

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

5:45 Executive Session – Personnel, Real Estate

6:30 p.m. Work Session - Tom Zilla, Tom Zurat, Highway Projects Update

7:45 p.m. Council Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The January 27, 2020 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Mr. Randall Brachbill at 7:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence to remember those who protect.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

GUESTS: Anne Messner
Tom Zilla
Tom Zurat
Alan Uhler
Jeannine Lozier
Anisa Ilie
Edward Choma
Eric Bernier
Holly Maldonado
Chris Morelli, *The Lock Haven Express*

Executive Session was held regarding Personnel and Real Estate matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Eaton moved to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes
Johnson 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 Faith Centre re: 14th Annual Walk/Run 5k/10k*
Communications: *Letter request from St. John Catholic School re: Governor's Park*
Communications: *Letter request re: Children's Fair*
Mayor: *Police Report*
Mayor: *Police Exonerations*
Finance: *Voucher Summary December 2019 \$1,039.653.19*
Finance: *Treasurer's Report December 2019*

**Eaton moved to accept the Consent Agenda with all items except the Letter Request re: Children's Fair.
Johnson seconded the motion.**

Tosti-Vasey requested removal of the Letter Request re: Children's Fair from the consent agenda.

Motion carried.

The request for banner posting conflicted with The Bellefonte Cruise's request. This letter was dated January 7 and The Cruise letter is not dated. Stewart stated that he believed that The Cruise asked for both sides of the bridge, but he will verify with staff which letter arrived first

**Thompson moved to table the request for banners by The Cruise and Children's Fair.
Walker seconded the motion.
Motion carried**

Hombosky inquired about the request for event signs at the waterfront. Tosti-Vasey stated that Council agreed that no signs would be permitted on the waterfront development area fence

**REGULAR AGENDA
COMMUNICATIONS:**

Email from E. Lose, Centre County Planning Office re: NVJPC

This email discusses membership on the NVJPC. This will be discussed later at the meeting

Letter Request from CC Library

Information relative to the summer learning program. The letter is general regarding donations and support but contains nothing specific to the Borough.

Letter from Stan Wallace re: SEO Services, 2020

Letter provides fees for applicants for SEO services, 2020

Johnson moved to reappoint Mr. Stan Wallace to the SEO services position for 2020.

Prendergast seconded the motion.

Reappointment was discussed briefly.

Motion carried with one nay (Tosti-Vasey).

Letter from DCED re: Grant Approval for Strategic Management Planning Program

This was an award letter relative to the grant in the amount of \$33,548 A consultant was selected to proceed with this project

Letter re: Governor's Park soccer fields (with the YMCA)

This letter requests use of the fields from June 7 to August 30 on Sunday evenings.

Johnson moved to approve the request for use of the soccer fields.

Prendergast seconded the motion.

Motion carried

Letter request from Mount Nittany Health

The organization is interested in doing the Open Streets special event this year, again. The date that they are requesting is Saturday, May 30, 2020 and would entail blocking off the "T" of High Street and Water Street to the Courthouse and Allegheny from Bishop to Lamb for all of that Saturday.

Prendergast moved to approve the request to hold the Open Street event in 2020 conditioned upon application for road closure and fire police being available.

Johnson seconded the motion.

Jeannine Lozier from Mt. Nittany Health stated that there were no issues or problems last year. Everyone had a nice time and there was a lot of social media sharing of the event and some press. She is excited for another successful year. EMS and emergency access was left open as all activities were on the sides of the roads.

Hombosky stated that the event could have been condensed a little bit. Lozier stated that it has been shortened up for 2020. Wilson also commented that he received some feedback about closing down the large section of the "T." This came from some merchants. He asked for consideration of this concern. A map of the event will be provided as well.

Motion carried.

Letter Request re: Bellefonte Cruise and Soap Box Derby (tabled from prior in the meeting)

Letter from DEP re: Evaluation for Possible Redesignations

Possible changes in classifications to a higher level re: trout fishing at Logan Branch of Spring Creek. This will also be referred to the Water Authority for their next meeting. Bald Eagle was discussed briefly and if changes occurred, how the Borough's flows would be affected. We don't know if DEP is considering an upgrade or downgrade of stream quality in this review.

Email re: 2020 Pennsylvania One Call Safe Digging Month Proclamation

PA One is asking Council to approve a proclamation in naming safety personnel. Something will be prepared for a future meeting.

PSAB Awards Flyers

Tosti-Vasey inquired about the eligibility of some Council members and appointed officials for the ten-year and longer service awards.

PSAB Find Your Voice re: Resolutions Process

Resolutions from the Borough will be due to the association by April 8, 2020 for consideration. Something can be drawn up for a future meeting. This can also be considered by the Centre County Boroughs Association at our next meeting.

Memo re: YMCA and Parking in Lot A

The YMCA would like the Borough to consider some type of discounted parking for their staff. This topic was deferred to Building and Property. They do already receive discounts for senior customers. The request on the table was for staff

Thank you from Faith Centre

The center sent a Thank You for the fundraiser held by the police department staff.

Memo re: Parking at Brothers NY Style Pizza

Brothers would like to obtain a 15-minute parking space in front of the pizza shop on North Allegheny Street. The owner Holly Maldonado spoke before Council regarding issues regarding pick up and with drivers trying to pick up food and get out with the food quick due to the bus stop being there. This will be referred to the Streets Committee.

Council Committee Assignments Memo

Memo regarding Council assignments for committees. Brachbill recommended setting up initial meetings by the end of February 2020, for committees especially when there are new members involved.

DBI Request for 2020 Outdoor Adventure Expo

DBI would like to hold the Outdoor Adventure Expo again in 2020 on Sunday, June 7 from noon to 5 p.m. in of Talleyrand Park.

Prendergast moved to approve the request.

Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried with one abstention (Thompson).

Hombosky asked that if anyone has exhibitors and/or classes (outdoor related) to let her know.

Oral:

Soap Box Derby Request – Alan Uhler

The group is asking for street closures on April 25 and 26 (Saturday and Sunday) from High, Allegheny, North Allegheny, and Curtin to Howard. As in the past they will work with the church and others to coordinate all. They are also requesting closures on June 21 in conjunction with The Cruise.

Alan Uhler spoke to Council regarding the derby. He gave a history of the chapter and the event and thanked the Borough for accommodating them. They would like to utilize the fire police for the event.

Council applauded Mr. Uhler for his efforts in the event.

Johnson moved to approve the event request for April 25 and 26 and June 21, 2020 subject to the availability of fire police.

Hombosky seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Resident Remarks - Edward Choma

Mr. Choma inquired about the use of Governor's Park by the Bellefonte baseball team. He did not have a problem with the Borough spending a little money on helping with renovations, but he did not want to see the Borough spending money on massive repairs for a field primarily being used by the School District

Choma also complained about car noise (music) and modified mufflers He did not think this was appropriate for the quieter areas of Bellefonte i.e. Curtin Street. He would like the Borough to do anything they can to prevent this from happening in the quieter areas.

Holderman remarked on the baseball field renovations, the school district is responsible for all of the renovations and there will not be financial input from the Borough The Borough was asked about some fencing issues that were present prior to the agreement, and it is possible that the fence may be assisted with financially The school district will fund all major renovations.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority Meeting Minutes December 19, 2019 Draft

Centre Region COG Meeting Minutes and Construction/Rental Reports

Brachbill discussed the confusion when Halloween was rescheduled in the Centre Region due to bad weather.

Spring Creek Watershed Commission

Tosti-Vasey reported that the reorg meeting was held on January 15, 2020. She was elected Chair of the Commission, Paul Takac of College Township was elected Vice Chair, Prasenjit Mitra of Ferguson was elected Treasurer, Chris Hurley from Patton Township was elected secretary.

Cory Miller of UAJA and Jason Beadier are working on a video presentation of the One Water Report. The presentation will eventually be made to all of the local municipalities after approved by the Watershed Commission. Meetings for the remainder of this year will be bi-monthly unless otherwise needed.

Centre Area Cable Consortium (CACC) Meeting

January 21, 2020 was the reorganization meeting. The contract has been signed by all including Comcast. Quarterly meetings have been scheduled in the event they are needed, but none are expected this year.

Fire Executive Committee Meeting

Brachbill reported on the meeting held January 23, 2020. Physicals were discussed as well as the FEMA grant and filling the position of the administrator for the recruitment. A selection has been made and an offer will be extended.

IDA Meeting Minutes January 9, 2020 Draft

Workplace Safety Committee Meeting Minutes January 8, 2020 Draft

Governor Wolf Green Energy Program

Tosti-Vasey stated that the Governor is holding a public hearing on Friday, January 31 from 1-3 p.m. in Harrisburg on all forms of green energy and climate goals and green government agency checklist. Tosti-Vasey will attend the meeting

MAYOR:

Wilson reported that the CATAGO kick off is on January 28 at 10 a.m.

He received a letter from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency thanking the Borough for its outstanding support provided during the 2019 Fall Federal Emergency Management Agency State National Insurance Program Coordinators. They were thanked Stewart and Shannon Wright for their flood plan management overview and wanted everyone to know of their efforts. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to Wright.

2020 Census Day is April 1. The Borough is making efforts to make sure that the word is out and that there is a complete count made. Whatever everyone can do to pass the word on to others would be appreciated. There will be more information after the next Complete Count meeting on February 4.

Bellefonte was declared the No. 2 place to live in Pennsylvania via independent survey. Wilson commended volunteers for their time making Bellefonte a great place to live. Volunteers are always needed for events and committees. Interested persons can contact the Borough.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – ZONING/PLANNING:

Spring Township Rezoning Review and Comment

Spring Township is interested in rezoning property in their Township. Information was given to Stewart by Robert Dannaker, PC Chair who attended the Nittany Valley Joint PC meeting. He stated that the information was given to the Borough for review and comment. Comments are due by February 3, 2020. Spring would like to rezone a few areas in the Township. There will be no PC meeting until after the due date, however, Council meets next Monday night. Council

can work on this in a work session to try to get comments in prior to the deadline. Planning Commission members will be invited to the session.

There is a public hearing on February 3, 2020 at 6 p.m. PC will be notified of the public hearing.

Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission Meeting

A new park will be created in Spring Township near Weaver Hill. The property is west of the Blanchard Street exit over the hill next to I-99. There is also activity in the industrial park.

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes January 13, 2020 Draft

HARB:

January 14, 2020 HARB meeting was cancelled. The January 28 HARB meeting is scheduled to be held.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Chair, Anne Walker

Parking Lot H (Waffle Shop) has an EV charging station that has been completed. The Borough has not yet been reimbursed from the State to date and is expected by April 2020.

A committee meeting will be held to discuss fees, short term rentals and possibly the YMCA parking lot request for reduced parking for staff.

FINANCE AND GOV' PERFORMANCE - Chair, Gina Thompson

Current v. Prior December 2019

Tosti-Vasey questioned the reserves. This question will be referred to staff.

Budget v. Actual December 2019

Budget v. Actual Summary December 2019

Consider Committee Meeting – fees for fire police, other borough costs related to special events, travel expense reimbursement policy for elected and appointed officials.

PARK AND RECREATION - Chair, Melissa Hombosky

Governor's Park Score Board

Holderman stated that per the agreement with the Borough the School District needs to notify the Borough of any renovations. The notification that was sent to council notes that the School District wishes to install a score board at this time.

HUMAN RESROUCES – Chair, Jon Eaton

**1Base Plan Document 2018-5-31 (Base A and B
14-003-3 N1 Bellefonte Borough CB AA 2017
14-003 N1 Bellefonte Borough DB AA2019 1
14-003-3 N2 Bellefonte Borough CB AA2017**

A human resources committee meeting will be scheduled to review the documents. Changes to wording by the state has been done and review needs to be done with PMRS.

Bellefonte Borough amendment ordinance

Consider appointment of Josiah Newman from Alternate to Regular Member of Zoning Hearing Board.

**Tosti-Vasey moved to appoint Josiah Newman as regular member of the Zoning Hearing Board.
Hombosky seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

The alternate position will be advertised.

SAFETY – Chair, Randall Brachbill

FEMA SAFR Grant

Brachbill discussed the offer for the recruiter position. Once that is confirmed, the other items will move forward with the grant.

The recognition of fire fighters was discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting. It was suggested that perhaps the Borough would provide recognition to a fire fighter for performance at any period of time. A program is being worked out.

WATER/SANITATION - Chair, Doug Johnson

Water Authority Meeting Minutes December 17, 2019 and January 20, 2019 Drafts

Daily Water Report December

\$10 service fee will be charged per year for Brush Container and/or Grass Container. If containers will not be used, the customer will keep the container. The fee is for the service and not for the re-purchase of any container. Billing was questioned. Property owners are billed, not tenants.

STREETS - Chair, Deb Cleeton

Memo re: Street Paving 2020

**Johnson moved to approve the Street Paving 2020 listing.
Prendergast seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

Consider Committee meeting – fees/parking passes for long term parking (read meter areas) and consider Brother’s Pizza request for a 15 minutes parking space and review location of bus stop.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL – Chair, Mike Prendergast, Chair

Musser Lane compost facility pad is complete.

National Clean Up Day

**Prendergast moved to approve the Borough to participate
in the 2020 National Clean Up Day on September 21, 2020.
Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

Sustainability Projects – Penn State

Street tree inventory did not get assigned. Study of police department located at Armory is underway. Map scanning is underway by intern.

Climate Action Plan Task Force

Holderman stated that relative to the climate action plan, a student from Villanova is working for the Borough to develop the task plan. A webinar was held a few weeks ago at the Borough. They are asking the communities involved to develop a task force for this semester. A meeting will be set up in a few weeks with the task force and the student for an update. Council was asked to solicit members for this task force. The project will only last through the rest of the semester.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission Memo

Brachbill stated that there was some confusion regarding membership. Benner and Marion may be missing at least one member. Bellefonte is missing a member from the Planning Commission. There are issues with the bylaws. The committee needs to work out some issues with this at their March meeting. They are looking into correcting some of the issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

Borough Events 2020 for approval

**Johnson moved to approve the dates for Community Yard Sale (May 15 and 16); Riff Raff week (May 18-22); Halloween (October 31); and Holiday Courtesy Parking (November 26, 2020 through January 2, 2021).
Eaton seconded the motion.**

Alternate dates may be considered for Halloween in advance after seeing what alternative dates are announced for the Centre Region.

Motion carried.

Council Ad Hoc Committee – Review and assistance with Borough Newsletter to go out in March 2020.

Tosti-Vasey will review the newsletter, with Brachbill, Johnson and Wilson.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

**Prendergast moved to adjourn the Council meeting.
Hombosky seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.