

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The January 4, 2021, virtual meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 p.m. Executive Session will be held after meeting

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):

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

EXCUSED:

Ms. Gina Thompson

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Chief Sean Weaver, Bellefonte Police Department

Minutes:

Brackbill moved to approve the minutes. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was no Consent Agenda.

Written Communications were received by Council regarding the Quaker Resting Place and an announcement that the Waterfront Development project has received a second RACP grant.

Oral: Nothing presented.

Mayor:

Council President: The revised COVID-19 mitigation regulations were discussed.

Building and Property: Parking permits were discussed by Holderman.

Finance and Government Performance: Nothing presented.

Parks and Recreation: Committee meeting scheduled for January 12, 2021. The pedestrian bridge is open to pedestrian traffic.

Human Resources: Committee meeting scheduled for January 6, 2021

Eaton moved to accept the new ordinance (01042021-01) relative to employees' pension retirement plans.

Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Safety: Brachbill reminded Council to rsvp to the Centre County Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2021.

Water and Sanitation: Authority meets on Tuesday evening at 6 p.m.

A proposal was received for the Coca Cola bottling water agreement. The resolution was requested to be approved by Council. The Authority will go over it in detail before approval of their resolution.

Johnson moved to conditionally approve the resolution (01042021-02) that states that there is a settlement agreement with Coca Cola in place, conditioned on the Authority approving their resolution and approval by the Borough solicitor. Prendergast second the motion. Motion carried.

Streets: Cleeton discussed the letters regarding trailer removal per revised ordinance. These will be informational letters requesting that the trailers be removed within 30 days of receipt of the letter.

Energy and Environmental Conservation:

Prendergast moved to approve forward comments regarding the Centre County Climate Action Plan as follows:

- 1) acknowledge the communities (the Centre Region and Bellefonte Borough) that had developed a climate action plan
- 2) Bellefonte Borough would like to see their Climate Action Plan integrated with the Centre Region's plan so that we can work together toward a common goal
- 3) We would like to encourage the County plan to reflect the County's commitment to integrate with other planning activities by requesting environmental commissions and associations within the County to join as members of the County Planning process; this would include Spring Creek Watershed Commission, the Bald Eagle Water Commission, and others as appropriate
- 4) the Borough would like to see the plan reflect, in some capacity, that the County will provide assistance to municipalities in creating ordinances, etc. related to stormwater runoff. Specifically, there may be additional municipalities that may be required to follow MS4 guidelines based on the outcome of the 2020 census, including Bellefonte. These

communities will need assistance in coming up with stormwater runoff planning and mitigation

- 5) where the Bellefonte Authority is listed as a partner, please add the Bellefonte Borough 6) the document was not particularly user friendly
- 6) we would like to see the County, if possible, identify potential costs to the municipalities as appropriate so that we can determine what additional the budget funds the Borough would be obligated to include in our annual budgets
- 7) we would like to see what you are requesting the Borough to do in Section 2.2 on Page 30 of the document; your outline includes providing a staff member and funding to make this platform come to fruition. We understand that this item relates to stormwater runoff issues associated with MS4 designation. We are currently listed as a non-MS4 community that would also be involved, but we do not understand how it relates to Bellefonte
- 8) In 2019, the Spring Creek Watershed Commission met with Commissioner Michael Pipe regarding how to best integrate the two entities and at that time we discussed the possibility of having the County send a representative to the Commission meetings as a nonvoting member. We understood that a voting member may cause a conflict of interest. This needs to be followed up with and considered by the County.
- 9) Notwithstanding these comments, the Borough would also like to provide a special thank you to the County for the following CAP initiatives
 1. Acknowledging increasing pervious surfaces and appreciates that the county is willing to provide funding for these efforts,
 2. Also appreciative of the proposed County guide provide sources of water credit program as a potential for funding
 3. Finally, we would like to add our support for efforts in information relating riparian buffers.

Cleeton seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Committee meeting will be scheduled. Doodle poll sent. Meeting with APPI has been scheduled as well.

Zoning and Planning: Nothing presented.

HARB: Certificate of Appropriateness for the Diamond Deli, 103 North Allegany Street.

Brachbill moved to approve the removal of the awning and the placement of two signs at the Diamond Deli property. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Property nuisance code position will need to be filled as soon as possible.

Special Committee Reports: Brachbill inquired about a report for the Civil Service Committee. It will be placed in the next packet.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tosti-Vasey discussed ABC reappointments as follows: a Civil Service Commission position for Dave Provan to expire on December 31, 2026; a Shade Tree Commission ending on December 23, 2025 for Michael Theuer and a second seat on the Shaded Tree Commission for Megan Tooker for a three year term ending on December 31, 2023 (Tooker's appointment is conditional upon her application being received).

Prendergast moved to approve the appointments. Brachbill seconded the motion.

Wayne King was asking to be reappointed to the Zoning Hearing Board, per Stewart. This is a five-year term, and application has been sent in. This came in late today. His materials are complete. Motion was amended to add King's appointment for five years, ending on December 31, 2025.

Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey asked the public if they were interested in getting involved with the community to consider applying for an ABC vacancy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Susquehanna River Basin Commission has a draft comp plan and are seeking public comment through February 19, 2021. Oral public comment is due February 4, 2021. Referred to the Environmental and Sustainability Committee for review.

Community Development Block Grant Agreements were discussed by Holderman. Motions for approvals were requested for the CDBG Covid funds. Eaton moved to approve signing the agreements for the CDBG funding for the Borough. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2021 is a municipal election year and some seats will be up in Council for reelection. Two seats in the West Ward, two in the North Ward, one seat in the South Ward and the Mayor's seat will be up for reelection.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

Brachbill moved to adjourn. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.