

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 21, 2015
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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

Excused: Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

Officials Present: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mayor Wilson

Staff Present:

Guests: Joanne Tosti-Vasey; Emma Gosalvez; Tim & Deb Smith; Alan Uhler; Norman Eger; J. H. Dunne; Mr. Adams

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 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Mayor – Police Exonerations
- Mayor – Police Report
- Finance – McQuaide Blasko Invoice
- Finance – Treasurer’s Report November 2015
- Finance – Voucher Summary November 2015: \$1,098,576.98

Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from the Centre County Board of Commissioners informing the Borough that it was awarded a \$15,000.00 grant from the County Aid (Liquid Fuels Fund). That money will be used for a signal light in front of the Undine Fire House on Bishop Street.

- An amended appeal regarding the Fluoridation Discontinuance from Council.

- A letter from Stephen Bekanich, Governor's Authorized Representative, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) regarding the funding for the West Lamb Street road work that was done in relation to the flood damage. The last amount of funding will be received. All those costs were covered by either the PEMA or FEMA funding.

- A letter from Thomas S. Schrack, McQuaide BLASKO regarding their 2016 rates, which are: Attorney rate - \$130.00 per hour; Paralegal rate - \$55.00 per hour.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to accept the rates. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A memo from Rod Beard, President, Belle/Key regarding a positive experience he recently witnessed regarding Vana Dainty, the Keystone Community Coordinator for Bellefonte Borough.

- A letter from Keven R. Kline, P.E., District Engineer, Engineering District 2, PennDOT, regarding clarification on bituminous concrete modified with asbestos.

ORAL

- Alan Uhler and Norm Eger addressed Council representing the Dubois Soap Box Derby. Bellefonte had a long history with Soap Box Derby racing on Bishop Street and Allegheny Street. There has not been a soap box derby race in Bellefonte for nearly 30 years. The nearest organization that covers Bellefonte in the jurisdiction is Dubois. There are 17 kids in the Dubois race that are from the Bald Eagle Valley or Snow Shoe area. They are trying to explore options to get the race in this area again. He is currently the director of the Soap Box Derby in Dubois.

This sport is technologically inclined. It fits in very closely with what school districts are pushing to do. They are moving toward a lot of STEM base classes in school. STEM stands for Science; Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. These cars are very much all about physics. The cars have different weight classes. You

have to look at the weight distribution on the cars. You try to keep the weight toward the center of the car. The back axle should be heavier than the front axle. The kids do it all hands on and learn all the physics, technology and math that goes with it.

The All-American Soap Box Derby based out of Akron has developed STEM based educational programs for Kindergarten through High School. Some of the programs implemented in the Akron schools are actually being taught as curriculum that they are graded on. School districts partner with the local race organization. The school district teaches a class and the race organization comes in towards the end to work with them and help them build the car. They put together teams of four kids to build the cars, set them up and figure out how to race it and then have a race between the different schools and school districts. They are trying to work with Bellefonte, Bald Eagle and Dubois School Districts. These schools were chosen because they are schools local to where the members are it is a good starting point. They will be making a presentation to a lot of the administration of both the Bald Eagle School District and Bellefonte School District on January 8th at 10:00 a.m. They invite a representative from Bellefonte Borough to attend the meeting.

He is at Council because they need the support of Bellefonte Borough for a couple things. He needs the approval of Bellefonte Borough to request approval from PennDOT to close Allegheny Street for a race. They also could use support for a few minor things such as having the street sweeper clean the street on race day and also they would like to borrow some road closed signs and minor things like that. The biggest challenge they are looking at is the cars are not cheap. They are each sponsored by a business. A car costs approximately \$1,000.00 when it is completed.

Mr. Halderman feels this is a good venture and he supports it. The big race of the year is held in late May or early June. There are also fun races. The STEM program will be a separate race set. Mr. Uhler would love to have two races a year on Allegheny Street. The race would begin approximately 20' above the school on Allegheny Street and extend down to the library. Mr. DeCusati suggested they talk with the Cruise Committee about possibly doing an activity during the cruise.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to support the Soap Box Derby. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. DeCusati noted that the Cadillac Building is under roof.
- Mayor Wilson has had many positive comments about the wall along the Waterfront District.
- Mrs. Brown reported the train rides this past weekend were full every ride. There were numerous people in Bellefonte and there were no problems.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- IDA draft meeting minutes from December 9, 2015 are in the packet for review.
- Safety Committee draft meeting minutes from December 16, 2015 are in the packet for review.

- CCMPO Memo, Summary of Responsibilities and By-Laws for review. Mr. DeCusati reported there is a township supervisor that expressed interest in serving on this committee. Mr. DeCusati would be willing to be the alternate if this person would be the main representative. The position will need to be filled before the first meeting in February 2016.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported Sergeant Holliday is at the meeting representing the Police Department and is available to answer questions.

- Mayor Wilson gave a shout out to the Bellefonte Historic Railroad people, HBI, and all other organizations involved in the Victorian Christmas celebrations and the train rides this past weekend. Mayor Wilson and his wife hosted on the train on Friday evening and there were many people on the train from out of the area. The train rides sold out in approximately eight hours.

- Mayor Wilson presented a Proclamation to Brian Walker regarding his position as a Council member filling a vacancy and serving as the Chairman of the Building and Property Committee. He was thanked for his time on Council.

- Mayor Wilson encouraged residents to shop and support the Bellefonte Borough businesses. Mrs. Brown stated the Chamber handed out coupons to several downtown businesses during the train ride to those riding the train.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- None.

HARB

- None.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Mr. Walker reported there is a memo in the packet regarding the Transfer of the Freight Building. There are also three enclosures: 1) Agreement Regarding Relocation of Historic Freight Building; 2) Bill of Sale; 3) Lease Agreement. These documents will accomplish what needs done to move the freight building.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the recommendations that the Freight Building be transferred from the IDA to the Borough and then leased to the BHCA as stated in the memo from Mr. Holderman. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. This needs to be done before the building is moved to determine who has liability. BHCA will be getting insurance on this. A voice vote was unanimous.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE - Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the Tax Levy Ordinance No. 12212015-01 for 2016. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Through the diligence of the Finance Committee, the Borough Manager and Assistant Manager and the Chief of Police there is no tax increase for 2016. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There are a couple revisions to the 2016 Fee Schedule. One is a decrease in a building permit fee for new construction. There will be an increase in the water rate of \$.15 per 1,000 gallons used to help pay for some capital projects. There will be an increased sewer fee of \$7.00 per quarter to cover replacement of capital equipment at the sewer plant.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adopt the Bellefonte Borough Comprehensive Fee Schedule for 2016. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adopt the proposed Borough of Bellefonte 2016 Budget in the amount of \$16,431,701.00. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

PARK AND RECREATION – The playground equipment at Governor’s Park has been installed.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Mr. Spicer reported there is a memo in the packet from Vana Dainty and one from Mr. Stewart.

-There was an Executive session earlier to discuss legal issues, real estate issues and personnel issues.

SAFETY – Mrs. Dunne would like to pursue the tour for the Fluoride Process that was discussed in the Safety Committee meeting.

WATER AND SANITATION - Mr. Beigle reported that draft Authority minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting are in the packet for review.

STREETS - Mr. DeCusati followed up on the “no left turn” at Bishop Street and Ridge Street. Council needs to determine if they want the sign removed or not. The curbing is yellowed out approximately 30’ all around so you would have visibility.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to remove the “no left turn” sign at the intersection of Bishop Street and Ridge Street. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION - Ms. Harvey reported there is a memo in the packet regarding the Electric Account for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was bid out and a new rate was secured (.04884/Kwh), which will provide an estimated savings of \$42,595.00 for 2016.

- At the end of 2016 approximately 25 electric account contracts will expire so the committee will be meeting with a number of vendors to get the best deal possible. The Borough has worked with the same vendor for the past three or four years.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the 2016 Meeting Dates as submitted. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- 2015 Report – Bellefonte Police Department Assessment and Memo from Chief Weaver. Mrs. Dunne and Mr. Holderman authored the report. She encouraged Council members to read it. The thrust of the report for the committee's recommendation is to describe the fiscal impact of the changes with a minimal impact on the services. The entire committee did not agree on those recommendations because there was no formal agreement. Chief Weaver submitted his own recommendations, which are the last page of the report. She encouraged Council members to read the report and come back with recommendations in a work session before Council.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to accept the Bellefonte Borough 2016 Holidays as proposed. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to table the Appointments/Reappointments for Various Committees for 2016. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Brachbill voting no.

Mr. Halderman invited residents of Bellefonte Borough that are interested in serving on any of the committees to contact the Borough Manager, Ralph Stewart. Mrs. Dunne would like a list of Authorities, positions open, and a description of the duties of those jobs listed on the Borough website.

- Mrs. Brown said the Volunteer Fair is held at the Match Factory in March and she will provide Mr. Stewart with the date so a representative could be available with the spots available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- David (?), from Pittsburgh and moved to Bellefonte about five years ago. He said last winter he and a couple friends spent 5-6 hours in Talleyrand Park scraping about 4" of ice. He does not know who is in charge of that but he feels that is something that needs to be taken care of. It is a beautiful park that looks great in the

winter, but nobody wants to go in the winter because there is 3' of snow. They spent time cleaning it up and they want it cleaned so it looks nice and they can take the kids to play in the snow.

Mr. Stewart stated the Borough typically does not do winter maintenance in the Park. It is something the committee could discuss. Mr. DeCusati said for next year the suspension bridge will need some repairs. Mr. Stewart stated it is inspected periodically by a structural engineer. Mrs. Brown stated it was just painted this last spring, but the floor was not and the boards are beginning to show gouges. Mrs. Dunne stated there is a problem with water damage there. On either side the bridge goes down and water runs off but in the middle it tends to linger there and freeze and cause the wood to swell and contract. Also, it is icy in the winter. She suggested drilling some little holes in the wood so the water could leave the surface of the bridge, which could help with the maintenance of the bridge.

- Mayor Wilson publically thanked and acknowledged Buddy Halderman for what is his last Council meeting after thirty-six years of service to the Borough of Bellefonte. He deserves a lot of credit for hanging in and dedicating a good portion of his life to the Borough.

Mr. Halderman thanked everybody he has worked with on this Council and past Councils. He feels it is a good group. He thanked Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman; Chief Weaver; Bill; Matt; and everybody else he has interacted with in the Borough over these years. He has had a good time; met a lot of people; and did a lot of good things. He is proud of what has been done the last couple years.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council Mrs. Brown made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of December 21, 2015 at 8:27 p.m. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.