

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2016
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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.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused:

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Emma Gosalvez, Lock Haven Express;

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 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Hombosky seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from T. Yakich regarding trees in an unordained right-of-way behind his home. Mrs. Dunne referred this to the Streets Committee for review and recommendation.

- A letter of interest from Brenda Masullo, who lives in the West Ward, regarding the upcoming West Ward Council vacancy. That seat will be available in early 2017 at a date to be announced.

- A letter from Frank Halderman expressing interest in the West Ward Council vacancy.

- A letter from Sue Hannegan and the County regarding War Memorials in Centre County. The County is working with the American Legion to identify all war memorials in Centre County. They would like information on location, type of memorial, etc. They will create a database. Council members would like clarity on what type of memorials they are considering.

- Info from the PSAB (Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs) providing updates.

- A letter from the Centre County Commissioners in regard to the Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program Grant that the County is receiving. The County is asking that the Borough forward the local match before January 16, 2017. This money is in the 2017 budget. The County is administering the project.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to send \$10,000.00 to Centre County for the Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program Grant as requested in the letter. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Information on an upcoming Sustainability Expo is at the table. It is Wednesday, December 7, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the State College Borough Building. Students review their projects and answer questions on the projects they worked on.

- At the table there is information the Borough received in regard to a request to have an inclusion-type resolution approved by Borough Council.

ORAL

- Mr. DeCusati reported that he attended the CCMPO meeting and they eliminated some of the projects on the list. The I80 Exit 161 is still on the list. The

Phoenix Avenue project was eliminated. They will vote on the Bellefonte Exit at their next meeting in February.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey said a woman on Bishop Street is concerned about the trash cans that are left on the front porches and street after pickup and wonders why the ordinance isn't being enforced properly. Mr. Stewart said it will be checked on.

Mrs. Brown feels it should be communicated better to the residents when there is a change in the refuse pickup schedule. Mr. Holderman said if a resident gives the Borough their number they will get on the list for robo-calls.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft minutes from the November 22, 2016, Fire Department Executive Committee are in the packet for review.

- Website Design Committee Update – Ms. Hombosky stated they met and went over Mark's checklist and ironed out all the items and provided the information he requested. Mrs. Dunne would like a demonstration given to Council when it is ready to be run.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Officer Holliday stated on Saturday, December 3, 2016, a member of the police department was involved in a single vehicle crash on Willowbank Street in Bellefonte Borough. It is a reportable crash and has been turned over to an outside police agency to be investigated. Details will be released when the investigation has been completed and the report is received back. He thanked everyone for their patience and support.

There have been vehicle break-ins, and Officer Holliday encouraged residents not to leave valuables in their vehicles and that they should keep their vehicles locked. It is also the time for package deliveries and people follow the UPS truck or FedEx truck and steal the packages when they are delivered. Officer Holliday encouraged residents to schedule the package to be delivered when someone is home or have it delivered to work.

He also asked that people don't drink and drive. Have a designated driver.

Officer Holliday thanked the Borough for taking action on hiring additional manpower. The officers do foot patrols and check businesses as time permits. They also do foot patrols in Talleyrand Park, the Match Factory Complex, and the water supply. The public is encouraged to call the dispatcher if they see something suspicious around town.

- Mayor Wilson said this weekend is HBI's Annual Victorian Christmas in Bellefonte. There will be shuttle service from the middle school and the high school to the downtown area. The Festival of Trees will be at CPI and the shuttle will take you there also. Opening ceremonies are Friday evening, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bellefonte Elementary school. The Weis Market has Victorian Christmas program

books and you can also get them at the Train Station and various stores in the downtown.

- Mayor Wilson thanked the HBI committee for the good job of decorating downtown.
- The Christmas Train is the weekend of December 17, and it is sold out.
- Council members would like to meet the new police officer.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- None.

HARB

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Mr. DeCusati asked the Borough Engineer Franson to look at the Simpson and Spring Street properties and give a recommendation on the storm water issues.

- Mr. DeCusati stopped by the East Howard Street property that Mr. Yakich had. It's a similar issue as Simpson Street.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE – Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve Young Oakes and Brown as the Borough Auditor for the calendar years 2016, 2017 and 2018. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Brown made a motion to reaffirm tentative approval of the 2017 Budget and approval to advertise the ordinance. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. There is a proposed 1 mil tax increase in the budget. There is a ten-day period for the public to inspect the budget in the Borough office. Council will vote on the budget at the Council meeting of December 19, 2016. This will be advertised on the Borough website and in a local paper. A voice vote was unanimous.

- BelleKey Funding Request – They revised their previous request to focus on in-kind services through the Borough or the Authority. An example for the Borough is providing parking spaces or giving a reduction in refuse costs for one year. It will be re-evaluated after one year. The parking spaces would be six at the CVS parking lot and four spaces near the old laundry building.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to provide in-kind services for refuse and parking spaces for the period of January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. It will be effective when the building opens. This is a small building on Water Street, the old Big Trout Inn. The first floor will be used for a start-up business space. There is a sliding scale rental fee. The motion passed.

PARK AND RECREATION – Mr. Holderman reported there will be a meeting on Monday, December 12, at 4:00 p.m. regarding signage. Mr. Holderman said the Talleyrand Park Committee is all volunteers. They are choosing the symbol that will go on the top of the sign. The Bellefonte Arts & Crafts signs which are up in the park will be taken down this week. The public has input on the signs since the committees are made up of volunteers. Mrs. Dunne stated anyone may join the Talleyrand Park Committee or the BHCA Committee.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported the committee had a meeting last night and had a discussion regarding a personnel issue. They have revised the process for reviewing and interviewing new hires to include a pre-screening in addition to what is already done. There was discussion at the last Council meeting regarding keeping a file of people interested in appointments to Borough committees. The decision was made to request that Mr. Stewart post openings and review applicants for current and future appointments. It needs to be determined how to make the file and move forward on it.

SAFETY – Mr. Brachbill provided information on the PSAB update on House Bill 1683 with the signing of the law by Governor Wolf. He feels it is long overdue, but before it is decided how to do it, the determination needs to be made about who and what it affects. This is just firefighters that live in Bellefonte Borough. A request needs to be made for Chief Schneider to provide a list of Bellefonte residents on active duty at the fire station. At this point it is unknown how this would affect the budget.

WATER/SANITATION – Mr. Beigle said the water usage is average. There have been a couple leaks that have gotten fixed.

-The Authority will be meeting December 13. Ms. Dainty will be attending the meeting to discuss the cost of the incubator.

STREETS – Mr. Johnson reported the street lamp at Potter and High Street has been installed.

- The Borough staff filled potholes along South Potter Street. If funds are available next year this will possibly be one of the streets to be paved.

- The design of the traffic light posts needs to be considered. The arm will not be fluted, but will have a little bit of curve and taper as it goes out to the end. That is from PennDOT. The contractor called today and said that is the only option for the arm. The intersections where the existing traffic lights will be changed are Lamb and Water, Water and High, and Spring and High. They will be painted black and will have a little

sheen. All main poles will be fluted. The Borough will save money, at least \$30,000.00, by not having a fluted arm, which is not available anyway. The pole at Water and High Streets will have two arms on it.

- The Streets Committee agreed on the street sign design. It is approved by PennDOT. The brown and white would be for the Historic District. For other parts of town it would be black and white – white letters with a black background.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the sign. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart said the lettering is approved by PennDOT. If a different lettering was used then the Borough would not be able to use any state or federal funding to pay for the signs. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Joe Leiter, a resident of Bellefonte, kept a photo album of the construction of the Waterfront Property and bound it into a book. He allowed Mr. Johnson to bring it to Council and share it. Mr. Johnson will talk with Mr. Leiter about getting copies of the book. Mr. Johnson thanked Joe Leiter for allowing him to bring the book to Council.

- Mr. Johnson has had many comments regarding how efficient the Borough staff has been in picking up leaves in the Borough. He gave praise to the crew and Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION – Mr. Clark said the agreement has been signed with the Penn State students for the compost facility at Musser Lane. They will continue to report to the Borough. They have been asked to provide a formal presentation to Council midway through the project. The project will be completed in May.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2017 Appointments/Reappointments – Information has been put on the Borough website to see if there are any other interested persons. Ms. Tosti-Vasey would like it to be advertised before any final decisions are made.

- Joint Council/IDA meeting will be scheduled in January 2017. The January IDA meeting will be January 11. This will be advertised as a joint meeting.

- Parking Lot Design Proposals – the bids were due Friday, December 2, and there are four bids. The bids were from:

Nittany Engineering & Associates

Buchart Horn

Weber Murphy Fox

ELA (Engineers & Landscape Architects)

The bids were turned over to Building and Property for review and recommendation.

- Managing Cats, Community Guide – The guide was in the PSAB update. This is programs communities have tried to undertake to manage the cat issue. It's good information. Mayor Wilson would like a hard copy of this. He is willing to spearhead a committee and try to make contact with any communities that have done this. Mrs. Dunne suggested advertising on the Borough website for volunteers for this committee.

- A proposed resolution was received from Stephanie Yager regarding people with disabilities who have been bullied. Ms. Tosti-Vasey reviewed the resolution and added a few items. Ms. Tosti-Vasey read the resolution.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to adopt Resolution #12052016. Mr. Brachbill felt this should be tabled until January because there are other resolutions. Mr. DeCusati said there is already a non-discrimination ordinance that was voted on so he has concern that this would be in conflict with the current non-discrimination piece. Mr. Brachbill suggested adding language to the document, and this would give Council more time to look at this resolution that is on the table.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to table this until the New Year. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Tosti-Vasey and Ms. Hombosky voting no.

NEW BUSINESS

- CCMPO Alternate Representative for Nittany Valley Region – Mr. DeCusati is willing to remain the Nittany Valley Alternate Representative to the CCMPO and it would be through 2017.

Mr. Beigle made a motion for Mr. DeCusati to continue as the Nittany Valley Alternate Representative to the CCMPO. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. Mr. DeCusati would attend the Council meeting and give the report or provide a communication. They only meet four times a year. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the 2017 Meeting Dates. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Local Tax Credit for Volunteer Fire Fighters and EMS Personnel – this was already discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting of December 5, 2016, at 9:03 p.m. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.