

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2014
www.bellefonte.net

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, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Spicer, Walker

Members Excused: Li

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty

Guests: Tracey Spicer; Nick Lingenfelter; Rod Beard; Kevin Clark;
Courtney Dickman

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 December 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- Police Report - November 2014
- November 2014 Voucher Summary: \$1,576,131.41
- November 2014 Treasurer's Report
- Approval of 2015 Holiday Schedule
- Approval of 2015 Bellefonte Borough Meetings Schedule
- Approve the Amendment of Chapter 405 Parks and Recreation.

Mrs. Dunne requested that the minutes, police report and the approval of Amendment of Chapter 405 Parks and Recreation be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the four remaining items on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne would like the following changes made to the minutes: her title is Council Pro-Tem; on page two under Zoning and Planning, the second sentence of the second paragraph should state "Golden Broom" award.

She would like to discuss the Police Report in the Mayor's section.

She would like to make comments on the Amendment of Chapter 405 Parks and Recreation during the Parks and Recreation report.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Karen Garner, Administrative Assistant to Chief Weaver, Bellefonte Borough Police Department, regarding the parking situation around the Courthouse Annex during the construction phase. Craig Wood of CE Construction needs the four meters on Allegheny Street from High Street to Cherry Lane on the Annex side of the street from January - March. In March, when the weather breaks, he would need all eleven spaces on East High Street from Allegheny Street to Penn Street on the Annex side. He was advised that the Judge spot and a spot for prisoner transport must be kept available. He was also advised that everything must be off Allegheny Street for the Cruise weekend. Mr. Wood would like to pay a flat monthly fee for those parking spaces.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to deny the request and send them a letter advising them to work with the County. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from William MacMath, Spring Township Manager, in regard to Kepler Pool informing Council that there was not enough support for the tax proposal presented several months ago; however, there is interest from Spring Township in maintaining the maintenance agreement where Spring Township pays \$1 per person towards operating expenses for 2015 with the idea that they would seek additional grant funds to reduce the overall borrowing needed to renovate Kepler Pool.

- A letter from Jeff Powell, JJ Powell, Inc., owners of the former Snappy's fuel station on South Water Street adjacent to Talleyrand Park. They are indicating that they need to do four more additional soil borings and are requesting permission to do that. They will be on the park property doing that, but it is being governed by DEP. They will restore the area when they are finished. It is unclear whether the Borough is carried on their insurance for liability while these are being done.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the request for additional borings with the condition that the Borough be added to the Certificate of Insurance. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Information from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs in regard to the PSAB 2015 Policy Resolution Timeframe. Any resolutions the Borough would like to submit must be in by February 26, 2015.

- A letter from Steven W. Bair, Fire Director, Centre Region Council of Governments Regional Fire Protection Program expressing appreciation to Council and the Borough Staff for the generous assistance and accommodation received toward the storage and subsequent retrieval of their Sutphen aerial truck, which is now in Ohio for repairs.

This will be posted for the Borough staff to view.

- A letter from N. Warren Miller, Executive Director, SBWJA, thanking Borough staff and Robert Decker, Nittany Engineering & Associates, for providing SBWJA with Bellefonte Borough Authority's plans to upgrade the Treatment Plant rotating biological contactors with the new BIOMAG technology.

This letter has been forwarded to the Authority to discuss at their next meeting.

- A letter from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs seeking nominations for Second Vice President.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to nominate Council President Frank Halderman for Second Vice President of Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Walter G. M. Schneider III, Ph.D., P.E., CBO, Chief Director, Logan Fire Co. #1, requesting permission to have their annual parade on Friday, July 3, 2015 beginning at 5:00 p.m. The request includes the closure of the following streets beginning at 4:45 p.m.: Zion Road & East Bishop Street, starting at South Parkview Boulevard and ending at South Spring Street; South Allegheny Street, starting at East Bishop Street and ending at High Street; West High Street, starting at Allegheny Street and ending at Potter Street; Dunlop Street, entire length; North Potter Street, entire length. They are also requesting the use of the main part of Talleyrand Park and the parking adjacent to the train station from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. for setup and awards after the parade.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve this request. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Mrs. Brown feels there should be a meeting with the Streets and the Police Chief before this so everyone is on the same page. A voice vote was unanimous.

ORAL

- None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Draft IDA meeting minutes from December 10, 2014 are in the packets for review.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported the 33rd Annual Bellefonte Victorian Christmas was well attended. He thanked the volunteers for dedicating their time. Renee Brown, Sally Houser and others co-chaired the event.

- Council was provided with an enhanced police report and Chief Weaver was available to answer any questions from Council. Chief Weaver went through the police report page by page to clarify if this is what Council wants. Mr. DeCusati would like to see the first and second pages done monthly as a spreadsheet for comparison. Mrs. Brown would like to see how many drug arrests there were. Chief Weaver stated some of the incidents may not be arrests made for one, two or three years. He is reporting calls for service. Mr. Beigle requested the stops be broken down into types of stops.

Council appreciates this upgraded report. Chief Weaver reiterated that the monthly recap is not all of the activities that the police department has done. He just chose a few from each category to report on. Chief Weaver reported there are many scams out there. He emphasized that residents do not give any information out on the phone or the Internet.

- Mayor Wilson reminded citizens that there is an ordinance stating you must have your sidewalks cleaned 24 hours after the end of the snow.

- There was a citizen that saw some suspicious activity, reported it to the police department and it resulted in a significant arrest. If you see something in progress that looks shady, please call the police department.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to accept the Police report and the exonerations. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- Ms. Dainty introduced Courtney Dickman, Vice-President of the Bellefonte Keystone Steering Committee; Rod Beard, the Chairman; Nick Lingenfelter, the treasurer; and Michelle Taylor, the Secretary.

Ms. Dainty read an announcement from the Department of DCED. "Congratulations, the Department reviewed and accepted your Keystone Communities Designation Application. I am pleased to inform you that the department designated the areas described in your application as the Bellefonte Keystone Community's Designation, a designation with a main street focus. The Bellefonte Main Street

Revitalization Project will be the administering agency responsible for implementing the revitalization effort in Bellefonte. The designation will begin immediately and end five years later on December 31, 2019.

Ms. Dainty stated this was a collaborative effort and she thanked everyone who has been part of the process. There has been so much work done that people do not realize needs done. She thanked Cathy Brachbill, Randy's wife, who ran the public meetings and helped set the tone for much of what happened.

If anyone has any interest in serving on one of the committees they should call Ms. Dainty at the Borough, 814-355-1501, ext. 16.

Council thanked Ms. Dainty and the committee for their hard work.

HARB

Certificates of Appropriateness

- 1) 108-118 South Allegheny Street
- 2) Waterfront Wall and Walkway Project
- 3) Silk Mill and Victorian Signs Building

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve all three Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne stated she is aware that the Section 106 review is limited to the Silk Mill but the permit during the Section 106 review went beyond the old Silk Mill and included the Victorian Signs building. Mr. Halderman feels the discussion was to include all the buildings that were in that area. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB Draft meeting minutes from the December 10, 2014 meeting are in the packet for review.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY - Mr. Walker has no updates for this meeting but there are a few items that have been discussed on the Committee and they will pick those back up after the new year.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne had a few questions about the Comprehensive Fee Schedule. She wanted to know what the difference is between the New Construction, or Addition and the A-2 Building Code Permit Fees. Mr. Schneider stated a Standard Fee Resolution was sent to all municipalities. Bellefonte's is a little different and some language was sent over that the A-2 accidentally got put into. It is basically indicating that industrialized housing (modular) - it is recognized that there is a reduction on the inspection side of things because a number of inspections are done at the factory. They would like all municipalities to consider doing a 20% reduction in that fee. Bellefonte won't have many of those but they are trying to be consistent. He will work to be sure that the A-2 gets removed out of the Fee resolution.

Mr. Schneider stated 50% of the State Education Fund goes to PHRC (Pennsylvania Housing Research Center) at Penn State to do housing research and to do educational

activities. The other half goes to PCCA (Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy) to support educational activities. It will provide them with the ability to try to keep costs low and keep doing continuing education and research on the building codes. That is a state mandated fee. To try to keep that low for the contractors is to issue a single building permit. Some municipalities will issue an electrical permit, a plumbing permit, a mechanical permit and every one of those will have that fee tacked on.

The inspection process is going very, very well. They received good feedback from folks for the educational piece that was done in August, September and October. The rental house inspections have been very well received. There were positive comments from contractors when they showed up on schedule. Mr. Schneider provides a monthly report to the Borough with meeting information for public safety. Council would like to see that report.

Mrs. Dunne said if they adopt the amended Chapter 405, it would change the way Talleyrand Park is rented and suggested perhaps the fee schedule may need to be revised. If the park is rented in two sections this would need to be revised. She suggested it be kept \$200 per section plus the \$100 refundable deposit and make it \$300 for the entire park with the \$100 refundable deposit. Mr. Beigle suggested the residents of the Borough should get a reduction in the rental amount. The Park and Recreation Committee will review that and make a recommendation.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the Bellefonte Borough Comprehensive Fee Schedule. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the 2015 Budget. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. The capital and operating total is \$19,181,628.00 and it has been advertised. Mr. DeCusati feels the tax increase should be made known before the budget is approved. Mr. Stewart stated Council approved the tentative budget at the last meeting and nothing has changed. The only increase is a .75 mill in the general fund as a real estate tax. This amounts to approximately \$36.00 on the average property for the year. This would add approximately \$75,000.00 to the budget. Mr. Beigle questioned the \$15,500.00 for C-NET and when it was approved. Mrs. Dunne stated the advertising on the Bulletin Board would be \$1,000.00 less if it was removed. Mrs. Brown stated the same situation appears in what was agreed to be given to CATA. She is not in agreement with their capital expenditures. Any changes for CATA would need to be given to CATA in January. A voice vote was unanimous to accept the 2015 Budget.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the 2015 Tax Levy Ordinance No. 12152014-01, which reflects an increase of 0.75 mills for 2015 for general purposes, bringing total millage to 14.265 mills. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to pay the invoice to McQuaide Blasko in the amount of \$137.50. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to send a letter to C-NET informing them the Borough would like to discontinue the service for 2016. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. Mr.

Beigle stated if you want to find out anything about the Borough get online to the Borough website. Many residents do not watch C-NET, and he feels it is too much money being spent. Mrs. Brown stated it gets paid through the franchise fee so the money does not come from the budget or taxes. Mr. Halderman feels coming to the meeting would be the best way to see what Council does. He feels C-NET is the only way the public gets to see Council interact with each other and see what they do for the Borough. Mrs. Dunne feels this gives Council a more public profile. Mr. Brachbill feels C-NET is a good resource. Before he was on Council he would watch C-NET. The website has a delay with information. Ms. Harvey asked if there is a process of negotiation with C-NET. Mr. Stewart stated the more participants, the lower the price. Mr. Brachbill suggested lowering the cost by not using the Bulletin Board. A roll call vote was taken. The results were: Beigle-yes; Brachbill-no; Brown-no; DeCusati-no; Dunne-no; Halderman-no; Harvey-no; Spicer-yes; Walker-no. The motion was denied.

PARK AND RECREATION - Mrs. Brown would like Council to think about doing an ice skating rink in the Gazebo area of Talleyrand Park during the winter. The insurance carrier feels if signs are posted that say skate at your own risk it will take the liability away from the Borough, but they will check into it. Mr. Holderman clarified that the CDBG project that is being submitted for Talleyrand Park, the contract probably will not be received until May or June and the actual project probably will not take place until 2016. She will do more research and would like Council to discuss it in January.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adopt Ordinance 12152014-01 as submitted, which is an amendment to Chapter 405 Parks and Recreation. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The letter to the Jehovah's Witnesses is in process.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Spicer reported there was an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

- A part-time police officer is being hired and applications will be accepted until Friday, December 19. If they are mailed they must be postmarked by Friday, December 19.

- There will be an open position at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for an operator. The application deadline is December 31, 2014. To obtain an application go to the Borough website or to the Borough office.

- Mr. Brachbill reported at the last meeting there was an appointment of the committee to review the Police services comparing it to other municipalities. He asked if there were any guidelines. Mr. Stewart feels guidelines need to be established at a work session or an Executive Session at the January 5, 2015 meeting.

SAFETY - Mr. Brachbill reported the Bellefonte Safety meeting will be Wednesday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m. He will not be able to attend the meeting.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported the Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16. Everyone is invited to attend.

- Mr. Beigle reported the daily withdrawal is holding average.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati thanked staff for taking care of an issue with a hydrant that a resident hit. The foliage was removed around it and a hydrant indicator was placed on it.

- Mr. Holderman reported the punch list for the Streetscape Project is down to approximately three items. They are working with Nastase Construction to negotiate a credit or two for things that have to wait if he can get the other work finished so the project can be closed out.

- In the packet is a recommendation from the CCMPO that needs to be reviewed to determine if the same people will be appointed for 2015. They need to know before Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Currently, Ken Roan is the representative and Bill MacMath is the technical representative.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Ms. Harvey reported the committee will be meeting this week with the Sustainable Communities Collaborative. This is a program that connects Penn State Faculty, Staff and Students with local communities to help with sustainable projects. Their pilot program was with State College Borough. Ms. Harvey hopes to learn more about the program and explore some potential sustainability projects for the Borough.

JUNIOR COUNCIL - No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the CATA 2014/15 Local Share Agreement and Resolution as submitted. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mrs. Brown voting no.

NEW BUSINESS

- There will be a change in the refuse schedule over the holidays. The Christmas Eve pickup will be December 23. The Christmas Day pickup is December 26. The New Year's Day pickup will be December 31.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve reappointments for the existing committees. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. There are a couple vacancies on the list. Mrs. Brown wanted to wait until the next council meeting to do this so Council members could have a chance to review the list. She feels this is not advertised enough to get new people. Mr. Halderman suggested people

send resumes in throughout the year and they can be contacted when there are vacancies.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Michael Scott to fill the vacancy on the Bellefonte Borough Authority. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. Michael Scott was one of the Council candidates. His resume is included in the packet. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne requested several webinars be made available. She suggests that Council rely more on webinars as an educational source. There are a number of good topics for the first few months of 2015. Many of them are free. For the next meeting she would like a list of upcoming webinars. Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Stanton do a good job of forwarding the information they get on webinars.

- Mr. Stewart received a call from PennDOT. They will be paving Route 144 through the Borough, which is Allegheny Street, in 2015. Along with that they will be updating all the curb ramps on the PennDOT side of the road. They want to know if the Borough wants to update their curb ramps. Mr. Beigle wants to know if they will be milling it down or paving over top. Mr. Stewart will get more detail. He feels they will be milling it down. Mr. Beigle said the water and sewer needs to be examined to see if any of that work can be done at the same time. Mr. Holderman stated in 2015 there will be construction on Allegheny Street, Lamb Street will be closed, they will be working on the Waterfront, the Bellefonte Muse, Temple Court, and the Cadillac Building. Mr. DeCusati requested that Columbia Gas be informed of this work.

- Mrs. Brown said the streetlight on Bishop and Allegheny Street has not been working correctly since the Streetscape was finished. Mr. Holderman stated a work order was placed and the Borough is on the list.

- Mr. DeCusati stated the streetlight on Sylvan Circle is not working and another one. The Borough needs to get the pole number so they can call West Penn Power. The number is on the pole in brass letters.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mr. DeCusati made a motion to adjourn the meeting of December 15, 2014 at 9:10 p.m. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.