

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

6:00 p.m. – Executive Session – Property/Personnel

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The January 22, 2019 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.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mr. Randall Brachbill
Mr. Jon Eaton
Ms. Melissa Hombosky
Mr. Douglas Johnson
Mr. Michael Prendergast
Ms. Gina Thompson
Ms. Renee Brown
Mayor Tom Wilson

EXCUSED: Ms. Anne Walker

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

GUESTS: Lori Haines
Bice and Liam Casey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brachbill moved to approve the January 7, 2019 meeting minutes;
Thompson 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).

Communications: Letter Request from St. John Catholic School re: Governors Park

Brachbill pulled the communication for questions. He inquired about a conflict with work at the ball field. Stewart did not believe there would be a conflict. There is no fee just a damage deposit. They are also reserving Pavilion No. 1.

**Brachbill moved to approve the request of St. John's to use the park, if there are no conflicts;
Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN:

Beaver Farm Apartments – Letter of Support – Lori Haines

Stewart stated that there is a suggested letter of support. Haines, Executive Director of the Housing Authority was in the audience and spoke about the letter.

Beaver Farm is a public housing property behind Bellefonte High School. HUD is suggesting that the Housing Authority discard the public housing program if they are a small agency. There is a listing of criteria that they must go through. One of them is contact with the local government. In the past she has gone to the DCED. She had the County provide a letter of support last year. She is anticipating that that letter is too old. Haines stated that the property is in Bellefonte, so she wanted to come to the local level this year. She is asking for support of the program. If the HUD recommendation is accepted, the program would change from Section 9 funded program to a Section 8 which would line up with the housing voucher program. Section 9 is public housing owned by the Housing Authority and the Authority controls the rent, collection of rent, screening of applicants. Section 8 would be a more project-based voucher. A landlord would run the housing. Keeping it Section 9 would allow more control over the property. A brief history of the Section 8, and 9 programs was provided to Council members. Section 9 allows the Authority to get closer to market for the base rent which is subsidized through HUD. Programs are income based with certification required.

**Hombosky moved to send a letter of support for the Housing Authority
Streamline Conversion Application;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Reminder: Memo/Flyer LTAP Speed limits and management class

This class is scheduled for February 14 8 a.m. to Noon in Council Chambers.

FYI: Land Use Webinar Series – Winter/Spring 2019

There is only one fee for access to all webinars.

2019 Logan Fire Company No. 1 Banquet Letter

Invitation for Council to attend the 2019 Logan Fire Co. Banquet. 5 p.m. Saturday February 23, 2019. RSVP is February 15.

Letter from PSAB re: Nominations for second vice-president

PSAB is looking for nominations for second vice-president. They are due by February 10, 2019.

ORAL COMMENT:

William Carey, President, Bellefonte Little League President

Bill Carey spoke about the Little League program. He explained that they are out of space. They fielded 21 teams in 2018 from children 4-13 years of age. Two fields accommodated this. He offered that they do need another field. They have the land but not the funds to build the field. He is trying to raise money to build the field for the players prior to the start of next season.

One fundraiser idea was a duck race. He wishes to sell numbered ducks and put the rubber ducks into the creek, float them down and the first one down wins. He is at the beginning stages of planning. He spoke with the Fish and Boat Commission. He is recommending using the Big Spring side of the creek, instead of the railroad bridge side. He was looking for provisional approval. He is thinking of day to do the fundraiser, e.g. Cruise, Easter Egg Hunt, etc. He will come back to Council after they have selected the date.

Wilson stated that this has been done before and did not see a problem with it although there is a lot to work out. Holderman stated that since the Borough owns the spillway, Carey would only need permission from Council and maybe the Authority.

**Eaton moved to provisionally approve the duck event with full details to come back for final approval of Council;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IDA Meeting Minutes 01092019 Draft

Downtown Redevelopment Services Conference Call February 13 at BAIDA meeting

This group will have a conference call with the Downtown Redevelopment Services from Pittsburgh at the next BAIDA meeting. The group takes the property information, including what the seller is interested in doing with the property, and then goes out and finds developers to suit the property. This is only an FYI session and all Council is welcome to attend.

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes 01162019 Draft

Spring Creek Watershed Commission

Tosti-Vasey reported on the draft proposal for Phase II for the One Water Plan that was presented to Council. The executive summary explained what occurred with Phase II. The report is up for approval at the March meeting. They requested that the Water Authority, Planning Commission and Council members in every jurisdiction in the Spring Creek Watershed area review the report and give feedback. They expect Phase III to cost about \$500,000 over a couple of years. Comments can be emailed to springcreekwatershedcommission@gmail.com or their website at <http://springcreekwatershedcommission.org>. Public can comment as well. The Commission will need some buy in from the decision-making organizations to know that this is going to move forward.

Brachbill stated that the program belonged to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission and not the Borough and that the Borough can support it but does not have to follow it. His concern was with the option to sell water in the future and any action that may negate that in the future. He opined that this needs to be looked at carefully to make the right decisions for Bellefonte.

Cable Consortium Meeting January 22, 2019 at noon

The Cable Consortium met today. Negotiations are ongoing with Comcast. There are no increase in consortium fees for 2019. Same officers were reelected. The FCC proposed some changes which were talked about in an article in last Sunday's CDT by Cindy Hahn of CNET. The Consortium wrote a letter opposing these changes. There is still some time for public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Wilson thanked the crews for a good job with the snow removal. They worked all night last night. He also thanked the residents for keeping their vehicles off the road for the plowing.

He applauded Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. on their event at Big Spring Spirits last week. Council members attended.

Upcoming Quarry Project Presentation and Walk Thru

In conjunction with Penn State's Department of Outdoor Recreation, a power point presentation will be presented at Spring Township Municipal Building on February 4 to the Spring Township Board of Supervisors. The same presentation will be presented to Council at the second meeting of February. This will show future possibilities for the quarry area.

There was no police report provided.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – HARB Items

ZONING/PLANNING:

HARB:

HARB meeting minutes 01082019 Draft

HARB and DBI Update

Wright's report summarized that the state is working on new Certified Local Government (CLG) guidelines. In an upcoming work session, she will review it with Council. She also put together some public meetings to explain the new guidelines to residents. She is asking for Council's approval to film via CNET and post to the website. The cost would be based on the formula relative to the number of programs. The program would include all the HARB district and those buildings registered on the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The CNET video would reduce staff time considerably.

**Hombosky moved to allow CNET to film the HARB presentation;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Brachbill discussed the small cell wireless facilities and the FCC potential approval of such. He thought that perhaps zoning should look into this. Council did send a letter opposing this, per Tosti-Vasey.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Point Person, Anne Walker

Holderman offered that ALL the sleeves on the parking bollards at the CVS parking lot have been installed.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE - Point Person, Gina Thompson

EMS Funding Update

A funding update was prepared by Scott Rhoat on the municipalities' budget for the EMS. He included in the email, a question of what position should be taken with the municipalities that have not contributed fairly for services. He would like input on that.

Brachbill interjected it is up to the municipality to make their own decisions about funding. It was not a demand to take this on and was a request. Holderman stated that when the paying municipalities see others not paying, it may impact the funding for next year. As elected officials, Brachbill stated that it is the responsibility of Council to maintain good programs for the residents. Stewart stated that Rhoat may come back to the Borough and ask for more money due to a funding gap.

Holderman offered that the thought was that all would participate in funding, and now some are not. This may impact the municipalities that did provide funding.

Tosti-Vasey interjected that the better conversation should focus on what the Borough is paying for something and what the Borough can expect in return for this funding.

The process of funding was discussed. The Safety Committee will look at a policy for process of the funding and send the information over to the Finance Committee.

A breakdown of the funding was also provided in the email. There was also a listing of unfinished projects. One was to increase staff wages to be more competitive. Ambulance replacement was also included in 2019 and 2021. The loss of revenue with Centre Crest moving was also detailed.

Early Intervention/Strategic Financing—an overview of this program from the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development will be presented by DCED at the work session on March 4, 2019.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Point Person, Melissa Hombosky

Memo and Invoice for security cameras at Talleyrand Park

A plan of action for the security cameras at Talleyrand was discussed. The estimate invoice is approximately \$3,600. The amount budget was \$1,500. Holderman discussed the Parks committee getting together to look at the current budget and possibly reallocate funding for this direction or decide not to go with the plan.

Intergenerational Leadership Institute meeting

Tosti-Vasey attended this meeting. Matt Kaplan leads the program. Towards the end of the meeting, the group inquired about the Masulla Park ADA and family fishing pier. They were interested in working with the Borough, Trout Unlimited and Fish and Game Commission to do an intergenerational family fly-fishing training. Kaplan would work with the parks committee and any other groups to help design and set up the training. It was mentioned that the pier has not been constructed yet.

Johnson mentioned the fly-fishing program for vets at Fisherman's Paradise and their possible inclusion of those people with this event. There is an ADA dock at the location. Information will be obtained and provided to Tosti-Vasey.

Hombosky discussed the possible difficulties with fly-fishing at Masullo Park.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Point Person, Renee Brown

Meeting with Union re: Contract set for Monday January 28 at 5:15 p.m. Brown, Hombosky, Tosti-Vasey

Meeting to discuss joint Human Relations Commission with State College Borough and Ferguson Thursday January 24 at 3 p.m.

Ferguson Township Manager and State College Manager contacted Stewart in December to discuss the possibility of a joint anti-discrimination ordinance in lieu of doing an individual ordinance for each municipality. There is a meeting to have discussion on this on January 24 at 3 p.m.

SAFETY – Point Person, Randy Brachbill

Police Advisory Committee discussion and update

A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the advisory committee. A March meeting is tentative.

Fire hydrants replaced 2018

A listing of hydrants replaced in 2018 was provided.

There is a Fire Executive Meeting on January 24 at 7 p.m.

First Energy was sending out letters relative to doing maintenance repairs on electrical entrances. Brachbill said if you have this done, make sure everything is working before they leave. He had a family member with an issue. There was no power going to their water heater. Call FirstEnergy and not West Penn with any issues.

WATER/SANITATION – Point Person, Doug Johnson

The Authority meets on February 12, 2019 at 6 p.m.

STREETS – Point Person, Jon Eaton

Sidewalk survey status

Holderman stated that Keith Rupert obtained 150 addresses and will provide the number of sidewalk blocks needing repair in the near future. Once the survey is done and how much work needs to be done, an RFP may be sent out to get prices for the contract work. The survey will allow the Borough to give a contractor a projected scope for a volume pricing instead of pricing for single jobs, per Eaton. The idea is to get a volume price. Residents may opt out to go privately with their own contractor. If the work is not completed, someone would be available to do the work for those who were negligent in getting the work done.

Utility cut ordinance/fee review needs to be scheduled

A meeting will be scheduled to discuss utility road cuts and reimbursement of repair work done to the effected streets.

Parkview Drive - Review stormwater project report status

Holderman met with Don Franson, P.E. on the stormwater issues at Parkview in December. As soon as the report is finished, it will be in the Council packet. Staff will see how the melting and freezing is affecting the area this week.

Street Department Work 2018

2018 Report as follow: 15 Stormwater block replacements; 700 tons of asphalt was poured; 400 gallons of paint was used; 10 weeks of leaf collection; several trees cut down and also planted downtown. All the street lights were replaced with LEDs. The Streets Department has been doing good work for the community. Eaton thanked crews for their work.

Alternate Side Parking

Alternate side parking for snow removal was brought up by Johnson. He stated that Bishop Street and Curtin are pretty bad. No parking is posted during big storms. Loaders bring the snow out. The commercial area has an alternate street parking system. That is the only area that does, per Stewart.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION –Point Person, Mike Prendergast

Review of Air Pollution Ordinance

This ordinance was drafted 40 plus years ago and has not been updated since. There has been interest in looking at it and tweaking it, per Stewart. Tosti-Vasey interjected that the Spring Creek Watershed as part of the One Water process is interested in seeing municipal pollution ordinances, in addition to solar and other ordinances.

Big Spring Cover Project – Hazleton PSU Students

Tosti-Vasey reported that this project is highlighted on the front page of their school website. If the public wishes to view it, they can link to <http://Hazleton.PSU.edu> and the project is currently at the top of that page.

OLD BUSINESS:

CBICC Economic Department Summit cancelled January 26, 2019

Stewart stated that there was not enough of a response so this has been postponed at this time.

Borough Council Standing Committee Assignments

Committee Assignments:

Building and Property – Chair, Anne Walker, Doug Johnson, and Randy Brachbill

Energy and Conservation – Chair, Mike Prendergast, Gina Thompson, and Melissa Hombosky

Finance – Chair, Gina Thompson, Jon Eaton, Doug Johnson
Human Resources – Chair, Renee Brown, Gina Thompson, and Melissa Hombosky
Parks and Rec – Chair, Melissa Hombosky, Anne Walker, Renee Brown
Safety – Chair, Randy Brachbill, Anne Walker, Mike Prendergast
Streets – Chair, Jon Eaton, Randy Brachbill and Renee Brown
Water Sanitation – Chair, Doug Johnson, Mike Prendergast, Jon Eaton

This will be placed on the website. Community members may contact either their Ward representatives or members of these committees directly with concerns that are under the purview of said committees.

Authorities, Boards and Commission s (ABC’S) appointment

There were three volunteer applications submitted. Mr. Torsell is interested in serving on Civil Service Commission; Bonnie Dershem has interest in the Housing Board; and Josiah Newman has an interest as an alternate with the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Johnson moved to accept all three applications;
Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

The only remaining opening is on HARB. They are seeking an architect or someone with historical preservation experience.

Comparison of Monthly Code Stats December 2018

The question from the prior meeting was addressed. There is a column that talks about the number of permits, per Stewart. The income does not add up. Construction value was in question as it applied to income generated from Bellefonte Borough. Walt Schneider was emailed to resolve this issue and get some clarification. Hombosky offered that the number of inspections reported has not been received for a few months. Stewart will look into this as well.

The customer service representative position was discussed briefly.

The Hearts for the Homeless dwelling was discussed. It appears that personnel change out often. It was inspected. There has been no official notice that they shut down. Johnson stated that the Council seemed to have lost track on that building. An inquiry can be placed with the Board that runs it to try to get some answers.

Stewart stated that CATA/Chamber has a survey out relative to adding service to Bellefonte. The cost of additional service was a concern. The Borough may want to send a letter to the Chamber to ask them about paying for the cost or if taxpayers are going to pay the difference in cost. Spring and Benner should also be included, per Brachbill. Holderman sits on the Chamber board and will get an answer at the next meeting in February.

NEW BUSINESS:

Set dates for Community Wide Yard sale – May 17-18; Riff Raff Week - May 20-24; Trick or Treat - October 31, and Holiday Courtesy Parking - November 18 through January 1, 2020 (Penn State Commencement is May 3-5, Mother’s Day is May 12, Memorial Day is May 27)

Eaton moved to set dates as follows: Set dates for Community Wide Yard sale – May 17-18; Riff Raff Week - May 20-24; Trick or Treat - October 31 from 6-8 p.m., and Holiday Courtesy Parking - November 18 through January 1, 2020;

Prendergast seconded the motion;

Motion carried.

Consider Letter of Support for Keystone Community Funds increased to \$15M in State Budget

This is a request to the state for increased support for Downtown Bellefonte programs. This is state budget planning time and hopefully their budget will be approved by the end of June. July 1 begins the new budget. Shannon Wright is asking for a letter of support from Council. This will assist in funding her salary. Tosti-Vasey and Wright will be going to Harrisburg at some point to discuss the funding with legislators.

Eaton moved to write the letter of support;

Hombosky seconded the motion;

Motion carried.

Front Porch Storage

Stewart stated that if the property is a rental, there is more that the Borough can do rather than with an owner-occupied property. He asked Council to review the information on the porch storage. There are a few porches that are a safety issue. The ordinance should be reviewed and perhaps revised to include property owner occupants. This was deferred to the Safety Committee for review.

Martin Luther King Holiday Meeting Move

Brachbill asked Council to review other Monday holidays. Presidents Day appears to be the only conflict. This will be looked into and brought to the next meeting for any necessary changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

**Hombosky moved to adjourn the January 22, 2019 Council Meeting;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.