

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

December 4, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823

www.bellefonte.net

5:30 p.m. HR Committee

6:30 p.m. Work Session

- **S. Zarit Resolution in Support of Redistricting Reform in PA**
- **NVJPC Comp Plan – EconDev; NVJP Comp Plan -Demographics; NV Community Planning Goals – Draft Revisions 2017**

7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The December 4, 2017 regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ms. Gay Dunne, President.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence (to pay respect to fallen Armed Forces members and Council members who have passed).

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gay Dunne, President
Randall Brachbill
Melissa Hombosky
Doug Johnson
Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Joseph Beigle
Renee Brown
Tom Wilson, Mayor

EXCUSED: Courtney Dickman
Taylor Lake

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Don Holderman, Borough Assistant Manager

GUESTS: Emma Gonsalvez, *The Express*
Steven Zarit
James Brennan
Katie Brennan
Susan Dinsmore
Caitlin Sager

Hannah Black
Jon Eaton
Claudia Wilson
Anne Walker
Nancy Perkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Mr. Brachbill moved to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2017 Council Meeting, as amended;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered 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).

None.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM: (discussed out of agenda order) v

Fair Districting Resolution

Ms. Susan Dinsmore addressed Council in support of the Fair Districts Act and wanted to offer that she and her friends think it is a good thing to have done.

**Mr. Brachbill moved to approve the Resolution for Fair Districting;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;**

Ms. Dunne read the resolution for public information and explained that the Resolution is for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting.

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR
LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Bellefonte and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting has at times resulted in gerrymandered districts that favor one political party over others; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will: ensure a fair, transparent, and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions; prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate; require the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries; require public input; and fully comply with the constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary," and

WHEREAS, legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial legislative and congressional redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion is required to ensure these reforms.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bellefonte Borough Council does hereby support legislative efforts to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all those elected officials in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent the citizens of the Borough of Bellefonte (see list below) to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to each of them.

Governor Tom Wolf
Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack
Attorney General Josh Shapiro
United States Senator Bob Casey
United States Senator Pat Toomey
United States Representative G. T. Thompson
Pennsylvania Senator Jake Corman
Pennsylvania Representative Kerry Benninghoff
Centre County Commissioner Michael Pipe
Centre County Commissioner Mark Higgins
Centre County Commissioner Steve Dershem
Bellefonte Mayor Tom Wilson

Ms. Tosti-Vasey offered that there needs to be open, transparent, and cooperating legislators. When legislators select themselves rather than have electors elect them, extreme partisanship occurs. This legislation will aid in reducing that problem.

Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Written:

Letter from Senator Jake Corman re Creation of Category of Ancillary Casinos

Mr. Stewart indicated that this issue was brought up at the last Council meeting. In addition to the letter a resolution was at the table. No additional information was found on the pros and cons. There were two municipalities in Centre County that had opted out so far. The Borough Association's website had no further information either. Mr. Beigle found it hard to come up with information on this topic as well. He offered that some say it helps with the economy, and other say it preys on low income families. He stated that he researched that the Mayor is against it in the City of Lancaster, but he could not come up with a conclusive comparison and is not in favor of opting out. It was suggested that the Borough opt out now and then if necessary, can change the vote later. Mr. Beigle did not think that a casino would be interested in a small town like Bellefonte anyway.

Mr. Stewart stated that at the last meeting a discussion was held on opting out now and then reversing that decision later, if desired. Ms. Dunne stated that it would give more control over the presence or absence of a casino.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved that the Borough pass the resolution to prohibit the location of a Category 4 Ancillary Casino facility within the Borough of Bellefonte;

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;

Mayor Wilson is not in favor of standing in the way of economic opportunities, but in this case, he is. The reason is the added expense and pressure on the police department without any additional funding coming in to support a larger police force, if a casino was to come to the Borough.

Motion carried with one no vote (Mr. Biegle).

Letter from PennDOT re: Traffic Data Collection Screening for Potential Safety Improvements

Information letter from PennDOT regarding data collection on the roadways (strips on the roadways). The letter states that the information will be used by PennDOT to complete a state-wide screening and prioritize locations for potential safety improvements. Ms. Dunne inquired about the information and if it would be given to the CCMPO. Mr. Stewart thought that this was the case as the district engineers attend the MPO meetings.

Letter from C-NET

C-NET is celebrating 30 years of service in Centre County. They are looking for citizen input on their programming.

Letters from Spring Township Police Department

Two letters from Spring Township Police Department thanking officers from the Bellefonte Borough P.D. for their assistance in two cases. Letter of commendation are typically put into the officers' personnel files, per Mr. Stewart.

Bellefonte Education Association information

Oral:

Ms. Dunne announced that Thursday, December 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the State College Borough Building, the Sustainability Institute at PSU will be holding their expo and there will be posters and exhibits on students who have completed projects in different municipalities and on various topics that contribute towards sustainability. The Borough's student group will not be presenting at this expo.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported that regarding Victorian Christmas there will be an unveiling of Bellefonte Historic Marker Tablets at 1:00 p.m. at the Care for People office at 121 North Allegheny Street. These are tablets that will be placed around town giving a short tutorial and history of the various historic structures/sites in town. There are two up in town already, one at the Gamble Mill and the other one is at the new winery. The project dedication will be with the Commissioners, Borough Council, and the Bellefonte Area Chamber of Commerce. The unveiling and preview is at 1 p.m. and from 2-4 p.m. the street tablet staff will be available to discuss the project.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey also stated that an email came in about 6 p.m. this evening regarding public comment on the Certified Local Government Preservation Program; the deadline for comment has been extended until December 11, 2017.

Ms. Hombosky discussed "First Sunday" which was held for the first time last weekend. First Sunday will continue indefinitely, hopefully, revolving around what the Art Museum does. She spoke with some of the business owners and they had increased sales and feels that it was successful. It brought about 300 people into town.

This Saturday during Victorian Christmas, Belle Key will be hosting a scavenger hunt from noon to 4 p.m. You can pick up a booklet at the Art Museum or Library Museum. Five purchases need to be made in downtown businesses for clues to the hunt. There are prize baskets worth over \$500. Over thirty downtown businesses are participating.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CCMPO Report (Mr. Johnson)

Mr. Johnson explained that the CCMPO is the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization. The federal laws require that the local and state officials work cooperatively to maintain a continuous and comprehensive long-range transportation planning program in all urbanized areas with populations of more than 50,000. This federal mandate is carried out by a formal group called the Metropolitan Planning Organization, with the CCMPO covering Centre County. Mr. Johnson has been selected to be a representative on the coordinating committee. He

attended the meeting, unofficially. A few things of interest to the Borough is the Drive Forward Campaign and PennDOT submitted the grant application for the I-99 and 80 interchange study. They are waiting to hear a response from that.

There was talk of data collection at Phoenix Avenue, but nothing formal was proposed.

Airport Authority Meeting

Messrs. Beigle and Johnson attended the meeting and Mr. Johnson was introduced to the Board. He offered that there will be some exciting news for the future of University Park Airport. There will be complete jet service out of the airport by the end of the year (no props).

Mr. Johnson's appointment was discussed briefly as it related to the other local townships potential appointments.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Sgt. Holliday was not present for a report.

Mayor Wilson stated that this weekend is the 35th annual Victorian Christmas. Opening ceremonies are at 6:30 p.m. at Bellefonte Elementary School and festivities will continue all day Saturday and Sunday, but with no craft vendors Sunday. Mayor Wilson invited everyone to come downtown and support the businesses and enjoy Victorian Christmas.

He also reported on an article in the *Lock Haven Express* regarding a workshop to be held at the Lock Haven University Small Business Development Center regarding potential nature-based economy. This pertained to business that cater to outdoor recreation. Presently, there are five persons attending. It is a sold-out forum. Mr. Stewart, Mr. Brachbill, Mr. Johnson, Jack Shuster (a local resident), and Mayor Wilson will attend the workshop (December 6). He believes it will be of great benefit to the Borough as there are two initiatives presently in the works that are nature based.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

ZONING/PLANNING: No report.

HARB: No report.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY: Courtney Dickman, Chair

Approval of the ELA Group Contract Amendment

This is a request for payment for additional services from ELA Group in support of an HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit) in the design services for the parking lots. The requests total \$4,622.50. This amount is a little more than half of the cost of the HOP total. The subsequent HOP included in this amendment was discussed briefly relative to curbing and sidewalk. Mr. Stewart explained that with realigning the parking lot, it was necessary to include curbing and sidewalk. Mr. Brachbill offered that this should have been brought to Council's attention prior to this work. Mr. Holderman advised ELA not

to do anything further with the HOP until the bids come in. They did indicate when the plans were presented that an HOP needed to be obtained but the cost was not discussed. If everything goes as planned and both lots can be completed, another \$2,500 or so will be required for the HOP. Mr. Brachbill stated that this should have been brought up to Council prior to the contract amendment request. He would like to see this policy exercised with any changes in the future of these projects.

**Mr. Beigle moved to approve the contract amendment;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Mr. Stewart reported on the Landmark Realtor's brokerage contract with the IDA. IDA's attorney was asked to look over the contract. It was reviewed and comments from the IDA solicitor were drawn up and sent back to Landmark. A final draft of the agreement should be ready for the next IDA meeting, December 13, 2017 at 6 p.m.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE: Renee Brown, Chair

Consideration Adoption of the 2018 Budget (\$17,602,525.00) and Approval of Ordinance No. 12042017-01 (Tax Levy Ordinance) - increase in taxes .75 mils. This increase in taxes are in the General Budget. This is the ONLY property tax increase, which equates to about \$35 per year for the average property owner. Mr. Stewart thanked Council for the work to get this number. Ms. Lori Walker was thanked by Council for her work.

**Ms. Brown moved to adopt the 2018 Budget;
Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion;**

The part-time police officer was discussed. The funds for this position are currently included in the line item for all officers. Randy Brachbill asked if the part-time officer salary could be pulled out of the police salary line item and then create a new, separate line item restricted to the purpose of the part-time officer salary only. An amendment to the motion was suggested that the line item for the part time police officer be restricted to that position.

**Mr. Brachbill moved to amend the budget by creating a new line item and that this new line item for the part-time police officer be restricted to only that position under the Police Department section of the General Fund;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Motion carried unanimously on the original budget as amended

**Ms. Brown moved to adopt the Tax Levy Ordinance for 2018, Ordinance No. 12042017-01
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;**

Ms. Dunne corrected the Certification section to reflect the current year.

Motion carried.

PARK AND RECREATION: Melissa Hombosky, Chair

Nothing to report.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Chair

Committee meeting was held this evening prior to Council. Four personnel issues were discussed along with an issue regarding next year's health insurance costs.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Randy Brachbill, Chair

There will be a Fire Exec meeting on December 14, 2017 at 7 p.m. in Council chambers.

WATER/SANITATION – Joe Beigle, Chair

Nothing to report.

STREETS: Doug Johnson, Chair

The timing of the traffic lights at High and Spring Streets and at High and Water Streets was discussed. The traffic is backing up and you seem to sit through two lights. There is grid lock on Spring Street. Mr. Stewart indicated that the Borough has received some complaints on this. This can be reported to PennDOT. They indicated that there would be a period of adjustment of timings since they are new lights. PennDOT sets the timing on the lights even though the Borough owns them. Mr. Stewart will notify them that there are issues with these two intersections. Ms. Brown spoke with Tel Power and they told her that they adjusted the lights for the morning rush. The pedestrian crosswalk button may also be coming into play.

The roadwork at Log Cabin Motors seems to be taking a long time. It was offered that it is an inconvenience for motorists and it was slated to be done early November. The Route 144 (West Linn Street) project was being paved today.

Junk car sitting by Black Walnut was discussed. If the owner can be convinced to tidy it up it would make that area look a lot nicer since the new wall is in place.

Leaf collection will wrap up this week. One truck is down. The other one is going around and not many leaves are out to be collected. Seasonal help is gone, and work can be picked up in the spring.

Shady Lane has some leaves out there from the wind.

At the Water Street railroad crossing at Subway there is a temporary patch. This has been going on since July or August. A permanent fix needs to be made. Originally, all of the rubber had been planned to be replaced, per Mr. Stewart, but apparently it was only patched. Mr. Stewart will follow up with a letter.

Council complimented the Christmas decorations. The Hometown Hero banners were complimented as well.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: Taylor Lake, Chair

Memo re: Composting Facility/Musser Lane

Memo from Mr. Holderman regarding the Saturday vehicle traffic at the composting facility. Over 1,000 vehicles visited over the summer with the highest number 56 vehicles. Lowest was the last Saturday in November with only 3 visits.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported on a meeting with the PSU Sustainability group last week to discuss possibility of new projects. Several storm water conservation ideas were discussed including three possible rain gardens. The Solar panel idea for the Borough Building was discussed as well as a possible project to determine issues the Borough would need to address to meet the MS4 mandate that we expect to have to meet after the 2020 decennial census. Ms. Tosti-Vasey thought a rain garden on Park View Blvd. would be a good start due to the icing situation. Not only would that reduce the problem, but there would be an educational component as well. It is right next to the Teener Lot. The group will be coming back in the new year to address some of these ideas.

OLD BUSINESS:

Local Services Tax Agreement with Changes – Mr. Stewart mentioned this at the last meeting. Changes are outlined in this copy of the agreement. They are pretty much housekeeping changes. The new contract is meant to go from January 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2022. There are a few renewal periods. There are no fee increases as Bellefonte is currently a member. This is a five-year contract as opposed to a three-year contract. For new municipalities entering into the agreement there is a higher fee. A motion was tabled at the last meeting.

**Mr. Brachbill moved to remove the LST Agreement from the table;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

**Mr. Brachbill moved to accept the LST Agreement;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Letter to CC Commissions re: Crider Exchange Building – Letter to Commissioner Higgins following last meeting's presentation on the Crider Exchange Building. This is a letter supporting the project. Ms. Tosti-Vasey inquired about the solicitor's review of the economic development questions. Mr. Holderman indicated that a response has not been received yet. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

Little League Lights – A grant for \$150,000 can be obtained through the Little League for lights at the Little League field. DCD will be in touch with Mr. Holderman regarding this. He will be working on the grant application in the next week or so and get it submitted. He asked Council if they would proceed with requesting a commitment letter from the State without having the grant in hand. The commitment letter would say that we would be getting the grant and going to get funded for it.

Mr. Brachbill moved to request a commitment letter from the State for \$150,000;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Resolution No. 1042017-001 re: CDBG Block Grant for \$99,663.00.
This is for the ADA projects at Governor's and Masullo Parks.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to adopt the resolution;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

2018 Meeting Schedule- For review and comment by next meeting It will be advertised before the beginning of 2018.

Fair Districting Resolution – discussed at the beginning of the meeting

Open House for Departing Department Council Members – 2-4 p.m. December 15. Public and family members are invited to an open house for those members leaving Council: Joe Beigle, Courtney Dickman, Gay Dunne, and Taylor Lake.

Approval of Resolution No. 12042017-02 re: Lease Agreement for Purchase of Wheel Loader – This is a formality for the lease agreement of the wheel loader.

Mr. Beigle moved to pass the resolution 12042017-02;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

Mr. Brachbill moved to adjourn the December 4, 2017 Council meeting;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.