

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The December 21, 2020, 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. Gina Thompson
Ms. Melissa Hombosky
Ms. Debbie Cleeton
Ms. Anne Walker

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

Minutes:

Brachbill moved to approve the minutes. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Prendergast moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried.

Finance Committee report was removed from the Consent Agenda and presented by Thompson.

Thompson moved to approve the 2021 proposed budget. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Thompson moved to approve the Tax Resolution. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Thompson moved to add a line item to the real estate tax bill to show mills for Police Services. Johnson seconded. Motion carried with one nay (Brachbill).

Thompson moved to approve the First National Bank proposal for the loan on the property near Talleyrand Park. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thompson discussed the DCED/CDBG allocation increase of \$22.00 bringing the streetscape project to \$95,212.00.

Thompson moved to approve the 2021 Fee Schedule. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Written Communications were received by Council.

Prendergast moved to approve the closure of West Howard Street from North Spring Street over to Locust Lane for Christmas Eve Services from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist. 911 will be contacted about the closure. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Borough's official position on restaurants staying open during Wolf's in-house dining restrictions was discussed.

Oral: Nothing presented.

Mayor: Wilson discussed the Second-Best Place to Live in Pennsylvania award given to the borough Bellefonte from HomeSnacks.com. Water bill increases were discussed. The police and parking/animal control reports were discussed.

Council President: Tosti-Vasey discussed the Climate Action Plan. The borough's plan was highlighted in two interviews, one radio (NPR's The Allegheny Front) and one news article (the Centre Daily Times).

The setting up the Pennsylvania Climate Action Academy was discussed. This non-profit program is free to the borough through a contract with the DEP.

Building and Property: Walker reported on parking permits and placing a purchase page on the Borough website.

Finance and Government Performance:

Parks and Recreation: Nothing to report.

Human Resources: Eaton reported on the planning/assistant position advertised for hire. Two retirements in the Streets department were discussed. The employee retirement plan was discussed.

Eaton moved to approve to advertise the ordinance for the employee retirement plan. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Safety: Centre County Emergency Management Plan review meeting has been scheduled for January 7, 2021 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. RSVP is required.

The vehicle insurance recommended GPS units were discussed, and they are in the budget to be purchased via Co-Stars.

Water and Sanitation: Increase in sewer and refuse was discussed. The refuse schedule for the holidays was discussed and will be placed on the website.

The final draft agreement regarding the Coca Cola plant/bulk water sales is pending.

Streets: Parking meter summary report was presented and discussed briefly. Debit/credit card difficulties when using meters was discussed briefly.

Snow removal near Governor's Park was discussed.

Energy and Environmental Conservation: Nothing presented.

Zoning and Planning: Short term rental ordinance was discussed at the recent Planning Commission meeting.

HARB: The administrative approval for the Girl Scout House was discussed briefly.

Special Committee Reports: Nothing presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Eaton moved to approve the borough's letter supporting the state joining RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) to be sent to the Pennsylvania Environmental Board. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Prendergast moved to approve the 2021 holiday schedule, as amended. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried

Cleeton moved to approve the 2021 meeting schedule. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clearing the sidewalks of snow at the parks was discussed. Volunteers are being sought out to perform this work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Open house for employee/retiree recognition was discussed. The open house will be held later when we can all meet in person again. Stewart thanked all retirees for their service and wished them well.

ABC appointments and reappointments were discussed and announced.

Johnson moved to reappoint Michael Ford to the Shade Tree Commission for a five-year term ending December 31, 2025. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to conditionally approve a four-year term for Frank Haldeman (IDA), Greg Brown (Water Authority), James Mills (PC). Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ABC vacancies were discussed.

Brachbill moved to approve the CATA local match share agreement Resolution in the amount of \$24,162.00 through July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 with equal payments of \$6,040.50 on July 31, October 31, 2021, January 31, 2022, and April 30, 2022. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Centre County Climate Action Plan draft was discussed. Public comment is requested and due on January 15, 2021. The Environmental and Sustainability Committee will meet before the next meeting to draft some comments.

Storm snow removal complaints were discussed. Stewart discussed manpower and their efforts to clear the streets and parking stalls from the recent significant 16-inch snowstorm. He explained that resources are limited. The snow removal requirements of the Borough was discussed briefly.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.