

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

6:30 p.m. Work Session - Streets Committee Meeting
7:15 p.m. Executive Session – Contract, Personnel

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The July 15, 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
Ms. Anne Walker
Mayor Tom Wilson

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Donald Holderman, Ass't Borough Manager

GUESTS: Jeff Holden
Chris Morelli, *The Lock Haven Express*
Debbie Cleeton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Eaton moved to approve the July 1, 2019, meeting minutes, as amended.
Brachbill 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 New Beginnings*
Finance: *Stover McLaughlin Invoice*
Finance: *Voucher Summary June 2019 \$1,222,983.77*

**Eaton moved to accept the consent agenda.
Prendergast seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

WRITTEN:

Derck & Edson Office Move – Meter Request

The office is moving, and they requested that the meter be bagged at W. High Street, next to 101 N. Allegheny Street on August 1.

**Prendergast moved to approve the meter bagging on August 1, as requested.
Brown seconded the motion.**

Wilson mentioned that this is the date before Arts and Crafts Festival starts. Holderman did not see any conflicts.

Motion carried.

Land Use Webinar July 17 – Complete Streets, Planning, and Policies

Stewart stated that there is a land use webinar on July 17 on streets from noon to 1:15 p.m. RSVP is needed. It will be recorded in the event that anyone cannot attend.

Centre County Drive Electric PA Initiative Workshop – August 9-10 Annex at the Courthouse

Tosti-Vasey stated that the flyer for this event will be posted on the website. There will be two days of events. Friday, August 9, is designed for municipalities, authorities, fleet managers, school districts, and others associated with community governances and services. The August 10 program is designed for businesses, developers, and the general public. This would focus on EVs 101, charging stations and include a ride and drive. The vehicles will be in the parking lot behind the First National Bank. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Program starts at 10 a.m. Registration is

recommended as space is limited. Notification letters have been sent out to municipalities and school districts. The cost is free.

Letter from S. Rio Carson re: Bellefonte P.D.

Thank you letter to the Bellefonte Police in particular to Officer Luse who responded to a mental health issue. Wilson thanked Rio Carson for taking the time to send the letter in.

Letter re: Herbie's Hometown Loop

This event is scheduled for Saturday, August 17, at 7:30 a.m. to noon. The start is at the intersection of High and Spring Streets. Registration and awards will be held at Talleyrand Park. They provided a map for road closures. Painting shall not be permitted on the streets. Holderman stated that staff spoke with the organizers and they are only using chalk on the streets.

**Prendergast moved to approve the request of Herbie's Hometown Loop.
Walker seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

PSAB Fall Leadership Conference at Nittany Lion Inn

Information on the Fall conference which will be held at the Nittany Lion Inn. Conference begins Friday evening and most classes are Saturday and Sunday morning. Council was asked to express interest and they would be registered for the conference.

Letter from J. Knupp re: Donated Baggage Cart

The baggage cart was associated with the railroad and is being stored at Musser Lane. They would like the cart brought back to the railroad station where it would be chained so that nothing happens to it.

**Johnson moved to bring the baggage cart back to the station.
Brachbill seconded the motion.**

Tosti-Vasey stated that there is a policy about anything going into Talleyrand Park without the committee reviewing it first. She stated that to be consistent, that procedure should be followed. The cart used to sit there and was moved due to vandalism, per Holderman. With the security cameras it may be okay to bring it back.

Thompson had concerns of children climbing on it. She inquired whether it would be signed not to climb it. Hombosky opined that it would be ruined sitting there. The owners want to see it put back. That is the request, per Johnson. Liability was discussed. The security cameras were discussed as well.

Motion carried.

Overdose Awareness Day – August 31, 2019

Stewart stated that this request just came in and they would like the month of September recognized as National Recovery Month. They are asking permission to hang purple ribbons and lights along the bridge at W. High, Allegheny Street. Various communities in Centre County are doing this. This would start the last week in August and thru the month of September.

**Eaton moved to approve the request to hang ribbons for National Recovery Month.
Thompson seconded the motion.**

Walker stated that September is also Suicide Awareness Month. The lights/ribbons were present in the park last year, per Stewart.

Motion carried.

ORAL:

Flag at Veteran's Bridge

Jeff Holden addressed Council. He complained that the U.S. Flag at the Veteran's Bridge is the same height as all of the other flags and touches the bridge. The pole needs to be six inches longer and it should not touch the bridge and it should be higher than the other flags. He mentioned that he asked that this be corrected before and it was never taken care of. Council thanked Holden for coming in to speak to Council.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes July 10, 2019 Draft

C-NET- Live Streaming of Council Meeting on YouTube

Stewart stated that Cindy Hahn from C-Net offered that Council can live stream the meetings on YouTube. Some other municipalities have signed up for it although it is low viewership at this time. This could be accomplished by hardwiring the internet to the Council room. Staff could install the wiring. Costs were discussed. C-Net would still be present at the meetings filming, but this would be another option for live meetings.

**Prendergast moved to approve the wiring for YouTube.
Thompson seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Band Shell for Expanded Area of Talleyrand Park – Update

Wilson updated Council members on the bandshell. He had a design book for covers and he found a few designs that would be appropriate. He asked that Council members look at the one that was preliminarily chosen by Wilson. They can also view the variations on the website. www.poligon.com. W1150 on page 60.

Private and grant funding was discussed briefly.

Congressman G.T. Thompson Discussion

August 9, Stewart, Holderman and Wilson attended a discussion with Bellefonte Business Leaders regarding federal funding sources. A number of agencies were at the discussion. They did a walking tour of downtown Bellefonte and the waterfront and proceeded to the Match Factory for further discussion on opportunities available through the Federal Government for towns and cities.

Stewart stated that the emphasis was on the waterfront and they invited the developers and one of the new owners of the Gamble Mill was present at the discussion.

July 11 Meeting with Commissioners/Mental Health Crisis

Wilson met with the commissioners and Chief Weaver and Sgt. Brower regarding the mental health crisis delivery system and how the police interact with that. On July 17, he will be meeting with Tracy Small, Mental Health Crisis Intervention Training Coordinator at Ferguson Township.

Wilson opined that discussions need to be had between the boroughs and the police who are delivering the involuntary commitment papers and the rapid increase over the last year. The police need to be well-trained. The timely letter from the resident, Rio Carson was a good indicator that there are members of the force that are capable of de-escalating some of these situations.

The meeting with the commissioners was very productive and some items were touched on from the public forum that was held in June.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS –

ZONING/PLANNING: July 8 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled.

HARB: July 8 meeting cancelled.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Chair, Anne Walker

Update on Parking Meters

The old meters cannot be used for 15-minute meters. The 15-minute signage would need to be installed. Stewart confirmed that the new meters would be used. The meter enforcement person will be contacted to confirm the number of short-term meters and if Council does approve the 15-minute meter purchase, they will be added in. The order will be placed with the intent to have them installed between Thanksgiving and the end of the year.

Eaton moved to increase the number of meters to be purchased

**to fully fill the town with about one dozen capable of being 15-minute meters.
Prendergast seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

The old meters will most likely be placed on Municibid, per Stewart. They are about 15 years old. There is another borough interested and Stewart stated that Council can discuss what the parameters are. He does not know the value.

Hombosky suggested using some of the meters for donation meters.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE - Chair, Gina Thompson

Budget v. Actual June 2019
Current v. Prior June 2019
Treasurer's Report – June 2019

Tosti-Vasey inquired about the HARB line item on Line 468 row 5, it appears that the contracted services number is low. She also inquired about the consultant fees for the HARB consultant and where they were listed.

Thompson inquired whether there were CDBG projects in the works. Holderman stated that the one open now is the one at the train station – platform extension. The grant auditors will do an audit on that project in September and the previous three-year projects from 2010-14.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Chair, Melissa Hombosky

Fountain at Big Spring

Stewart updated Council on the fountain by the bridge. The fountain by the Big Spring is operable. Crews hope to have it in operation soon. Some of the other fountains were looked at as well.

The fountain on Veteran's Bridge is not functional and has a flawed design with piping underneath the bridge which freezes. Stewart recommended that this fountain be taken out and consider relocating a new fountain perhaps near High Street at the steps where you descend to the waterfront. A PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit would still be needed. It is possible to do this. The fountains are approximately \$4,500. Permitting and concrete work would be an additional expense. This was deferred to the Parks and Rec committee.

**Brown moved to remove the Veterans' Bridge drinking fountain (south side) due to recurring maintenance problems.
Hombosky seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

Benches in Park

Johnson stated that there is a worn down slatted wooden park bench on the south side of Talleyrand Park. Someone approached Johnson regarding memory benches in the park. The Talleyrand Park Committee does not want to take memorial benches in the park. The memorial brick campaign would be an option. Holderman stated that he does not know why the worn bench has not been removed. There is also one by the sculpture garden that needs to be removed.

Security Cameras

Wilson had an inquiry whether the security cameras are monitored or if they are looked at after an incident occurs. The police can view the cameras on screen, per Brown. Wilson will confirm this with the police department. He wants to make sure they are monitored on a regular basis for issues and not just viewed after an incident has occurred.

Brown interjected that when the cameras were discussed, she inquired whether they could be monitored at the police station all the time, and there was a motion made, to her knowledge.

Chamber – 50th Annual Croquet Tournament

The tournament will be held Sunday, July 21. Hombosky has a team that is participating. It will occur 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Talleyrand Park.

July 16, 2019 DBI Quarterly Meeting

The meeting will be held at Big Spring Spirits at 6:00 p.m. The mission and vision will be discussed. The meeting is open to the public.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Chair, Renee Brown

Vacancy – Borough Housing Appeals Board

Brown reported that there is vacancy on the Housing Appeals Board. She asked the public if anyone has any interest, they may contact Stewart or Holderman at the Borough offices and they can explain what the position entails. There is also a volunteer application to be completed.

Stewart stated that the Board is not very active and only involves appeals relative to tenant/landlord or landlord/code issues. The person that commits to this ABC should be someone who understands contracts or codes.

Tosti-Vasey stated that appointment will be made at the next Council meeting.

SAFETY - Chair, Randy Brachbill

Chapter 35 Update – consider approval to advertise

Brachbill asked that this action be tabled due to conversations with our legal solicitor relative to complaints handled with the Chief. The language that has been in the chapter for years, was removed by having such topics go to HR. The language that is presently in the chapter is a

problem and something that does not need to be in the ordinance as it is a guideline on how to deal with the department chief or company chief. It is more of a bylaw.

If a complaint comes out, it would be handled by the municipalities involved. Marion, Spring, Benner, etc.

**Brachbill moved to table advertising Chapter 35 until after it is reviewed by the Fire Executive Committee.
Prendergast seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

WATER/SANITATION – Chair, Doug Johnson

Due to lack of quorum the Water Authority did not have a meeting.

Daily Water Withdrawal Report June 2019

The numbers are fairly consistent. SCADA was discussed briefly.

STREETS – Chair, Jon Eaton

Committee Meeting Report

Eaton reported on the July 15 Streets Committee Meeting. At that meeting, parking was reviewed (South Allegheny Hill), and the spacing of the parking spaces on the hill may be reviewed to assure adequate traffic flow.

Motion for approval on an elevated pedestrian walkway from parking lot H across the railroad tracks to the train station was entertained to provide an ADA compliant access for residents to move from the parking area to the park.

**Eaton moved to approve Stiffler McGraw Engineering to design the ADA elevated crosswalk on South Potter between Lot H and the train station near Meeks Lane.
Brachbill seconded the motion.**

The crosswalk would be stamped asphalt to look like brick.

Motion carried.

Next Streets Committee Meeting will be held on July 22, 2019 to discuss the sidewalk ordinance.

Streets Issues

Brachbill reported that making the turn on Cherry/Wilson to come toward town on Cherry Lane there is a lot of overgrowth and site distance is compromised.

Water is also coming from Temple Court and running down the alley. It is condensation from the HVAC. Brachbill would like to see this mitigated before the winter.

Johnson reported that on E. High there was a water leak about a month ago that was repaired. There was also one on E. Howard. He inquired about the paving on those roads. Stewart stated that a contractor will handle the paving.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION –Chair, Mike Prendergast

Listing of Sustainability Projects submitted to Penn State

The listing was created verbally, and it was forwarded to Penn State based on discussion at the last meeting, per Stewart. Prendergast asked for a copy of that email that was sent to Penn State.

Compost Site – Pad Project

Holderman stated that the pad will hopefully be installed during August at some point. The project was based on a sustainability project proposed by the PSU students. Grant money was obtained based on the design, per Tosti-Vasey.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the 2019 Suicide Prevention Month Resolutions

Johnson moved to approve Resolution 07152019-01 designating September 2019 as Suicide Prevention Month in Bellefonte.

Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Memo from Stewart re: Fireworks Ordinances

There was discussion at the prior Council meeting regarding what was on the books regarding regulations. Eaton stated that there is a state rep doing something on the state level and any changes that are proposed should be delayed. In 2017 the state repealed the old fireworks laws and create the new one, per Stewart. The state revised the level of fireworks that could be purchased, per Wilson. Time and place to set the fireworks was discussed.

Wilson stated even here, a week and a half after the 4th of July, fireworks are still being set off. He stated that the Borough should set a regulation that they can only be set off on the 4th and New Year's Eve. Although the state regulates distance from an occupied dwelling, Wilson opined that when the fireworks are shot off should be regulated and therefore made enforceable.

Hombosky asked if the Borough can ask the police to enforce the 150 feet of a dwelling.

Distance cannot be waived as it is a state regulation. Regulating the dates and times of setting off fireworks was discussed. Thompson stated that right now, we could be going after people setting off fireworks.

Eaton stated that no one has ever mentioned to him about fireworks noise in the Borough, but a lot of people complained about loud mufflers on their cars, etc. Thompson would like to see enforcement done on the current state law concerning distance.

Wilson will apprise the police that Council would like them to enforce the current state fireworks law.

Waterworks Building Transfer

Stewart stated that the building attached to the Gamble Mill has not closed or transferred yet and it is anticipated to happen very soon.

EIP Status

Stewart stated that a rep from the DCED came in and spoke about the strategic financing plan. The person that spoke with Council talked about going through an RFP process. It is recommended that that process is started. The DCED rep will then be contacted relative to what kind of budget the Borough is looking at. Additionally, this would coincide with the Borough's budget talks. Something could be done in 2020.

The draft RFP will be in the Council packet at the next meeting.

The PSAB program was discussed briefly by Brown.

Comp Plan changes submitted

The changes have not yet been submitted. They will be sent in shortly to the County for review. Brachbill stated that the July meeting of the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission has been cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution re: CLG Renewal - Resolution – 07152019-02

This resolution will enable the Borough to continue the historic district program for another five years and keeps the Borough in the Certified Local Government Program.

Johnson moved to approve Resolution 07152019-02
Prendergast seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey will be in touch with Brian Van Sweeden to speak at a work session to give guidance with how the Borough should move forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris Morelli asked for clarification on the parking meters.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

Prendergast moved to adjourn the July 15, 2019 Council Meeting.
Thompson seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.