

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 1, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

The March 1, 2021, virtual meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 p.m. The Work session and Executive session were held before this 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  
Mayor Tom Wilson  
Ms. Melissa Hombosky  
Ms. Debbie Cleeton  
Ms. Anne Walker  
Ms. Gina Thompson

**EXCUSED:** Mr. Michael Prendergast

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager  
Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

---

**Minutes:**

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

**Oral:** Tom Songer, Jr. addressed Council regarding the SMS Sutton complex purchase. They are planning on repurposing the industrial complex to the likes of Titan.

**Written Communications:**

Tax collector compensation rates were changed by the school district as of 2022.

Moose Club and other non-profits have requested permission to have a drive-thru event for the Easter Egg hunt at Governor's Park on April 3, 2021. They would like to hang a banner on the Veteran's bridge a few weeks in advance.

Brachbill moved to conditionally approve the drive-thru Easter egg hunt at Governor's Park on April 3, beginning at 11 a.m. End time will be deferred to parks and rec for review. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce would like to hold an electronics recycling event and possibly use the armory property as a drop-off location. This event would be a free public service event. It would strictly be for electronics and would be safely recycled. They would like to have the event on April 22 and 23, afternoon on Friday, and a more extended period on Saturday. The hours are not set yet.

Eaton moved to conditionally approve the recycling event for April 22 and 23 at the Armory site. The logistics are deferred to Building and Property. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Governor's Park requests were addressed by Holderman. Pleasant Gap Peppers requested the baseball field from May through August, and prior to their submission, the U.S. Elite Traveling Team asked for the use of the baseball field. They would want to use the field for practices.

Hombosky moved to conditionally approve the use of the Governor's Park ball field for the Pleasant Gap Peppers as long as the Bellefonte School District is not using the fields for Sundays at 6 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. between May 9 and August 19 and the U.S. Elite Traveling Team for use in March with dates to be determined. Reservations fees will need to be paid. The request is also referred to the Parks Committee for review, and as soon as they meet with the committee, they may start using the field without coming back to Council. Bellefonte School District must agree with reservations. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Mayor:** Wilson thanked Harry Brooks, Nuisance Codes Officer, for following up on removing the ice from the sidewalks. He discussed the May 18, 2021, Primary Elections. He will not be running for Mayor again. Wilson also discussed the derailed train cars near Talleyrand Park. The cars will be re-railed by crane.

**Council President:** Tosti-Vasey discussed the wayfinding sign grant and the sign ordinance. Several definitions are missing from the ordinance. The consultant will review comments, and a meeting will be held.

**Building and Property:** Nothing reported.

**Finance and Government Performance:** Committee meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2021, at 10 a.m.

**Parks and Recreation:** Committee meeting held on February 23, 2021.

Hombosky moved to approve the Bellefonte Middle School Spring Performance on May 15 and 16, 2021. Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hombosky moved to approve the CEF Centre Region event pavilion reservation on August 2 and 6 at Governor's Park from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Covid guidelines. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Centre County Tasting Trail would like to hold an event at the Talleyrand Park Extension on June 20, 2021. They need to submit a formal request. No action was taken at this time.

The DBI outdoor expo venture and the DBI outdoor dinner were discussed briefly. No action was taken at this time.

The May 22 wedding in Talleyrand Park was discussed briefly. No further action was taken at this time.

Meyer Construction will finish the work at the park, per Holderman, by April 1, 2021, with no change in the funding amount or cost.

**Human Resources:** Stewart discussed the vacancies at the Borough.

**Safety:** Committee meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. He requested public participation in that meeting due to the subject matter of the meeting. The FEMA fire grant was discussed briefly by Holderman.

**Water and Sanitation:** Shiloh Road study was discussed briefly. No comment was needed from the Borough. Authority meets on March 2, 2021, at 6 p.m.

Johnson moved to approve Resolution No. 03012021-01 for a minor change to the bulk water agreement with additional language added to section 1-F. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Musser Lane gate was discussed briefly by Holderman. The gate is complete and will be left open until everything reopens from the COVID-19 emergency limitations.

Grass and brush container fees were discussed.

**Streets:** The meters and kiosks were discussed. T-2 submitted a quote for their app service, and it will be reviewed at the next committee meeting. Pedestrian safety and a streetlight at the diamond were discussed. The committee also reviewed the timing of signals.

Karen Baubach's memo clarifying PennDOT's responsibility for drainage facilities on state highways was in the packet.

Brachbill moved to send a letter to Rep. Benninghoff and Senator Corman to support the new legislation taking the burden of maintenance of underground drainage facilities from the Borough and put back into PennDOT's responsibility. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Parking permits were discussed briefly.

**Energy and Environmental Conservation:** An update from the student group was presented to Council by Tosti-Vasey.

**Zoning and Planning:**

**HARB:**

Johnson moved to approve the certificate of appropriateness for signage at 372 Phoenix Avenue. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The nuisance code officer was hired. Harry Brooks introduced himself to the public.

**Special Committee Reports:**

Centre County Airport Authority meeting was discussed. Music instrument structure installation at Bernel Road Park was discussed.

CCMPO minutes were distributed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Brachbill moved to approve the amendment to the large vehicle and R.V. ordinance as presented. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Borough's reasoning for the prohibition of placing banners at the waterfront walkway, based on a federal court decision related to the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in two other communities, was discussed by Tosti-Vasey.

Stewart discussed the Strategic Management Plan.

Stewart discussed the millrace bridge rehabilitation project.

Eaton moved to review the possible closing off of the millrace from past the pergola down to the Gamble Mill, with the decision being made after a thorough review and public hearing. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Strategic Management Plan consultant meeting was discussed. A special work session meeting will be scheduled.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nothing presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

DRAFT