

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

6:00 p.m. – Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting – Talleyrand Park Cameras
6:30 p.m. Executive Session

- Collective Bargaining Agreement Update
- Personnel

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The February 4, 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 for the victims of the State College shooting and wishes for a speedy recovery for Nicole Abrino, the survivor of that shooting and for Councilman Eaton and his family as his brother-in-law passed last week.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Melissa Hombosky
Mr. Douglas Johnson (via teleconference)
Mr. Michael Prendergast
Ms. Gina Thompson
Ms. Anne Walker
Mayor Tom Wilson

EXCUSED: Ms. Renee Brown
Mr. Jon Eaton
Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

GUESTS: Chris Morelli, *The Lock Haven Express*
Ellen Matis
Lowanna Oliva, CATA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Brachbill moved to approve the January 21, 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).

Finance *Voucher Summary December 2018: \$1,510,295.46*
Finance *Treasurer's Report December 2018*

**Hombosky moved to the Consent Agenda;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

**COMMUNICATIONS:
WRITTEN:**

Letter request from Centre County Library

The Centre County Library is planning literacy activities for the summer for their Annual Summer Learning Program. They are looking for outside contributions from businesses, community members, and civic organizations. Typically, the Borough had been giving the library \$24,525.00 per year. Last year \$625 was given to them via the bulk water fund.

**Prendergast moved to donate \$600.00 to the library from the bulk water fund for 2019;
Thompson seconded the motion;**

Although Brachbill understood the needs of the library, he opined that it was only February and that the money needed to be watched with other commitments in the year. He would like to see items like this talked about during budget season. Prendergast agreed, but offered that this request came in the same time last year. Hombosky, who is a Library board member, asked the library to get the request out a little more ahead of time, but with reorganization it was difficult.

Tosti-Vasey stated that she supports the project but would like to revisit this issue in April to see how the first quarter goes with funds. Hombosky stated that the problem with waiting is that the library is planning now and by April it will be too late. Holderman stated that the contribution is being taken from the bulk water funds and not the general budget.

Prendergast called the question.

Motion carried with one nay vote—Tosti-Vasey

Letter Request from Faith Centre re: 13th Annual Walk/Run5K/10K

Faith Centre will hold their 13th annual walk/run on April 6, 2019 beginning at the Bellefonte Middle School. The map was in the Council packet. They are requesting to hold the event from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Johnson moved to approve the Faith Centre walk/run event
Brachbill seconded the motion;**

Johnson inquired about the usual safety issues being in line. Tosti-Vasey indicated that Holderman stated that this is in the process.

Tosti-Vasey offered that perhaps the time should be backed up 30 minutes. She was concerned about closing the roads. Hombosky stated that this is the 13th year for this event so they are seasoned on running this event.

Motion carried.

Letter from Centre County Board of Commissioners re: 2019 Liquid Fuels Program

Holderman stated that a few months ago, there was a discussion about additional funding left over in the 2015-16 allocation. The Borough requested to use the funds for storm drain work. This letter signified the approval of the use of the funds on stormwater drains.

Announcement – Centre County Planning

CCP was notified by PennDOT regarding the Multimodal Transportation Grant. It was awarded to them to replace the Railroad Street Bridge.

DBI letter request

Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. is requesting to use the Talleyrand Park annex this summer for an outdoor Adventure Expo. They would like to hold the event June 9 from noon to 5 p.m. Ellen Matis explained that this is a day time event that will promote the outdoor aspects of Bellefonte. It is also meant for businesses in the region to showcase what they have from a recreational standpoint. Relative to fly-fishing, Brachbill reminded everyone that there is no fishing from the waterfront walkway or the banks.

**Thompson moved to approve the Outdoor Adventure Expo for DBI on
Sunday, June 9 from noon to five at Talleyrand Park;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

ORAL COMMENT: None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Spring Creek Watershed Commission – Phase 2; Executive Summary; Environmental Controls

Tosti-Vasey stated that there were revisions made and the biggest change was to the Environmental Controls (local ordinances) report in Appendix 3. Two columns on solar energy and pollution were added.

Nittany Valley Planning Commission 10-year Comp Plan – review and process

This will be discussed on the next Council agenda.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Wilson stated that for anyone going on the trek on Sunday, the group will meet at the Little League Field at 1 p.m.

Wilson had nothing more to report at this time.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – HARB Items

DBI/PA Downtown Center Meeting January 30; will come back to Council in March for a follow up meeting on the DBI

Holderman stated that there was an extensive meeting with the DBI and PA Downtown Center on January 30. Hombosky reported that the DBI is rounding out their five-year designation with the PDC as a Keystone Community and it will need to be decided in the next few months if Bellefonte wishes to continue with the Keystone designation. Hombosky is in favor of continuing with the designation. There has been a lot of progress in the past year. The meeting was optimistic.

The follow-up meeting looked at buildings at risk in the Borough. They would like PDC to come in in March to look at doing a needs assessment of which buildings are most at risk and how they can be prioritized when looking into grants and funding.

Holderman stated that with this being the last year that the Borough is in the current program, at some point, in March or April a decision will need to be made and if it is affirmative, the application process will need to begin as the deadline is sometime this summer. Hombosky agreed that this needs to be discussed soon. This will be discussed at a work session meeting

ZONING/PLANNING:

HARB: Nothing to report.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Point Person, Anne Walker

Schedule meeting in March to discuss Parking Lot D modifications

Ms. Walker stated that a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the municipal lot next to the Waffle Shop. The lack of a sidewalk will be part of that discussion.

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

Current v. Prior December 2018

Budget v. Actual December 2018

Thompson offered that the numbers look good thus far.

Holderman stated that the auditors were in for some preliminary work and will be back in March.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Point Person, Melissa Hombosky

BKind Day of Service with PSU Students – April 14- Consider Krauss Park Clean-up day

Letter stating that PSU Bkind Day of Service is proposed for April 14. Krauss Park was considered for clean-up. Holderman stated that he spoke with his contact for Union Cemetery, but he has not gotten back to him. Tosti-Vasey asked about a joint project with the park and the cemetery. Holderman stated that he had not talked with the contact for the cemetery. The scouts do work for them and get badges for the effort. Hombosky would like ten volunteers. Wilson opined that perhaps they could be split into two projects rather than all on the park. Governor's park also needed some clean up. The time for Krauss park cleanup crews was set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m

Talleyrand Park Camera recommendation

Hombosky reported that the park committee met prior to the meeting and the recommendation is to move forward with the cameras at Talleyrand. Some funding will be reallocated in the budget. This system is approximately \$3,600.00.

Johnson inquired if the project was out for bid. He is going through the same process with his church and had a recommendation of another company for a quote. The contact information will be sent to Holderman.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Point Person, Renee Brown

Request for Health and Wellness Program

Barbie Watson in accounting is proposing a 6-week Biggest Loser Challenge for health incentive for Borough employees. The winner would get one free vacation day.

Brachbill moved to approve the one additional vacation day as the reward for the Biggest Loser Challenge for the Borough employees; Prendergast seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Johnson appreciated this idea and the effort.

Consider Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement

The HR Committee met last Monday, and a new contract was agreed upon. It includes a 2.75-3 percent and 3.25 percent raise for each of the next three years starting in 2019 with pay increases back to January 1 of 2019.

Hombosky moved to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Public Works; Prendergast seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Brachbill thanked the committee for their efforts.

Joint Anti-Discrimination meeting with SC and Ferguson Township postponed

SAFETY – Point Person, Randy Brachbill

Safety Committee meeting will be held on February 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Fire Executive Committee meeting was held on January 31, 2019.

The time of the meeting going forward will be changed to 6 p.m. to better accommodate members.

Memo – Borough School Resource Officers (SROs)

There was a memo in the Council packet relative to the SROs. Stewart was asked to be a panelist for a discussion with the Association of Boroughs and Schools having agreements with SROs. Bellefonte Borough has been under an agreement with the Bellefonte School District since 2008. The topic has gained some attention with the passage of Act 44 of 2018. The panel discussion will be taped on February 6, 2019 and Stewart will share the time and the link will be shared.

WATER/SANITATION – Point Person, Doug Johnson

2018 Compost Report

This report is for Saturdays at the compost only. It appears to be in line with past years. The most activity was in May and June. This was the first year that Benner was in the program. Holderman stated that there were a number of residents from Walker Township even though they are not part

of the program. Holderman would like to offer Walker Township to be included in the program. Spring Township also continued to grow. It is a popular program. This improves the chances of the grant opportunity for the leaf truck.

2018 Water Loss Capture Report

Johnson commended the streets department for doing a great job in tracking the water leaks down.

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

Brachbill asked if the Authority looked at the Spring Creek Watershed Phase II report as of yet. Johnson stated that it has been distributed to members and he is sure that it will be discussed at the next meeting.

STREETS – Point Person, Jon Eaton

Brachbill discussed the Sidewalk Repair Ordinance revisions. There is a doodle poll out to establish a meeting with the Streets Committee.

Wilson reported that he received an email re: 227 North Allegheny Street. There was a repair made at Burroughs and Allegheny Street to make it ADA compliant and the repair has created a “lake.” It is definitely a problem as the water lays in the alleyway due to the depression. Wilson asked that this issue be fixed.

Holderman acknowledged the problem as it was looked at last year. It was created when PennDOT did the Route 144 project. All the intersections were modified to meet ADA requirements. The storm drain is on the opposite side of the street intersection. Streets will need to install a new storm drain box on that side and run the pipe across the side street to the other storm drain. Holderman stated that it is on the list of things to do.

Holderman stated that the last pay period for streets included 125 hours of overtime due to the weather.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION –Point Person, Mike Prendergast

A doodle poll has been sent to get a committee meeting scheduled. This meeting will look at updating the air pollution ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS:

2019 Federal Holidays

Next meeting was to be scheduled on President’s Day. Brachbill would like to be consistent with not scheduling Council meetings on federal holidays. The Borough offices are open that day.

Brachbill moved to observe February 18 as President' Day and approved moving the Council meeting to February 19; Prendergast seconded the motion;

Hombosky inquired about the advertising costs. Tosti-Vasey stated that it will be approximately \$70 as it is done through *The Lock Haven Express*.

Motion carried.

Letter from R. Stewart to Hearts for the Homeless Board of Directors

Stewart wrote to the board of Hearts for the Homeless relative to the house currently being empty, and the items left outside of the house. There has been no response to date. The letter was just recently sent out.

PA. State Association of Boroughs Resolutions Deadline

The deadline for resolutions is April 10, 2019. There is an option in New Business – Support the DCED Main Street Funding to \$15 million. The funding is now down to about \$6 million. The resolution will be drafted and returned to Council for review at the next meeting.

Hold the date April 24, 2019 – County Borough Association Meeting

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Match Factory. This meeting will attempt to get the five boroughs together to form an association.

Cindy Hahn, OP ED FCC Regulations

The Op-Ed that was in the CDT from Cindy Hahn regarding FCC Regulations, was provided in the Council packet.

CATA Funding Proposal

The funding for any potential new routes to Bellefonte was discussed at the prior meeting. Holderman stated that he would reach out to the Chamber. The Chamber sent out a questionnaire to a number of people. This was only a preliminary discussion. The Chamber meets on Wednesday and may have some information on the data that the survey provided. After they receive the questionnaire answers they will work with CATA to determine what some of the options are. Ultimately, the municipalities would pay the extra cost. If they refuse, then the idea for more service would be void.

Wilson inquired about whether the survey was actually being utilized. The log in was difficult to remember. Holderman will inquire about the number of participants.

Penn State - Bare Root Tree Program

Holderman ordered 15 maple autumn blaze trees from the program. They cost is \$84 each. He has a commitment from residents for 10 trees. There are five trees left. Anyone interested, please contact Holderman and he will put you on the tree list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Expiring Council Terms

Johnson (North Ward), Brown (South Ward), Thompson (South Ward), Tosti-Vasey (West Ward) terms will expire at the end of this year.

Resolution Shredding of Old Documents

This Shedding of Old Documents Resolution is No. 02042019-01.

**Brachbill moved to approve Resolution No. 02042019-01;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Financial Interest Forms

The financial interest forms need to be completed and returned to Kathy Stanton to be placed on file. The deadline is May 1, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

**Prendergast moved to adjourn the February 4, 2019 Council Meeting;
Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.