brachbill stated that people have been playing in the newer fountain due to the warmer weather. There are some legal concerns regarding this. Mr. Holderman mentioned that this was talked about at the Talleyrand Park Committee Meeting.

Ice rink project will be reviewed by the finance committee.

Mr. Holderman mentioned that the architects for the two projects will be invited in to speak to Council. Most likely the November meetings will yield these discussions. The parking lot architect will also be in to speak about that project.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey had a question regarding ADA access for fishing that was discussed a few months ago. A pad was discussed. This will be discussed by the committee.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Chair

There were 21 applicants for the part time receptionist position. 10 were interviewed. 4 were chosen for final interviews. Hopefully an offer can be made by the end of the week so that the person can start next week and have at least two weeks with Ms. Munnell before she departs.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Randy Brachbill, Chair

Comparison of Monthly Code Statistics – September 2017
Summary Existing Structure August 2017

The unsafe conditions were questioned. These conditions leaned towards people removing things that were supposed to be in the apartment; i.e., smoke detectors. Renter- versus owner-caused violations were discussed.

WATER/SANITATION – Joe Beigle, Chair

Daily Water Withdrawal Report – September 2017

Authority Meeting Discussion October 3, 2017 (no quorum) – the spring cover was discussed briefly. A hard cover was not able to be acquired; i.e., permitting. Mr. Stewart encouraged Council members to read the minutes as this would be an ongoing topic of discussion.

Mr. Beigle moved to appoint Doug Johnson to the Water Authority Board effective January 1, 2018;
Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.

STREETS: Doug Johnson, Chair

Nothing to report.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: Taylor Lake, Chair

Solar Panel Ordinance October 16, 2017 DRAFT with edits from HARB and PC.

A clean copy of this ordinance was at the table for review. It incorporated both HARB and Planning Commission comments. The easement section was discussed briefly.

Ms. Lake moved to advertise the Solar Panel Ordinance;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

New website, www.bellefonte.net, went live Saturday, October 7, 2017. Ms. Dunne invited the public to visit the new website. Mr. Holderman asked for feedback on the website. Ms. Dunne thanked everyone for their efforts in planning and getting the new website up and running.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ballot Referendum – proposed Constitutional Amendment amending The Homestead Property Tax Assessment Exclusion

Mr. Stewart stated that there is a proposed Constitution Amendment regarding raising the exemption on The Homestead Property Tax from 50% to 100%. This gives state legislators legal authority to go higher than 50%. There is no action necessary at this time. Ms. Tosti-Vasey offered that schools could lose funding from the state. The Borough Association's website did not mention this proposal.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey mentioned another amendment proposed for the City of Philadelphia but voted on by the entire state – getting rid of the traffic courts in Philadelphia.

Mr. Brachbill discussed the Legislative Action Alert; i.e., what legislation is coming up for vote.

Planning Commission is looking at the need for monopolies. Council will be getting their recommendation after their meeting

Mr. Beigle reminded residents that trick-or-treat night is Halloween night, October 31, 2017, from 6-8 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

**Mr. Brachbill moved to adjourn the October 16, 2017, Council meeting;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.