

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 2016
www.bellefonte.net

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Council President Gay Dunne 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Council had an Executive Session preceding the meeting regarding personnel matters.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Brown, Clark, Dunne, Hombosky, Johnson, Tosti-Vasey, Brachbill,

Members Excused: DeCusati, Beigle, Mayor Tom Wilson

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Emma Gosalvez, Lock Haven Express; David Lomison
Jessica Keel; Stephanie Yager;

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 November 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- Mayor – Police Report
- Finance – Treasurer’s Report October 2016
- Finance – Voucher Summary October 2016: \$1,965,549.18

Ms. Hombosky had a correction to the meeting minutes. On page five, the paragraph starting with “Mr. Stewart approached Council...” on the second line BHC should be BHCA and instead of the Red Building Project it should be the Freight Building Project.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the minutes. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter of resignation from Connie Peters as Assistant Treasurer. This was added to the list of appointments. Mrs. Dunne said Council accepts her resignation regretfully and requested she be sent a letter of thanks for her years of service as an assistant treasurer to Bellefonte. She resigned because her husband is retiring.

- A letter from C-NET regarding the 2017 Membership Dues. That amount is included in the budget.

- A letter from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) regarding Holiday Displays.

- An invitation to an Open House for Robert Peters to celebrate his retirement on Friday, December 16, from 2-4 p.m. in Council Chambers. Mrs. Dunne requested a note of congratulations be issued.

- A memo from the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission. They are trying to repurpose some funds and are seeking direction or suggestions from Council as to where the funds should be appropriated. A letter of support regarding the Interchange has been seen previously. Ms. Tosti-Vasey feels they need to know that Council is talking about intersection 161 off of I80 to I99. There is \$2.1 million that has not been earmarked.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to send an email asking that the money be used for the survey of intersection 161 off of I80 to I99. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. Ms. Tosti-Vasey noted that over a four year period there have been nearly 100 crashes at that intersection. A voice vote was unanimous.

ORAL

- Dave Lomison, Centre County Transportation, addressed Council. They are trying to rectify an ongoing problem with jury selection through the efforts of the Commissioners and working with the business merchants in town. The two days of jury selection seem to be a hindrance for the downtown merchants because there are typically upwards of 150 prospective jurors on a single day two days a month.

He met with Borough staff last week and they looked at the Armory site and felt it could possibly be a solution to the problem. It would involve the County telling the prospective jurors that they must park there, but if they choose to park in town the

County will no longer pay the parking tickets, which is what is currently done, resulting in the fact that the jurors don't really care where they park.

Commissioner Higgins asked Mr. Lomison to work on this. They like the prospect of the Armory property. It would be a suitable site and the County would absorb the cost of getting the jurors downtown. They do not know how many will use this. There are some concerns with using the Armory property in the winter, but that would only involve a few times a year.

The County would like to help alleviate the parking problem and try using the Armory for parking. They were looking at parking right around the circle at the Armory. They would stay on the asphalt. There is room to park cars and still allow room for the County van to get through. It is felt that 60-70 cars could park there. The County would provide signage and direction.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey asked if the Borough plows the lot, which they do not. Mr. Lomison said the County would be responsible for plowing the lot, but if the County is not willing to plow the area it would be done on a trial basis from March through November. The County would like to get something in place before February. Jury selection typically starts at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Stewart said the Borough could possibly be an alternate to plow, but there are the priorities of the Borough to get the streets done.

Mr. Holderman said the Borough would need an agreement regarding the liability.

- Stephanie Yager, a resident of Spring Township, is reaching out to municipalities through the region, specifically first to police forces, asking for Council's reaffirmation of public support and protection for all citizens. The post-election cultural climate has made many citizens afraid. Nearly every demographic of humanity was marginalized during the recent presidential campaign and people are afraid not only of potential right-stripping policies that may come but of walking in their own communities. Instances of harassment of African-Americans, women, immigrants, international students and visitors, Muslims, Jewish people, people with intellectual disabilities, LGBTQ citizens, including the harassment and taunting of children by children are happening across the nation, including locally. She has reached out to her friends, business owners and even strangers who are in the most marginalized demographics to check on their emotional well-being to make sure they aren't being harassed. She asks Council to offer their support to the community. In Bellefonte on Saturday, November 12, a pickup truck in the downtown was photographed with a white night decal on the window. People may disagree on what that means, but the white nights of the KKK are considered the most militant as well as the most violent chapter of the KKK in history. Communities have noticed and will not accept racism. They need and want Council's reassurance and support. Like the president-elect, the local officials have the power to influence cultural climate in the area and community to make everyone feel safer by denouncing harassment and reaffirming the promise of protection by the local police force, the promise of protection of all citizens regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, background, religion, economic status, political affiliation, ability or disability and skin color. She understands the police have taken an oath, but they just want to hear from them and want reaffirmation. She asks that the Borough of Bellefonte stand with its residents and visitors and demonstrate commitment to all by

offering a statement, declaration, resolution or proclamation asserting and reaffirming that the Borough is a safe place; that violence and harassment will not be tolerated; and that the government and police are here for everyone. The community is looking for the leadership to speak up and denounce hate.

Mr. Stewart asked if she had any drafts of a resolution or proclamation. She said the State College Borough is citing something from the National League of Cities and Municipalities. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman will do some research on this.

- Randy Brachbill attended the Pennsylvania State Bee Keepers Association Banquet on Friday, November 11, at the Days Inn in State College. He represented Bellefonte Borough in receiving the Bee Friendly recognition for Bellefonte being a Bee Friendly community. Bellefonte is the only Bee Friendly community in Pennsylvania. Mr. Brachbill thanked the Centre County Bee Keeping members, Dr. Peter O'Donnell and Bellefonte's Nancy Noll, for their hospitality that evening. It was a very interesting evening. There were costumes there. Mr. Brachbill challenged other Centre County Municipalities to follow Bellefonte's lead and submit their application for designation to become a Bee Friendly Community. It was suggested that the recognition be placed at the Pollinator Garden. Ms. Tosti-Vasey asked if a sign could be placed near the entrances to Bellefonte.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft minutes from the November 9, 2016, Safety Committee are in the packet for review.

- Draft minutes from the November 9, 2016, IDA meeting are in the packet for review. There will be a joint meeting with Council and the IDA on December 14, 2016. Mr. Johnson said one of the committee members gave a lot of thanks to Don Holderman for his work on the IDA getting \$2.7 million without an audit. Mr. Halderman said without Mr. Holderman the project would not have gotten done. Mr. Holderman said there have been a lot of people involved in this.

- The November 15, 2016, Civil Service Commission minutes are in the packet. Mr. Brachbill said after reviewing the test scores of the provided candidates, of which none were veterans, William Witmer had a final score of 90.1%; Matthew Bollick had a final score of 87%; Charles Miller had 82.6%; and Trevor Staucher had 81.8%. Council has the right to appoint any one of the top three.

- Mr. Brachbill tried to attend the joint COG meeting but couldn't find a parking place, and returned to work.

- The Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission has approved their 2017 meeting dates. They will be published soon.

- Mrs. Dunne represented Bellefonte at the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting on Wednesday, November 16. She enjoyed a program given by

two of the municipal engineers of two MS4 communities. They are looking at the Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan, which has been made out for the next several years for MS4 communities. The communities now include Spring Township and a large portion of Benner Township. They have been designated as urbanized areas and will need to pursue their MPDES Permit as an MS4 Community. There is a requirement for a 10% reduction in sediment in the Chesapeake Bay in the next four years.

The Spring Creek Watershed Commission has been developing an educational atlas for the public, which covers many aspects of the watershed. There will be many maps and many pages on regulations; pages on storm water; many issues that concern everyone living along Spring Creek and benefit from its water. The atlas will be public online in the very near future.

There have been a couple speakers in the last year that Mrs. Dunne would like to bring to Council work sessions to provide more general education. All of Council will benefit from that.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Officer Weaver was available to answer any questions.
- Courtesy parking will be in effect from Thanksgiving, November 24, through January 1. The first two hours of parking are free after your meter has run out; after that you will receive a parking ticket.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- None.

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1) 381 Phoenix Avenue – Front Entrance
Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 381 Phoenix Avenue. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Draft HARB meeting minutes from November 8, 2016, are in the packet for review. No colors were shown for Dominoes Pizza. They modified the colors to take away the glossiness of it. Mr. Johnson noted that the delivery vehicle for Dominoes was parked in the 15-minute loading zone that is for customers to pick up orders. The parking enforcement officer will need to enforce this. Mr. Stewart feels the officer will stop in and discuss this with Dominoes. The delivery vehicles need to park at the back of the building.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Mr. DeCusati sent a memo providing an update on their Committee Meeting regarding Simpson Street where the flooding occurred coming off Simpson Street and where the water flows and goes down to a wooded area. There is an individual that owns lots in the wooded area and has an interest in possibly selling them, but has a concern about how sellable they are with the amount of water that came down through that area. It was decided that the Borough engineers need to look and see if there is a way to combat the water. There are three pipes that empty right there.

The Borough contacted Don Franson, and he said he would look at it over the weekend and then contact Mr. Stewart or Mr. Holderman after the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Franson will be asked to provide a couple options with some estimated costs of what could be done for the Building & Property Committee to review.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE – Mrs. Brown reported the Finance Committee has had several meetings pertaining to the budget. They have cut everything they could cut, but unfortunately they must raise the taxes.

The Finance Committee is recommending a proposed budget for 2017 with a 1 mill increase in taxes. This increase is necessary to cover rising costs in healthcare and wages.

Mrs. Brown made a motion proposing to increase taxes by 1 mill for 2017. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. That would be an average increase of approximately \$35-\$40 per property for a year. Bellefonte Borough has gone two years without a tax increase. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Finance Committee will have a meeting on Wednesday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m. in the Borough Building.

- An RFP was out for financial audit services. One bid was received from Young, Oakes Brown & Company. It was turned over to the Finance Committee for review.

PARK AND RECREATION – Mr. Holderman feels there needs to be a short meeting to finalize the logo so things can move forward with signage. Mrs. Dunne suggested that the people working on downtown signage be invited to meet with Ms. Hombosky to coordinate the signage.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported a vacancy for Assistant Superintendent in the Public Works will be advertised beginning tomorrow. It will be on the Borough website and the ad will be put in the local newspapers. The deadline to apply will be Friday, December 9.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to hire the first person on the Civil Service Commission list, William Witmer, as a full time police officer. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. Chief Weaver gave a presentation and answered questions from Council. Ms. Tosti-Vasey said one of the concerns was the full-time cost and what millage was required to get the full-time employee. The motion passed with Mrs. Dunne voting no.

SAFETY – Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the appointment of Mike Facer, Logan Fire Department Chief, as a member of the Fire Prevention Task Force. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne said a vote is not required since serving on the Task Force is by invitation from the head of the Task Force.

- The next Fire Prevention Task Force meeting will be January 26, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

- There will be a Fire Executive Committee meeting Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m.

- Mr. Holderman talked with Chief Schneider. Fire services were on I99 and there was an accident. Undine unit #22 received some damage crossing the bridge across SR144. It was drivable to get it to a garage. It is going through all the insurance purposes for repair. The Logan's 111 comes back from Milesburg in two weeks and the plan is to allow the Undines to use it in place of 22. It will be renumbered 22. When 22 is in for the repair work they will also do some rust repair on it.

WATER/SANITATION – Mr. Stewart said the Wastewater Treatment Plant produced excess nitrogen and phosphorous credits and as of today they all have been sold. This is the first time there was interest. DEP changed how facilities calculate those credits and has made them more valuable and there is much more interest in getting those this year. They are annual credits and if there are excess next year they will be sold.

- Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday refuse pickup will be moved to Wednesday. The Borough is open on Friday so there will be no change in that pickup.

- Mr. Stewart reported leaf collection will continue until a heavy snowstorm. Please keep the piles of leaves off the street and out of the storm drains. Collection in containers is completed for this year.

STREETS – Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the request by the Centre County Transportation Department to use the Armory parking spaces on jury selection days with transportation provided by the County to the Courthouse and with restrictions that were discussed. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Holderman reported part of PennDOT's program that they are working on for SR 144 along Linn Street next summer is to replace the sidewalk and railing along Water Street in-kind. After it is installed it would be the responsibility of the Borough to do the maintenance, which has been done in the past.

Mr. Johnson made a motion for PennDOT to replace the railing along Water Street from the High Street Bridge to the Sculpture Garden in-kind. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There have been a number of emails about making a “no parking” zone on Holmes Avenue. It was decided that two signs will be installed from Buds Alley down to Willowbank Street. A work order has been put in.

- A work request has been submitted to repair some potholes on South Potter Street. That will be considered for future repaving.

- The stoplight issue at the intersection of Spring Street and High Street has been fixed.

- Parkview Heights Boulevard traffic light request – Mr. Stewart said currently it is not warranted. When Northwest Savings Bank was built, a traffic study was done and it was determined that it wasn't warranted. He feels once the Armory property is developed that will kick the Borough in to having a traffic light at that section and the developer will be asked to install that light.

- Leaf collection will continue until the weather conditions prevent it.

- Mr. Stewart reported the Public Works Streets Crew was doing a lot of sealing of cracks on road cuts from this summer. All that work has been completed and the rented tar buggy has been returned. There is Highway Aid money and other money set aside for next year.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey raised the question regarding PennDOT using the wrong color on some sidewalk curbing. Mr. Stewart said the Borough will need to put the color back in. It is a spray that will be applied in the spring.

- Mr. Brachbill asked how the fifteen minute parking spaces by the Cadillac Building on Allegheny Street are being utilized. Mr. Stewart will ask the parking enforcement officer.

- Mrs. Brown reminded everyone that alternate parking will be in force with winter coming. Mr. Stewart said that is in force all year long.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION – Mr. Clark met with the one student group from Penn State at the compost facility on Wednesday, November 16. They are working toward their April deadline of a presentation and a report for the Borough. They are required to write up an RFP to the Borough and they have done that. Mr. Clark will meet with the Energy & Environmental Conservation Committee to review the RFP.

Compost is available now, but it is covered with grass clipping and leaves. A better time to get some would be in the spring. Mr. Stewart said things are not set up to load so it is complicated at the present time.

- Mrs. Dunne reported there will be a Sustainability Expo on Wednesday, December 7, at the State College Borough Building at 4:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- Website Development Committee - An email was received from Mark Dello Stritto of Loaded Creative. He has some questions. The Committee needs to review the questions so a response can be developed and sent to him.

- Mr. Stewart reminded Council that Small Business Saturday will be November 26. This is promoted by Ms. Dainty, Keystone Community Coordinator. It is about shopping in downtown Bellefonte. Council members were provided with a handout telling about different promotions that will be taking place. Everyone is encouraged to shop downtown.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 11212016-01 regarding the Community Development Project, which is fire suppression assistance. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Appointments/Reappointments for 2017 – The list is in the packet for Council members to review. Mr. Stewart said this is typically done the last meeting in December. Mrs. Stanton is verifying if everyone is interested in the position. Vacancies are listed on the Borough website. Mrs. Dunne would like to have more residents participate in the governmental structure and serving on a committee is one way it could happen. She would like to keep a file of applicants in case a vacancy occurs in the middle of the year. She would like to have the Human Resources Committee consider developing a policy about this.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the 2017 Holidays as listed. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. In the union contract it states what to do if a holiday falls on a Sunday and Monday. Mr. Stewart will verify what the contract states. A voice vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mrs. Brown made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting of November 21, 2016, at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.