

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The October 19, 2020, virtual meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 p.m. There was a 6:30 p.m. Work Session on the 2021 Budget.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):

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

EXCUSED:

Ms. Melissa Hombosky

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

Minutes

Eaton moved to approve the minutes. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Written Communications were received by Council.

Prendergast moved to approve the declaration of October 27, 2020 as Conflict Resolution Day. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petition was received from residents on Ardel Lane. Speeding issue on North Potter Street was discussed.

Oral:

Mike Carpenter, DCED, Policy Specialist, Introduction.

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Mayor:

Wilson reported on the bandshell project at Talleyrand Park.

Weaver discussed last month's police activity. The gas emergency was discussed.

Council President:

Preservation PA Award and COVID outdoor gathering guideline changes.

Building and Property:

Raceway wall work was completed.

Finance and Government Performance:

September 2020 Financials reviewed.

Thompson moved to approve adding a budget line item for the real estate tax bill for total millage for police services. Eaton seconded. Motion carried with one nay. One nay (Brachbill)

Brachbill moved to approve to advertise a special work session on October 26, 2020. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation:

Governor's Park restroom roof work started. DCNR Grant for the suspension bridge and playground equipment will be discussed at a future committee meeting. The lights and the on-off timing using the timer in place at Talleyrand Park were discussed.

Human Resources:

WWTP position has been advertised. Position announcement closes on November 6th, 2020 at 4pm. Committee meeting will also be held to discuss the HARB/Zoning/planning director position(s) for the future as well as succession planning for the assistant manager position. The Senior Manager reviews are currently in progress. Meeting held on health insurance.

Eaton moved to approve the interview of two law firms for police policy review. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Safety:

Brachbill moved to approve the aerial apparatus loan out to United Fire and Rescue in Lewistown. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Water and Sanitation:

Leaf collection has started. Brush cans will continue until the week prior to Thanksgiving. Musser Lane facility remains open until November 21. Household Hazardous Waste collection is November 20 and 21. You must pre-register this year.

Streets:

Cleeton moved to advertise the updated parking ordinance. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wayfair signage was approved by Spring Township, pending PennDOT approval.

Street tree planting is postponed until Spring. Residents are to contact Don Holderman if they are interested in receiving one or more of these trees.

Energy and Environmental Conservation:

The Shared Energy Management Plan and PSU sustainability project were discussed.

Eaton moved to approve proceeding with the prioritization items with Wilson Engineering. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Zoning and Planning:

Mr. Morelli tendered his resignation from Planning Commission.

HARB:

Prendergast moved to approve the certificates of appropriateness for 224 West High Street and 227 North Allegheny Street. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

The High Street Shops paint was discussed, and a meeting was held with the Nuisance Code Administrator with reports beginning in November.

Special Committee Reports:

Brachbill attended the safety committee meeting last Tuesday for the Centre Region. Nothing related to Bellefonte.

OLD BUSINESS:

Solicitor opinion received regarding the partial ban of fireworks in the historical district. A copy of the draft anti-discrimination ordinance and MOU was received by Council. County liquid fuels grant application was submitted. Trick or treating will be held on October 29 from 6-8 p.m. with a rain date of November 1, 2020. Zion Road meeting with PennDOT, Rep. Benninghoff, and Senator Corman scheduled on site for October 27, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee development block grant by the CDBG audit was completed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stewart remarked on the response to the recent gas leak and thanked first responders for their response and service. Tosti-Vasey thanked Stewart for his role with the media. Tosti-Vasey requested a “what worked, what didn’t” review of this emergency response.

ADJOURNMENT:

Brachbill moved to adjourn. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Executive Session: Legal