

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

6:30 p.m. - Work Session – Municipal Parking Lot Kiosks/Fees; Electric Vehicle Charging Station; Chicken Ordinance Review (*was not reviewed this meeting*)

CALL TO ORDER:

The April 16, 2018 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

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: Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Renee Brown
Mr. Evan Duffey
Mr. Jon Eaton
Ms. Melissa Hombosky
Mr. Douglas Johnson
Mr. Michael Prendergast (via teleconference)
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Ms. Anne Walker
Mayor Tom Wilson

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

EXCUSED: Mr. Don Holderman, Borough Assistant Manager

GUESTS: Emma Gonsalvez, *The Express*
Sally Houser
Bill Pauth
Todd Smith, P.E., ELA Group
Alan Uhler
Ken Bean, Bellefonte Area S.D.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing for the Proposed Amendment to Chapter 575 Zoning Pertaining to Stadiums and Tattoo Establishments.

Tosti-Vasey closed the public hearing without any public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Brachbill moved to approve the April 2, 2018 meeting minutes;
Duffey 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).

Communication: Request to Use Talleyrand Park for Concerts in the Park

Mayor: Police Exonerations

Mayor: Police Report

Finance: Stover McLaughlin Invoice

Finance: Voucher Summary March 2018: \$1,341,336.72

Tosti-Vasey removed the Request to Use Talleyrand Park for Concerts in the Park correspondence. Johnson requested removal of the Stover McLaughlin Invoice.

**Brachbill moved to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Johnson questioned why the Stover McLaughlin invoice was not itemized. He did not know what the invoice was for. Stewart will review it back in the office and see what the invoice was for. He will hold this until the next Council meeting. Item tabled to next meeting to gather information requested.

Tosti-Vasey asked that the Talleyrand Request be removed as it was unclear in the application if they are requesting that the \$200 fee be waived. The requestor is a Bellefonte non-profit. Concerts in the park are funded by the BHCA. Stewart stated that the fee has been waived in the past. Duffey asked if the ordinance can be changed so that the non-profits do not have to request waivers and they are automatically waived. This would save time.

Council voted in favor of accepting the BHCA request for Talleyrand Park for Summer Sounds Concerts in the Park with the waiver of the \$200.00 fee.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

WRITTEN:

Email re: Porch Restoration at Bellefonte at Museum

The Museum received a grant to re-do their porch on North Allegheny Street. Stewart congratulated them on getting this grant.

Letter from Maness Family re: Alcohol at Bellefonte Cruise

This letter opposed the alcohol at The Cruise request.

Email from T. Knisley re: Alcohol at Bellefonte Cruise

This letter opposed the alcohol at The Cruise.

Thank you from Centre County Library

A thank you for the additional money that went to programs the Library was looking to fund.

Invitation to CATA Dedication and Open House

Open House is 10:00 a.m. on May 23, 2018 at their facility on Whitehall Road.

Email from M. Bloom re: Krauss Park

Discussion on the route being considered for the Milesburg Bellefonte Rail Trail. The email updates discussions with various stakeholder.

Thank you for the Chamber of Commerce for the use of Armory

Thank you for allowing the use of the Armory property for the upcoming circus

Email from Brockerhoff House re: Trash removal at 101 S. Allegheny

Email from C. Dannaker re: Alcohol at The Bellefonte Cruise.

This email also opposed the alcohol sales at The Cruise.

Letter from Historic Bellefonte Inc. re: Big Spring Festival

Event is May 12, 2018 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. They are requesting two banners and other items.

**Eaton moved to approve the banners and other items requested by Historic Bellefonte, Inc. for The Big Spring Festival;
Brown seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

ORAL:

Soap Box Derby

Alan Uhler from the Soap Box Derby thanked the Borough Council and staff for their assistance with the race last weekend. There were 45 riders from about 7 states competing. Weather was perfect. They are looking for ways to better notify the residents next time. Out of towners again commented on how beautiful Bellefonte is. The Derby will back again during The Cruise.

Alcohol at The Cruise

Tosti-Vasey offered that since there was correspondence received from Council on this issue, it was being moved up from Old Business on the agenda to discuss at this time.

**Brachbill moved to take the issue of alcohol at The Cruise off the table;
Duffey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Discussion continued on this topic. Pat McCool, Committee Chair of The Bellefonte Cruise, stated that the Cruise Committee had not received any phone calls or emails regarding this subject. Public comments he had heard around town were misinformed comments.

**Brachbill moved to approve the request for alcohol at The Cruise;
Hombosky seconded the motion;**

Hombosky stated that she would like to see an official beer garden set up off the diamond and have that be the designated area just for Friday night. She would like to see the local organizations and businesses sell the alcohol for The Cruise. The Tasting Trail would be a good fit and she would then see community involvement. Johnson stated that he would vote no. He happened to hear WBLF last week do a listener poll question and 70 plus people called in and said no to the alcohol and only 12 said yes. He has not spoken to anyone in his circle that is in favor of this. He feels that the community does not want it. Brachbill agrees. Everything he has seen does not favor the alcohol at The Cruise.

Prendergast suggested that Council allow this once and if it doesn't work out, not do it again. He is willing to give it a try. At the last meeting, Tosti-Vasey asked the public to call or email Council with opinions. She went to several meetings prior to today and she took informal polls. No one stated that they were in favor of it. Reasons included, not being well thought out, mixing drinking, and driving, and sending the wrong message and mixing the minors with drinkers. One

responder stated that the Borough open container ordinance should prohibit this in the first place. It also would hurt business, not be controlled, and could damage The Cruise vehicles. The only comment that was positive was requesting The Cruise to rent an indoor space to have control over access to the beer. She stated that she would vote no. Walker saw opposition to this idea on Facebook. Everyone she spoke with is opposed to it. Duffey stated that if it is turned down, The Cruise can always come back next year and request it again with a better plan. Public comment will make it hard for him to vote in favor. Hombosky stated that people in her age group and younger are for the event. Eaton stated that it seemed to be a pretty undefined plan and it may be a risk. If in the future, if The Cruise comes forth with a more defined plan as to where the sales would be and how it would be controlled and kept away from minors, it may have a more favorable view. There is just not enough information for Eaton to vote yes.

Wilson stated that the first time this was brought up, more detail was asked for. He thought McCool did a pretty good job at presenting a whole listing of what they would do. The location was not agreed upon, but he wanted to acknowledge that The Cruise did come back with a map and detailed plan on the sales. He did not like the fact that the sales would be in front of the stage. But that was a detail. He thinks they did their due diligence in presenting to Council the facts.

Eaton respectfully disagreed. Chief Weaver provided a document prior which set forth guidelines that New York State uses for such an event. If The Cruise would have implemented a plan where the area of service was, he would have been more comfortable in voting for the event. Without the plan, he could not see a boundary of where the minors would be, and the alcohol was being served. Duffey opined that they did supply a detailed plan. They did what Council asked. Walker agreed but in representing members of the community, she could not turn around and approve something that the community opposes.

Brachbill called the question.

Roll call vote was called:

Tosti Vasey nay;
Walker nay;
Brachbill nay;
Brown yes;
Duffey nay;
Eaton nay;
Hombosky yes;
Johnson nay;
Prendergast yes.

Motion failed (6/3). (Alcohol sales will be prohibited at this year's Bellefonte Cruise).

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Centre Region Code Comparison of Monthly Stats March 2018

Centre Region Code Permits issued

Centre Region Code Permits closed

Spring Creek Watershed Atlas Work Group

Tosti-Vasey reported that the Spring Creek Watershed Committee will hold their water usage forum this coming Wednesday 7-9 p.m. at CPI. There was also a discussion on news articles to put into the Atlas. This is an interactive website on different issues regarding Spring Creek Watershed. Gay Dunne is now Chair of the Issues and Solution Committee for that group. History of the Waterfront in Bellefonte is one of the proposed topics.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

The police report was discussed briefly. The new officer is fitting in well.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – HARB Items

ZONING/PLANNING:

Nothing to report

HARB:

Certificate of Appropriateness for 203 N. Allegheny Street

**Duffey moved to approve the certificate of appropriateness for the signage project for 203 N. Allegheny Street;
Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Harb Meeting Minutes April 10, 2018 Draft

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Point Person, Anne Walker

Walker reported that parking lot A construction began today. She anticipates 7 weeks of work. This will create parking issues and she thanked the community in advance for their patience during construction. Any questions regarding alternate parking can be directed to the Borough staff.

A rate adjustment was discussed, and more discussion will be had on this topic. More information is being researched regarding chargers for the electrical vehicles.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE - Point Person, Evan Duffey

Budget v. Actual 2018
Current v. Prior March 2018

Duffey reported that he is working on getting a quarterly report in for the police. He is working with Holderman and Stewart on that. A doodle pool will be sent out to set a meeting up.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Point Person, Melissa Hombosky

Krauss Park Cleanup

Hombosky reported on the Krauss Park clean up on April 8. She thanked the PSU students and volunteers, including Brachbill, Johnson and Eaton for their help. Wilson apologized as he arrived late. He stated it looked very nice and was surprised at how much brush was cut. Some mulching will still need to be done using recycled materials from Musser Lane.

Johnson reported that it was nice to see the community and the parks committee out and about and caring about the park. Mr. Krauss, a relative of the park namesake was also in attendance.

Talleyrand Park Mulching

Playground mulch was added at Talleyrand Park on April 15. Hombosky thanked the PSU students for that job as well as Rod Mitchell.

Fishing off the Bank at Waterfront

Johnson inquired about the plan to restrict fishing off the bank. The grass area is now mud. He inquired if some grass seed can be spread to try to get it to regrow. He offered that Council needs to do something to enforce what was ordered. People are ignoring the signs. Johnson opined that the more the Borough lets this activity go on, the worse it is going to get. He had concerns about people getting 'hooked' or falling into the water standing on the mud patch.

Fish and Game allows fishing "in the water." They should provide ADA access as it was their decision to allow fishing there. Tosti-Vasey recalled that until there is ADA accessibility at Masulla Park, those needing ADA accommodations are supposed to come into the Borough and request permission to fish from the sidewalk at the waterfront on a case by case basis. No one else is supposed to be or permitted to be fishing from the sidewalk or the bank. Johnson asked that the no fishing be enforced by the police. Wilson will mention it to the police department but will not make it a priority to chase away fishermen. The signs states that there is a fine for fishing.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Point Person, Renee Brown

Brown clarified her statement at the last meeting. It is not the police contract that is being renegotiated it is the public works contract. It expires in 2018. A meeting will be set up soon.

SAFETY – Point Person, Randy Brachbill

Nothing to report.

WATER/SANITATION – Point Person, Doug Johnson

Daily Water Withdrawal report March 2018

Authority Meeting Minutes April 3, 2018 Draft

Construction will begin at the Bellefonte Wastewater Treatment Plant – will continue to the end of the year. A motion was made at the Authority meeting to fund the additional costs of the project from a Money Market Account for the Borough. At the next Authority meeting, Johnson will also ask that a line item be made in the financial report to make sure that the money gets paid back on the money market account to show it has been dutifully paid back. That was the caveat to borrowing the money. This will take about ten years. There will not be interest charges as the money that is being used will be money that was saved over the years.

Centre County Metropolitan Organization meets on April 24, 2018. There will be discussion of roads program within the County. Johnson will attend and give a report.

The Benner Avenue water line project was discussed briefly. The street crew is now working on the storm basin at the end of that street. The water line is done and working well.

STREETS – Point Person, Jon Eaton

Motorcycle Spaces/Howard Street Parking Update

Eaton reported that 8 potential parking stalls have been identified. This issue was not voted on at the last meeting. A motion will be needed to install the spaces. There would be six on Allegheny Street and two down by the High Street Bridge. These would not impact car space at all. The parking for cycles or scooters at these spots is free of charge and the time limit would be alternate evening parking. There will be signage.

**Eaton moved to approve the eight motorcycle parking spaces;
Brachbill seconded the motion;**

Brown inquired why this parking would be free of charge. Eaton offered that this would save the expense of installing meters at this point in time due to the meter parking being redone in two years. Brachbill agreed with Brown. Duffey would like to see these spots included in the new meter kiosks in two years as well for fairness sake. Eaton did not mean for the spaces to be free forever.

Motion carried with one nay (Brown).

Brachbill stated that going up Cherry Lane, between Wilson and Monroe Streets, there is no entry because there is one way coming toward Wilson. There is no entry sign at Wilson and Cherry Lane. At the next intersection there is nothing and at the next intersection there is no one way or no entry sign either. It is one way, but it is not signed very well. Stewart will have the crew look at this.

Duffey inquired about bicycle racks. Wilson offered that there is one somewhere, but Bellefonte is not a bicycle friendly town. Tosti-Vasey offered that this is one of the considerations for the parking lot. The local bicycle clubs do come through Bellefonte. Duffey would like to see some racks installed near the businesses are, e.g., Cool Beans. A possibility would be to mount them on parking meters. Perhaps CIP or a vo tech school would be able to help with this project in repurposing something for the rack.

The streets paving project listing was discussed. The bids are out and will be awarded at the next Council meeting.

Walker mentioned a Water and High Street signal issue. When on Water going South towards State College, there used to be a sign at that light that said no turn on red; that sign is gone. The residents know that you should never try to turn on red there, but someone from out of town may try it and cause an accident. PennDOT appears to have also omitted the no left turn sign as well. Stewart will look into this.

The ADA parking permit on the corner of Bishop and Allegheny was discussed. This was discussed at the planning meeting, per Stewart. He has not gotten any feedback from Shannon Wright and Bellekey. He will try to get that by the next meeting.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION –Point Person, Mike Prendergast

Sustainability Expo – April 23, 2018 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. State College Municipal Building. The students will be showing their projects at this expo.

Residential Stormwater Workshop – April 24, 2018, 6-8 p.m. at Match Factory. Event is free of charge and refreshments will be served.

Watershed Forum April 18, 2018 at CPI from 7-9 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Consider approval of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 575 Zoning – Ordinance 041618-01

**Brown moved to approve the ordinance;
Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Rainworks Marking – Bellefonte Museum

Stewart reviewed the concept of the project. Council wanted to see how it worked first with a sample. There was one done in front of the Borough Building. There was no trace after it was cleaned up. Stewart does not see an issue with it. Tosti-Vasey reported that in an email received today from the museum, some of the Rainworks' designs would be on the waterfront walkway. Council does not recall permitting this.

**Brown moved to allow Rainworks in Bellefonte wherever they have received permission;
Eaton seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Chicken Ordinance Update

This item will be discussed at the next Council work session.

PSAB Conference

This conference is the first weekend in June 2018. A voting delegate and alternate voting member will be selected at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

**Hombosky moved to adjourn the meeting;
Johnson seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.