

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 6, 2020, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**6:15 p.m. Work Session – Personnel**  
**6:50 p.m. Work Session – Police Procedures**  
**7:30 p.m. Council Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**Executive Session was held on June 25, 2020, regarding personnel issues.**

The July 6, 2020, virtual 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.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):**

Mr. Randall Brachbill  
Ms. Debbie Cleeton  
Mr. Jon Eaton  
Ms. Melissa Hombosky  
Mr. Michael Prendergast  
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey  
Mr. Douglas Johnson  
Ms. Anne Walker  
Ms. Gina Thompson

**EXCUSED:** Mayor Tom Wilson

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

---

*Motions may be taken by roll call.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Prendergast moved to approve June 15, 2020 meeting minutes.**  
**Cleeton 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 Invoice from Stover McLaughlin***

**Brachbill moved to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Prendergast seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN:**

#### **CCMPO Meeting Summary June 23, 2020**

Stewart mentioned that a member of the Council for the Borough of Howard passed away. He was a member of the Centre County Borough's Association. He offered condolences.

The next technical committee meeting is July 28 and the next coordinating committee meeting is August 4, 2020. Johnson stated that the TIP for 2024 is still being worked on and the transportation plan will be open for suggestions until September.

They are repaving the Bellefonte exchange from I99 southbound to Pleasant Gap and will be down to one lane for the next four weeks. They are resurfacing.

#### **Email Request re 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dylan Crunick Memorial Charity Baseball Tournament**

They would like to hold this tournament on August 8, 2020, and August 9, 2020. The letter states that the event is for charity. Money will go towards research for cancer and other related causes.

**Cleeton moved to conditionally approve the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Dylan Crunick Memorial Charity Baseball Tournament on August 8 and 9, 2020 at Governor's Park based on the following: follow all Gov. Wolf's guidelines for baseball games including sanitizing, masking, and limiting the number of spectators to not more than 2 persons per person on the ballfield, with no more than the maximum of 90 persons total. There shall be a 15-minute break in between to prevent overlapping of participants and this shall be coordinated with any other groups that may already be scheduled. Ballfield damage will be recoverable if that shall occur and Bellefonte Borough shall be designated as an additional insured under the liability insurance.  
Hombosky seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.**

**Reappointment to Centre County Library and Historical Museum Board - Request for Justin Miller**

**Brachbill moved to reappoint Justin Miller to the Library Board filling a term to expire December 31, 2022.  
Prendergast seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.**

**Email re: Canceled Saturday Pop-Up Drive-in - Request to use small soccer field area at Governor's Park**

The pop-up drive-in developer is requesting the use of the small soccer field area at Governor's Park. The original drive-in was to occur at the armory site. The movie was canceled due to high winds on Saturday, although Friday night was very successful. The event was a success and raised money for all charities. They are now requesting to move the location to the soccer field at Governor's Park. He would like to hold the event the last weekend in July 2020 and possibly Labor Day weekend. The screen would be near the tree line with the trees at the south side of the ball field, with cars parking on the field. The food trucks would be there, and they would provide liability insurance.

**Prendergast moved to approve the drive in pop up movie to take place at the small soccer field at Governor's Park, on July 31, and August 1, 2020 and September 4 and 5, 2020 conditionally approved with 250 person maximum attendees, similar to the set up as the originally approved pop-up project at the armory.  
Cleeton seconded the motion.**

Tosti-Vasey would like the Parks Committee to go to the site to discuss set up for the event.

**Motion carried.**

**Email re: 2020 Census**

Stewart provided an update on the 2020 Census process. Tosti-Vasey discussed the national average with Bellefonte being at 70%. She would like to see more outreach done as she would like to see Bellefonte get to 100%. The most recent outreach program was creating flyers for delivery with food from the food vendors.

Census takers will visit those persons who have not filled out their Census by July 31, 2020. The Bellefonte robocall was suggested by Hombosky to get the word out. Holderman will check to see if this would be an eligible expense.

**Email from Ilona Ballreich re: Sustainability Communities Collaborative Partnership**

Community announcement regarding this program. The Sustainable Institute students are looking for thoughts for ideas for this coming fall semester of sustainability students. Tosti-Vasey referred this to the Environmental Sustainability Committee for review.

### **Letter re: Suicide Awareness Prevention Month**

This resolution shall be passed for the month of September. Stewart did not want to leave this for August. There are events taking place to help people become aware of suicide and aid in the prevention. Stewart will schedule the resolution in August for action by Council. Tosti-Vasey suggested a resolution or proclamation to be acted on the second meeting of August 2020.

### **Email re: The Bellefonte Cruise**

They are considering a smaller event on Friday, September 11, 2020. Pat McCool was to join the meeting.

### **Request from Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. to form a partnership to use park**

This was a request to use the little parklet next to the General Store which is now the new café. DBI is interested in using that space as a cooperative effort. This item was referred to the Parks and Rec committee for review.

### **Email from Phil and Cathy Bienball**

They are interested in doing the outdoor seating as done previously and previously approved by Council. The new date would be July 31, 2020. They would like to get permission to do the same seating around town as done for the last Friday in The Fonte.

**Hombosky moved to approve the request to have the outdoor seating for outdoor dining on July 31, 2020 as done at the last Friday in the Fonte, with the same conditions imposed as the last time.**  
**Prendergast seconded the motion.**  
**Motion carried.**

### **ORAL COMMUNICATION:**

#### **Annual C-Net Presentation, Cindy Hahn**

Hahn presented Bellefonte Council with her annual report. She reviewed some of the 2019 highlights, the strategic plan, and new members, including UAJA and Centre Region Parks Authority. The franchise agreement with Comcast and CACC was finalized in November and signed by Comcast in January 2020. There is now a subscriber pass-thru of .22 per month, per subscriber that will provide the funding needed for the C-Net Capital and Equipment purchases. This means that the members do not need to contribute anything to the capital fund and only provide operating costs. This helps with stabilizing member dues going forward.

The municipalities will continue to receive the full amount of 5% of Comcast gross revenue within their municipality. That is the max by law. The franchise provides for three additional remote original points. The new ROPs will need to be paid for jointly by C-Net and the member

organization. That was a change from the last agreement. Finally, C-Net will continue to have access through the Comcast Digital Guide to display programming.

The Borough sponsored a total of 25 programs, 24 with Council and one Spring Creek Watershed Commission Meeting. There were no bulletin board messages from Council. The total sponsorship is 25 programs. That is about 4.9% of all of the programs that were produced last year.

Hahn discussed how the financial contribution is determined, via a five-year period of time. 2021 financial contribution to C-Net will be determined based on sponsorship between 2015 and 2019.

C-Net can be viewed on Wednesday at 10 p.m. after the live viewing. If the meeting is under 2 hours long, it will air twice within the viewing block. Bellefonte is streamed live on YouTube at C-Net Centre County. The link is posted to Twitter and Facebook for viewers in advance of every meeting and is sent for inclusion on the meeting Agenda. On the website the chaptered programs are kept to view on demand for a minimum of 12 months and also available on Roku and Apple T.V. box only.

The average viewing audience was 101 with the median at 98.5 last year. This year, the figures are up a little, 106.5 being the average and the median at 101. These figures do not include YouTube and only include C-Net1.org.

Tosti-Vasey inquired about an informational session on HARB. Council members thanked Hahn for her presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**MAYOR:**

Chief Weaver thanked the Bellefonte Elks for presenting the department with a \$1,000 check last week for incidentals and PPE. He thanked the public in general over the past couple weeks, for their positivity, well wishes, and encouraging tokens. He thanked everyone for their support.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

**Pennsylvania Municipal League Sustainably Conference**

Tosti-Vasey stated that this conference was held virtually on June 24, 2020. There were four items in the program that day. Jim Price from the Sustainability Certification Program stated that the program certification is being updated and the guidelines will become effective on January 2, 2021. The Army Corp of Engineers presented on waterways in Pennsylvania, i.e. Susquehanna River. They do have a program that helps with smaller waterways associated with climate change and risk due to flooding. A letter should be sent to the district engineer, if the Borough is interested. Thirdly, there was a presentation by the Centre Region Council of Governments on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan, with good ideas that Tosti-Vasey would like to further review. The final item was a presentation on health, and well being in the way of government.

This was a presentation given by a psychiatrist from the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council, discussing various issues including alcoholism and suicide, poverty, and general identity issues.

Tosti-Vasey has a recording and asked if anyone was interested, she would be happy to forward to them.

### **June 30, 2020, Madeline Palchat Virtual Presentation**

Tosti-Vasey and Palchat did a virtual presentation before the DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee. Palchat's work with the Borough was discussed briefly.

### **July 20, 2020, Council Meeting Work Session – Madeline Palchat Local Climate Change Program**

Palchat will present the plan to Climate Change Plan to Council. Tosti-Vasey stated that her internship ended in June but enjoyed her work with the Borough and agreed to come back to do the presentation.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Building and Property Committee will meet to discuss the YMCA reduced parking rates request. They will also discuss when to reinstated regular parking rates.

Historic Bellefonte Cruise – Sock Hop – expecting information from Pat McCool for September event.

Environmental and Sustainability Committee – review of local Climate Action Plan prior to the next Council meeting. The air pollution ordinance was discussed briefly and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Expenses and budgeting were discussed briefly and the driving force behind the air pollution ordinance revisions. Tosti-Vasey stated that there have been complaints from the public on various items related to the ordinance.

Streets Committee – LTAP PennDOT was contacted about the Gamble Mill crosswalk and Blanchard and Bishop sightlines.

Cleeton stated that the parking code shows the old rates for the meters. She inquired if Section 530-2 would be updated to reflect the new rates for the new meter install. Stewart stated that the fee schedule is the newer way to reflect fees but there may be some old numbers in the ordinances that probably should be deleted at some point.

Daily Water Withdrawal Report June 2020 – The high number may be related to a water leak, per Stewart and Johnson.

Fire Executive Meeting – Brachbill stated that there will be a meeting the month of July. The meeting will probably be held in person, socially distanced.

Thompson received a few complaints about the signage coming into town, regarding the banners. The banners are blocking the vertical view and you cannot see oncoming traffic, per Cleeton. This will be reviewed. Banner limits were discussed. Hombosky has heard other complaints about businesses in downtown relative to the banners. This will be referred to an ad hoc committee.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ZONING/PLANNING**

### **HARB:**

Certificates of Appropriateness – 217 North Allegheny Street, 224 West Linn Street

**Brachbill moved to approve the Certificates of Appropriateness for 217 North Allegheny Street and 224 West Linn Street.**

**Eaton seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Resolution for Mobile Food Vendor Resolution**

**Brachbill moved to remove this issue from the table.**

**Cleeton seconded the motion.**

**Roll call vote was taken Thompson, aye, Tosti-Vasey, aye,**

**Walker, aye, Brachbill, aye, Cleeton, aye, Eaton, aye, Hombosky nay, Johnson, aye,**

**Prendergast, aye.**

**Motion carried, with one nay (Hombosky).**

**Brachbill moved to approve Resolution for Mobile Food Vendors.**

**Johnson seconded the motion.**

Brachbill discussed the location of the vendor trucks. The issue was down at the bridge and he believed it may have worked itself out. The last few weekends, it appeared that everyone had their spaces outside of downtown but close to Bellefonte coming in or going out. There were three going towards State College and three out towards Zion. Prendergast echoed Brachbill's comments. Stewart stated that the Borough does not regulate privately owned property.

Hombosky does not believe the resolution is in the best interest of the residents and taxpayers since the truck owners are residents and taxpayers. She voted nay to the resolution.

**Roll call vote was taken Thompson, nay, Tosti-Vasey, nay, Walker, aye, Brachbill, nay, Cleeton, aye, Eaton, nay, Hombosky, nay, Johnson aye, Prendergast aye.**

**Motion failed 5-4.**

**Yard Sale/Bulk Waste Collection Rescheduling**

Stewart stated that Council discussed rescheduling the events for the fall. Discussion was held on holding the yard sale in October 2-3, 2020 and Bulk Waste Collection, October 5-9, 2020.

**Prendergast moved to hold the yard sale October 2-3, 2020, and Bulk Waste Collection, October 5-9, 2020.**

**Walker seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

**Playgrounds**

Playgrounds are open with signs that the equipment is not sanitized. There have been some hand sanitizer dispenser installed in areas of both parks. There is a portable potty that is ADA accessible at Governor's Park. The restroom near the soccer field may be ready by August. They are having issues including water pressure.

**Update on projects/contracts/grants**

Holderman updated Council on the project, contracts, and grants. The single space meters have been delivered and are in house. They are trying to set up the contractor install for them in early August. The kiosks are in for parking lot D. However, some work needs to be done to install them. The crews inhouse will do that. Building and property will assist with placing. The Borough is working with IPS for mid-late August installation.

Musser Lane is awaiting finalization of the gate installation. The Borough is working with the contractor who was delayed due to the virus. The parts will be ordered and that will be an August installation of that gate.

Talleyrand Park Bridge walkway project was started last week. The contractor is putting in the north side abutment on the bridge.

Governor's Park restrooms project will proceed once crews are back full time on July 27. That project can be made a priority. The lower restroom will probably be done the end of September. A solid three weeks is needed for completion of that project.

The DCED revolving loan grant will go to the Gamble Mill. Holderman just sent in all of the paperwork today. The request for payment has been sent as well. Holderman stated that initially they were going to hold back \$15,000 of the \$500,000 for admin costs. DCED stated that since the project was put in for the full \$500,000, that is how it has to be written. Borough funds will be used for administration of the project until some of the return come in down the road.



Safer Grant meeting was held and the \$400,000 grant for the department was discussed. The coordinator has not done too much with that during COVID but will start gearing back up. Meetings have been scheduled over the next three months to get the project up and running.

The Centre County CDBG rep has resigned and the Borough is not sure who will take his place.

An application will be submitted soon for the COVID funding and additionally the 2020 project application will be due in the next few months as well.

Brush buckets will be available at the end of July 2020.

The Cruise substitute event was sent to the Streets Committee. The representative will be invited to that meeting. He was unable to attend this evenings meeting.

Sister Cities program was briefly discussed. Based on population, Pinta, Arizona would be the closet match to the Borough. When the application is done, the dues are based on population, and the fee for us would be \$310.00. Once Bellefonte joins the Sister Cities program, a committee should be formed with a Mayor and persons involved in the arts, local museum(s), businesses, and those involved in cultural exchange.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Fair Housing Resolution 2020 for Bellefonte Borough**

**Prendergast moved to approve the Fair Housing Resolution 070620-02.**

**Brachbill seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

#### **Resolution re: Mandatory Mask Wearing for Centre County and Bellefonte Borough Governor's Order – face masks must be worn in public.**

Tosti-Vasey gave a brief background regarding the resolution and the Governor's order. She discussed the benefits of wearing masks, per the CDC recommendation and the Pa. Department of Health. The Governor's orders have become more rigid due to the spread of COVID in Pennsylvania. The County has passed a resolution regarding mask wearing as well.

By passing a resolution, Bellefonte acknowledges that wearing masks can save lives, save businesses, and bring back jobs, endorsing the Governor's mandatory mask wearing order with social distancing being observed. Bellefonte appreciates the businesses that have required mask wearing to help save lives. The Borough and police will educate the public on the mask wearing initiative.

**Cleeton moved to approved Resolution 07062020-04 for mask wearing in the Borough.**

**Prendergast seconded the motion.**

Cleeton noticed a lax approach to the public and employee mask wearing lately. Enforcement was discussed. Bellefonte does not have enforcement powers. State College would be the only municipality that could enforce it as they are a Home Rule municipality and could pass an ordinance. Community based education is key, per Tosti-Vasey.

Holderman offered that at the Chamber meeting last week, this topic was discussed, and the Chamber went out to businesses and is working with them to help them with this issue.

Tosti-Vasey would like to see the mask information placed on the website and Facebook page and have the police educate people if they see any issues. Under the Human Relations Act and the ADA, if someone refuses to wear a mask due to disability or complications, they can get curbside service. That is fully legal under the act. Tosti-Vasey would like to see all businesses comply.

**Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business coming before Council,

**Prendergast moved to adjourn the Council meeting.**

**Cleeton seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.