

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The February 15, 2021 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.

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
Ms. Gina Thompson

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

Minutes:

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

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

Written communications were received by Council. .

Historical marker was discussed and the cost share of the project. . This would be placed at the train station. Mr. Hoover spoke about the project and the partnering of marker and a street tablet. Tosti-Vasey referred this request to the Talleyrand Park Committee to maintain consistency with their no more physical items placed in the Park. Johnson opined the project was a great idea and that there are others around town. The project will be reviewed by the Talleyrand Park committee.

Brachbill moved to approve the donation of \$215 for the tablet on the condition that the Talleyrand Park Committee approves moving forward with it. Thompson seconded. . Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to appoint Stewart to the Airport Authority. Prendergast seconded the motion carried.

Creating a virtual walking tour site was on the agenda and Ms. Juanita Huyett was present for discussion. There is one at Governor's Park. Adventure Labs are points of interest on a self-guided tour which she wanted to set up in Bellefonte. She is holding off on activation until approval. A geo cache would need to be available as well. This would operate through link on a person's phone. The geocache will be referred to the Talleyrand Park Committee.

Prendergast moved to provisionally approve the geo caching in Talleyrand Park and the virtual walking tour app for the borough. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rubber duck race was rescheduled for September 12, 2021 with due to a conflict with another event. Johnson moved to move the date for the Rubber Duck race from September 4 to September 12, 2021. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bellefonte Cruise letter was received requesting Father's Day weekend, June 18-19 with the open car cruise by evening. They request the T blocked off from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday night. Saturday contains a full day of activities. Potter and Howard Streets would need to be blocked off as well and use of the bank lot. They also requested use of both sides of High Street Bridge and the waterfront walkway. They requested allowing banners or advertising on the waterfront area as well as placement of their event banners placed on both sides of the Veterans' Bridge from May 19 through June 20. Wilson discussed the proposed banners by advertisers on the waterfront on behalf of the Cruise committee. They can raise a significant amount of money more if that is allowed on the waterfront.

Eaton moved to conditionally approve June 18-19 from 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 18 through 7 p.m. on Saturday June 19 for the Cruise. There will be no ordinance created relative to dogs, and skating, etc. and therefore these concerns shall be self-policed by the Cruise Committee and not the Borough. Banners and advertising are prohibited on the Waterfront Development area. All other items in their request will be reviewed under the Covid-19 event guidelines by the Streets Committee at a later date. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lions Club will be holding a fundraiser in front of the Brownstone on the Diamond and would like to reserve four parking space for pick up. They would like to reserve the area for April 10, 2021. This was deferred to Streets.

Johnson conditionally approved the date of the event pending final review by Streets Committee. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried. .

Oral: Nothing presented.

Mayor:

Police report was distributed to Council. Wilson noted a compliment letter noting Officer Massie Neidigh for her assistance with an incident of harassment at a downtown business. The pedestrian accident was discussed briefly. Improved lighting is being proposed at the location. Clearing of sidewalks after snow event was discussed. There were two major offenders, the sidewalk in front of the former shoe store at the corner of S Allegheny and E Bishop Streets, and the sidewalk in front of the Catholic cemetery. They have not been touched all winter. There is a 24-hour deadline to clear walks. There were also 15 other non-compliant properties. He would like to send letters to note the noncompliance and enforcement. Wilson had great concern of this hazard and would like to get it taken care of.

Wilson wanted to see consistency in scheduling Council meetings on Federal Holidays.

Council President:

Tosti-Vasey reported on the webinar done by the Democratic Municipal Officials on Preemption.

Building and Property:

Parking for a wedding and reception to be held at Talleyrand Park on May 28 was discussed. Cleeton stated that the bride may purchase courtesy parking placards that her guests can put on the dashboard of their vehicles at \$2.50 per permit for the five hours she reserved.

Walker moved to approve the parking placards subject to speaking with Parks Committee regarding the Covid procedures. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Covid-19 planning for the wedding and reception itself was referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee for review and recommendation.

There was a request received to extend the deck over the mill race at My Café Buzz. The original agreement with Jabco will be reworked to include the new names of the new owners of the business and the measurements for the deck. .

Finance and Government Performance:

Finance committee met and decided to not hold quarterly meetings with the department heads other than the Police. They will be meeting with the police in April and quarterly thereafter.

Strategic Management Plan was discussed under work session. .

Parks and Recreation:

Committee meeting will be held on February 23 at 6 p.m. via zoom.

Human Resources:

Eaton moved to hire Harry Brooks as the nuisance code officer. Cleeton seconded the motion. .
Motion carried.

Next HR meeting will be held on February 17 a 4 p.m.

Safety:

The Committee meeting review the Crosswalk lighting in downtown Bellefonte will be scheduled via Doodle Poll.

Water and Sanitation:

Authority meeting minutes were in packet. . The bulk water agreement was signed. . Gravity flow report was provided by Eaton and will be shared with Authority members.

Streets:

Cleeton proposed new language for the RV and Large Vehicle parking amendment. .

Cleeton moved to approve the draft ordinance changes to move to advertising. . Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried. .

Park mobile app was discussed. . A presentation was given at the committee meeting.

Painting a line next to the parking meter between My Buzz Café and North Potter Street will delineate the street from parking on the sidewalk. This will be done in the spring. .

Parking enforcement in the Permit Parking areas (the old Red Meter areas) was discussed.

Alternate side of the street regulations remain in place throughout the borough for street cleaning and ice and snow removal. People who have parking permits in the Permit Parking Area will need to follow these regulations.

Reminder that the borough has the right to close any street in the borough for street repairs and community events.

Brush containers were discussed.

Energy and Environmental Conservation:

Prendergast provided an update on the Talleyrand Park Stream project. .

Zoning and Planning:

Planning Commission is working on the short-term rental ordinance.

HARB: Nothing presented.

Special Committee Reports:

Brachbill reported on the Fire Executive meeting. . He would like to make some edit changes. . He also reported on the Centre Region Council of Government's meeting. . Covid vaccines were discussed.

Webcam in the downtown area was discussed by Stewart. He would like to get a camera established. . A retreat for the Borough Council and management for strategic planning purposes was discussed briefly. The new, updated Borough letterhead design was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Millrace bridge was discussed. This was put on the March 1, 2021 work session meeting.

Streets has been reviewing the personal delivery devices. The elected officials' section of the Borough website was discussed briefly.

Brachbill moved to approve adding information about Council members about themselves to the website, including choice of photo. Cleeton seconded the motion. . Motion carried.

The anti-discrimination ordinance and human relations commission was discussed. . Tosti-Vasey stated that Borough Managers from Ferguson, State College and Bellefonte had a meeting regarding the final version of the draft of the ordinance. . There will be a meeting in the future with the Council presidents and Municipal managers in the near future. An MOU would also need to be created and passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prendergast moved to hold the Boroughwide Yard Sale on May 14-15 and ruff raff May 17-21, 2021. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Johnson moved to approve Sunday, October 31, 2021 for trick or treating and Saturday, October 30, 2021 for the Halloween Parade with Covid restrictions if applicable. Prendergast seconded the motion. . Motion carried.

Cleeton moved to approve the holiday courtesy parking from Thursday, November 2, 2021 until January 1, 2022. Prendergast seconded the motion. . Motion carried.

Prendergast moved to send letters to State Senator, Representative and Governor requesting prioritizing all municipal essential workers in wastewater, streets, refuse and water management. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Prendergast moved to send letters to State Senator, Representative, Governor, and the Department of Health, requesting prioritizing all police and fire. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The May Primary was discussed by Brachbill.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION held to discuss Personnel and Real Estate Issues.