

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 6, 2017**  
**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 electronic devices be turned off.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Beigle (by phone), Brachbill, Brown, Dickman, Dunne, Hombosky, Johnson, Tosti-Vasey

Members Excused: Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

Officials Present: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager  
Mayor Tom Wilson

Staff Present: Vana Dainty, Keystone Community Coordinator

Guests: Evan Duffey; Maria Rogus; Ed Choma; Connie McCulley; Taylor Lake; Zach Lose; Tim Fortney;

- Mrs. Dunne reported that Council just finished an Executive Session for personnel reasons.

**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 February 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes
- Communications – Letter request re Bellefonte Children’s Fair

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- An article related to the fees that the Commonwealth is considering charging for State Police services.

A resolution on the topic of the fees that the Commonwealth is considering charging for State Police services was submitted to the Borough's association and the same resolution was sent to the local State Representative and Senator.

- There is a Public Accommodations and Fair Housing Event on April 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at CPI. Ms. Tosti-Vasey and the committee are trying to improve the understanding of what fair housing means and what boroughs, townships and zoning code officers can do to make their community more welcoming, particularly to people with disabilities. They are trying to customize the generic presentation for Centre County.

- An email saying Bellefonte is in the top 250 places to pay off Student Debt. The survey included over 2,000 towns, and Bellefonte was 57 in the rankings.

- An Open House Invitation from the Centre County Government for the Temple Court Building Renovations Project. It will be Friday, March 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Council members must RSVP by Wednesday, March 15. If the public is interested they should call the Commissioner's Office at 814-355-6700 to see if they may attend also.

- The Bellefonte Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 15. They would like to place their banner on the bridge a few weeks before the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the banner request. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **ORAL**

- Mr. Stewart reported that Kevin Lloyd from Big Spring Spirits would like to hold the Tasting Trail Event in the new Talleyrand Park area near the APS on Father's Day afternoon, June 18. He will have insurance in place and also some type of security to check IDs.

- Mayor Wilson reported that Lisa Barr from PAWS and Diane Curley from the Hundred Cat Foundation will be doing a presentation to Council at a work session on April 3 regarding the trap, neuter, return program they have.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Brachbill reported there will be a COG meeting next Tuesday.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson had no report.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- The draft Planning Commission meeting minutes from February 27, 2017, were in the packet for review.

- Ms. Dainty had a memo requesting Council approve the final plans of the Fortney land subdivision. All County comments have been addressed and the Planning Commission has approved the final plan.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Final Plans for the Fortney land subdivision as presented to Council. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Planning Commission approved Nathan Day as a new member of the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy. He and his wife own Sterling Stone Works and live on Thomas Street. Mr. Day did not fill out the Volunteer Application because Ms. Dainty started the process with him before the application was developed. Ms. Hombosky would like the application filled out before Council approves him.

Ms. Hombosky made a motion to table until the next meeting. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **HARB**

- HARB Meeting Minutes excerpt regarding Wetzler's Funeral Home. This was included because Mr. Brachbill asked for it. HARB had given Mr. Wetzler some recommendations but he did not come back because he chose not to proceed. Mr. Brachbill doesn't understand the issue of painting bricks when there are other buildings in the downtown that are painted. Ms. Dainty said painting soft bricks deteriorates them more quickly. HARB members felt some of the things he wanted to cover up are history on the building. Mrs. Dunne recommended that Mr. Wetzler attend the Old House Fair.

- Draft HARB meeting minutes from February 28, 2017.

## **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- 1) 435 North Allegheny Street roof replacement

- Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 435 North Allegheny Street for roof replacement with architectural shingles as described on the application form. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** – Ms. Dickman presented a list of ongoing project timelines. There was a stakeholders meeting at the end of February, and there will be another meeting prior to April. A plan is expected from ELA in April.

- The Building and Property Committee will meet the end of March regarding the storm water plan. The North Spring Street solution as addressed by Don Franson is a streets issue.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** – Mrs. Brown reported the Finance Committee met last week to review the police budget, and it seems to be on target.

- There is a request from the library for funds to help with the summer reading program.

**PARK AND RECREATION** – There was an article in the March 5, 2017, CDT on the Liberty Swing.

- The two signs for Talleyrand Park are slated for early April.

- Mr. Holderman would like to know if Council would be agreeable to using some of the Bulk Water Funds to take care of the Bridge Project at Talleyrand Park so the missing link can be completed. Mrs. Dunne referred this to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation.

Mr. Beigle made a motion, if the funds are available, to use them for the Bridge Project. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Council doesn't have a cost analysis of this in front of them.

Mr. Beigle amended his motion to approve the money for the project from the Bulk Water Funds and have the Finance Committee and Mr. Holderman review it and approve it; once they approve it, they can take the funds and start the project.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to table the motion to grant the funds toward that project until after the Finance Committee reviews it. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Beigle voting no.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** – Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to refer the proposed Nepotism Policy to the Borough's labor attorney for review regarding the portion of the nepotism rule relating to Council members. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Family Medical and Leave Act section of the employee manual. Ms. Dickman seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- There were two responses to the RFP for a transcriptionist. Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to refer this to Human Resources for interviews. Ms. Hombosky seconded the motion. Ms. Tosti-Vasey requested the Borough Manager provide some current transcription cost estimates to compare it with what the two individuals have suggested. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Stewart said there were copies made of both sets that came in because the last copies were incomplete.

- There were eleven applications for the mechanic position. That closed today. The Human Resources Committee will do the final interview, but they need copies of all applications from the Borough Manager.

- Council met in Executive Session before tonight's meeting. In concept there is an agreement regarding the Police Contract. There are some minor word changes.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to ratify the Police Contract on the condition of the Police voting to accept it with the very minor amendments to be made. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

**SAFETY** – Mr. Brachbill reported the Property Maintenance Code was reviewed last fall. The changes are set to be implemented June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- The Code Service RFP was advertised in the CDT February 18 and 19. There will be an informal meeting Monday, March 20, at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The RFP proposals are due April 3 and will be opened at that Council meeting. There will be a special meeting for all Council members on April 24 to interview firms who are participating. The decision will be made May 1, 2017.

**WATER/SANITATION** – Mr. Beigle said the water where he is vacationing isn't as good as Bellefonte water.

- There will be an Authority meeting Tuesday, March 7.

**STREETS** – Mr. Johnson reported the Musser Lane landfill will open April 1 for brush and grass collection on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. If you need to go another time, you can get a key from the Borough office during normal business hours for a \$10 deposit.

- The new street signs are being installed in the Historic District. They are beautiful. The overhead signs will be changed to the historic color also.

- There was a PennDOT preconstruction meeting for the West Linn Street/SR 144 Project. The sidewalk and railing along South Water Street will be replaced. When

evaluating the sidewalk and railing replacement on Water Street it was noticed that some of the wall underneath the sidewalk was deteriorating. Their engineer was going to look at it. It is possible that during the sidewalk reconstruction project they may have to issue a change order and do repairs. Barring that, they did not program to fix the wall. There is no funding in the project to fix the wall. Mr. DeCusati contacted the CCMPO and there is a plan in place. If they disrupt the structural support of the sidewalk, they will have to fix it. It was requested that whatever they do should be kept historic.

The West Linn Street wall repair should begin on June 5 and end August 31. North Allegheny Street, which will be affected by the bridge work taking place by Log Cabin Motors on SR 150, will begin April 17 and go through November 30. With the West Linn Street project, it will be difficult to get out of town going north. There was a meeting with PennDOT on Friday to discuss the detours. The detour signage will detour SR144 traffic at the appropriate time turning at the Diamond, proceeding to Water Street to SR150. The most problems will be in June when West Linn Street is closed.

PennDOT will be at the April 3 Council meeting to discuss the detours. They will be asked to bring preliminary plans.

- The Committee plans to revisit the South Thomas Street parking that was approved last year to repaint the lines. In talking to the Borough employees, it appears that it would only give one more parking space with repainting. The spaces would then become smaller. There is a required size for a parking space.

- There are some questions regarding the Rain Garden on High Street in front of the Bellefonte Mews so the Borough engineer, Mr. Franson, who is also the County's Engineer, sent a plan for the Streets Committee to review.

- The 15-minute parking in front of the Bellefonte Mews needs to be resolved. Chief Weaver will meet with the committee to make a recommendation.

- Mr. Brachbill recommended the intersection at Ridge and High Street have a yield sign. The Streets Committee will review this.

- Mr. Johnson reported the Streets Committee is still working on the unordained streets project. They are considering, with Council's approval, to contact Jeff Stover regarding a resident that would like to go through the process to purchase an unordained street. Each property purchase will be different. There will not be any expense for the Borough.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to contact the solicitor and the resident to initiate the process of selling an unordained street with the expectation that the cost would be reimbursed by the land purchaser. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Ms. Brown asked if someone worked on the Spring Street traffic light. Mr. Stewart said it was possible.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey feels the new LED lights are brighter than the other ones. She asked if they are the warm color, but Mr. Stewart said they are the colder white. After the last meeting they talked with the Borough electrician, and he was going to order three of the softer white ones and install them on the First National Bank side of the same block. An email will be sent to Council members when they are installed.

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** – Mrs. Dunne suggested that the Energy and Environmental Conservation Committee should review the Bellefonte Borough Air Pollution Ordinance and for the moment just hold on to the material from Mr. Ewall.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- The RFPs for real estate brokers will be opened. They will be reviewed at the IDA meeting on Wednesday, March 8. The RFPs were:

BHGRE-GSA Realty, State College, PA

RE-MAX, Donielle Sweeley, State College, PA

RE-MAX Centre Realty, Scott Yocum & Mark McMaster, State College, PA

- At the February 1 meeting, the solicitor was requested to review Mr. Johnson's vote as a potential conflict of interest. The solicitor said there was no conflict of interest in the situation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Appointment of a new Council member from the South Ward. Mrs. Dunne reviewed the procedure that is approved by Borough Code. Nominations will be made, and the candidates will be voted upon in the order they were nominated. Roll-call votes will be done.

The nominations were opened and were as follows:

Mr. Brachbill nominated Evan Duffey. Ms. Hombosky seconded the motion.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey nominated Taylor Lake. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

A roll-call vote was taken for Evan Duffey. Beigle-yes; Brachbill-yes; Brown-no; Dickman-yes; Dunne-no; Hombosky-no; Johnson-yes; Tosti-Vasey-no. There were four "yes" votes and four "no" votes.

A roll-call vote was taken for Taylor Lake. Beigle-no; Brachbill-no; Brown-yes; Dickman-no; Dunne-yes; Hombosky-yes; Johnson-no; Tosti-Vasey-yes. There were four "yes" votes and four "no" votes.

Mayor Wilson broke the tie by voting for Evan Duffey. Evan Duffey is the new Councilman for the South Ward until December 31, 2017. He will be sworn in at the Council meeting of March 20, 2017.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve Resolution 03062017-01. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve the Children's Fair Resolution 0306017-02. Ms. Dickman seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Volunteer Fair will be Saturday, March 11, at the Match Factory/APS. The Borough will have a table, and a volunteer application will be available at the table. Various Council members will help out at the table.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting of March 6, 2017, at 9:15 p.m. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.