

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

6:15 p.m. Executive Session - Personnel, Real Estate
7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The February 3, 2020 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey 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
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Ms. Gina Thompson
Ms. Anne Walker
Mayor Tom Wilson

EXCUSED: Mr. Douglas Johnson
Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

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

GUESTS: Chris Morelli, *The Lock Haven Express*

Tosti-Vasey announced that an **Executive Session** was held prior to the Council meeting, regarding Personnel and Real Estate matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brachbill moved to approve the January 27, 2020 meeting minutes, as amended.

Hombosky 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).

Nothing presented.

**REGULAR AGENDA
COMMUNICATIONS:**

Memo re: Children's Fair & Bellefonte Cruise Banners

Holderman stated that this item was tabled at the last meeting pending further information. After checking with staff, the Children's Fair request was the first received relative to the banners. Therefore, Children's Fair would receive priority. There was no request for fire police or police assistance.

Eaton moved to approve the banner on the Veteran's Bridge for the Children's Fair from May 22, 2020 through June 5, 2020, and to close the 400 block of East Curtin Street and Linn Street between East Lamb and East Curtin Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 6, 2020.

Prendergast seconded the motion.

Brachbill stated that the location of the banners still needed resolution.

Tosti-Vasey stated that the Children's Fair would decide which side of the bridge they would like their banner, and then The Cruise would be able to put their banner up at the same time at the vacant location and then the second banner would go up after the Fair banner was pulled down.

Holderman confirmed that The Cruise wanted their banner up for one full month on each side of the bridge. They can have one of their banners up for one month and the Fair, because they submitted their request first, will have their choice of which side of the bridge they want for the same period the first two weeks. When their banner comes down on June 5, The Cruise's second banner will be installed for two weeks. Staff confirmed that this was how this was handled last year.

Motion carried.

Letter Request re: Bellefonte Cruise and Soap Box Derby

Brachbill moved to approve the Bellefonte Cruise's request for activities and street closings beginning at 6 p.m. on June 19, 2020 and ending with the Dubois All American Race at 6 p.m. on June 21, 2020 and prohibiting pets, bikes, skateboards, two wheeled scooters, manual or electric, within The Cruise area.

Eaton second the motion.

Council members discussed the pet stipulation. This request has been made for several years, and they requested an ordinance or ban on skateboarding, bicycles, and pets. Tosti-Vasey explained that Council has told them that if that is something they want, they would need to do their own policing. Thompson suggested removing that part of the motion. Brachbill concurred.

Prendergast moved to amend the motion to remove the prohibition on pets, skateboarding and bicycles. If the Cruise wants those stipulations they will have to do their own policing.

Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey stated that The Cruise was also requesting specific times on each day for the street closings. The letter stated that on Friday they wanted closure from High Street to Allegheny Street to Spring Street from 4:30 p.m. to midnight and Allegheny from 7:30 p.m. to midnight. On Saturday, they would like the closures to be from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Allegheny from Linn to Bishop, West High Street and with fire police. The request would have to be conditional. On Saturday, and Sunday, The Cruise would like Howard Street closed on June 19 and 20 from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. from Allegheny and Curtin to the corner of Howard Street. They are also requesting vendors in the parking lot.

Brachbill moved to amend the motion to approve the Bellefonte Cruise's request for activities and street closings for all requested times starting from 4:30 on June 19, 2020.

Thompson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Walker moved to approve having The Cruise banner on the one side of the Veterans' Bridge not claimed by The Children's Fair banner, from May 22, 2020 through June 27 and the second banner will hang on the other side of the Bridge beginning June 5, 2020 through June 21, 2020.

Prendergast seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Prendergast moved that no materials shall be hung on any of the Waterfront areas except for the Veterans' Bridge.

Brachbill seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Oral:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governor Wolf's Green Energy Summit

Tosti-Vasey attended the Green Energy Summit on Friday, January 31, 2020, in Harrisburg. The council was created by a January 2019 Executive Order and has been up and running for the last six months and chaired by the Department of General Services, DEP and DCNR. The mission is to increase communications between departments to "address climate change and promote energy conservation." A major goal is to decrease greenhouse gas emission by 25% by 2025 by the State.

There is an annual 3% goal per year. The methods being used to reach these goals include increased uses of battery electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles, procuring renewable energy, implementing the 2018 building code energy standards which the state still needs to mandate, managing state facilities including parks to increase efficiency, and educating employees on recycling, and other methods of conservation. They will use the GESA Best Practice Standards.

After this presentation, Tosti-Vasey inquired about how local government can be involved in helping to reach these goals. There were two things locally that can be done; participation in the programs through COSTARS for reduced program pricing on green energy programs, building of infrastructure, and EV fleet vehicles and participation in the GESA program. This program is a financing tool to help reduce cost over time. It is run through the state and the Borough can work into this program. Any cost reduction worked with may not conflict with other local procurement restrictions current in place.

Tosti-Vasey added the Borough on the list for future communications and emails. They plan to have quarterly meetings.

CBICC Economic Development Summit

Wilson discussed the summit. He reported that some of the economic development issues were discussed regarding housing and workforce. The presentation had a nice diverse turnout. Thompson stated that there was a desire for local municipalities and boroughs to continue the dialog, more than just once a year. Having a consensus of where the Borough is going within Council was suggested by Brachbill and concurred by Prendergast.

Census 2020 Update

The commissioners met last Tuesday, and they approved for paying half of the cost of the Census banner across High Street. There is a meeting tomorrow of the Bellefonte Complete Count committee at 3:30 p.m. and the wording for the banner will be finalized at that meeting as well as the design and the design for the posters. There may be some funding from the state for a second banner.

Wilson inquired about effectiveness of reaching the citizens in the Borough about the Census and filling out the forms. There were several tactics discussed on how to make that happen. One of them is having cards printed up with a logo from the 2020 Census and description on how important it is to complete the forms. Wilson would like to distribute the cards by hand. He would hope that Council members would help in distributing the cards in their wards.

MAYOR REPORT

The CATAGO ribbon cutting hosted at Career Link was well attended. Rides were offered on the busses. This is a pilot project done by CATA similar to Uber and Lyft. The rides are \$2 within the Borough limits. Runs go to Mt. Nittany Hospital, the mall, and the Bryce Jordan Center as well.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING: Nothing presented.

HARB:

Certificate of Appropriateness: 208 South Spring Street (Sign)

Prendergast moved to approve the certificate of appropriateness for the sign at 208 South Spring Street.

Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

There was an administrative approval done in December 2019 for 222 North Allegheny Street regarding placing a roof on a carriage house.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Chair, Anne Walker

Committee meeting is scheduled for February 10 at 6:30 p.m.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE - Chair, Gina Thompson

Thompson has not yet gotten an answer to the reserve question from the prior Council meeting. Tosti-Vasey stated that when you look at the final numbers for the year there was \$300.00 in revenue marked reserves. There was an \$800 deficit in the special projects fund. Thompson will check with staff regarding why that funding was not used to reduce the deficit.

Thompson moved to use the payment on the waterfront property to pay down the loan, and to provide \$200,000 to the Bellefonte Industrial Development Authority for use in three years to double that money.

Prendergast seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

There is a finance committee scheduled for February 11 from 3-4 p.m.

PARK AND RECREATION - Chair, Melissa Hombosky

Engineer, Jason Sherav from Stifflin McGraw has been invited to the next Council meeting regarding the extension bridge. The purpose will be to provide Council with a preliminary design within budget that will allow the Borough to proceed in preparing an RFP to advertise and select a contractor by no later than May 2020. The deadline for completing the walkway this year is September 30, 2020. This is funded by the CDBG grant.

Holderman met with Weis Fahringer from DCNR regarding the grant application. There is a caveat with the grant guidelines that you cannot submit one application for parks in two separate locations. Therefore, a C2P2 grant will be applied for as well as a Land Water Conservation Fund grant. Since the Borough applied for the LWCF, the amount should be increased because they are typically \$100,00 to \$200,00 grants. Holderman suggested adding another ADA restroom to replace the one by the tennis courts, since there is already a design for the lower restroom.

Holderman also met with Tony Grace from WMF on Friday and they will provide estimates for the grant application on the suspension bridge, renovations, and Governor's Park restroom. Once estimates have been received, Council can decide based on cost if there is enough funding to do both projects and apply for only the one project. Currently, Council has approved \$50,000 and another \$30,000 for the Sunrise Rotary grant application sin the amount of \$160,000.

The Borough will begin preparation work on the Memorial Bridge walkway early Spring and will hope to have the bricks laid in May. The goal is completion by Memorial Day. Mr. Holderman stated that there was some damage to the brick wall at the flowerpot. That is where the walkway is going to be installed. He does not know if the wall area can be repaired. This may be a consideration when the walkway is installed. There was a question about conduit inside the wall. This will be run through the Talleyrand Park Committee. Hombosky was inclined to take the wall down to allow for a wider path.

The committee needs to schedule a meeting to begin planning the ceremony for Masullo Park fishing pier.

There will be scaffolding in the water for the bridge project; September 30, is the NPDES permit deadline to be out of the water completely. Mr. Holderman stated that the engineer anticipates the work to take up to 180 days. The contractor would have to start in June to be completed by September 30 deadline.

HUMAN RESROUCES – Chair, Jon Eaton

FEMA SAFR Grant

Eaton reported that based on the recommendations of the Safety Committee, they have recommended Gary Cramer to be appointed as the Fema Safr grant administrator.

**Eaton moved to approve the appointment of Gary Cramer as FEMA SAFR Grant administrator.
Prendergast seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

SAFETY – Chair, Randall Brachbill

Centre Region Public Safety meeting will be held on February 11, 2020 and a Bellefonte Safety committee meeting will be held on February 12 at 1:00 p.m. in Council chambers.

The Department of Labor will audit the safety program on March 5, 2020.

WATER/SANITATION - Chair, Doug Johnson

Holderman reported that there was a memo in the packet from Mr. Ralph Stewart regarding the Rural Water Conference in Washington D.C. He is a board member.

The Authority meeting scheduled for February 4, 2020 has been rescheduled for February 11, 2020.

STREETS - Chair, Deb Cleeton

Halfmoon Hill Sidewalk - stone issue/cost estimate

Holderman stated that there is a Streets Committee Meeting scheduled for February 10, 2020 following the Building and Property meeting. Anyone on Streets that can look at the sidewalk before night fall was requested. There has been falling stone onto the sidewalk. There is a jersey wall barrier along the sidewalk and the fence would prevent the stones from falling.

Holderman stated that the other three kiosks for the parking lot at the Waffle Shop have been ordered and will be installed at the same time as the single space meters, which will probably occur in March 2020.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL – Chair, Mike Prendergast, Chair

Prendergast would like the committee to meet to do some planning. A doodle poll will be circulated.

Holderman thanked Thompson for blasting a notice on social media for volunteers for the task force. Tosti-Vasey also worked with her. Ms. Gay Dunne is willing to sit on the committee as well. A meeting will tentatively be scheduled for the week of February 27, 2020 if possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Township Zoning Amendments

Spring Township held the public hearing tonight and made the vote tonight to make the zoning changes. Bellefonte's efforts in taking the time to compile comments was too little too late. The work session was therefore cancelled, per Tosti-Vasey.

PSAB Awards – June 2020

Service awards were discussed and is ongoing.

Stump Removal

The Tree Vitalize Program grant program was discussed for stump removal. 2019 was the last year for this program. DCNR will review the program. Another program may be instituted in 2022. An option would be to enforce the ordinance to have homeowners remove the stumps. Another option would be to have a contractor do it in bulk, if funding is available.

Digitizing Mapping

Holderman stated the intern is doing a great job with the e-mapping project. Before finishing in May, many of the upstairs mapping will be electronic as well as the downstairs material. He is pleased with the progress.

NEW BUSINESS

Bellefonte Gateways

A meeting was held with Steve Rawley, Director of the Ben Franklin Institute. He discussed the gateways coming into Bellefonte and has been bringing persons into the area looking for office space for incubators, etc. Rawley stated that there is interest in the downtown area. Spring Township was also contacted regarding developing some things for the entrances coming into the Borough. A meeting with Tom Songer and Mike McGrath was set up for last week and an informational meeting was held. The discussion was not about signage but about aesthetics.

Centre County Borough's Association

Tosti-Vasey reported that an Executive Session will be set up for the Centre County Borough's Association to plan the next meeting.

Brick Falling

Wilson stated that the building that houses the antique shop on Allegheny Street has wearing brick facing that continues to fall off. There was a near miss reported with a baby stroller wherein the brick fell into the stroller but missed the baby. The owner of the building is selling

the building and is reluctant to put any money into it. It is a downtown issue. It is the brick facing and it is falling off. Holderman will have the code officer look at the issue.

CBICC Winter Blues Breaker

Wilson reported that the winter blues event will be on February 11 at Big Spring Spirits from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.