

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

The March 15, 2021 virtual meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 p.m. Environmental committee met prior to 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
Mr. Michael Prendergast

EXCUSED:

Ms. Anne Walker

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

Minutes:

Brachbill moved to approve the minutes. Eaton seconded the motion, as amended. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Budget v. Actual was removed by Tosti-Vasey for discussion.

Prendergast moved to accept the consent agenda. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget v. Actual discussed. Prendergast moved to accept this item. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Oral: Nothing presented.

Written Communications:

CATA Annual report was received by Council.

Brachbill moved to approve the use of Talleyrand Park by the Elks on June 14, 2021 for their annual Flag Day ceremony with set up at 3 p.m. and clean up by 7 p.m. with a nonprofit fee waiver. Parks and Rec committee will review other information for recommendation with final approval at a subsequent date. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Johnson moved to approve the use of Talleyrand Park by the Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce for their annual croquet tournament on August 8 with a rain date of August 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with all fees being waived. All other provisions will be deferred to Parks and Rec for review and recommendation for final approval. Brachbill seconded the motion.

The policy of waiving fees for non-profits and other fees was discussed. The \$20 administrative fee and the damage deposit fee covers damage to the park. The damage deposit is refundable if the park is left in good condition. Holderman encouraged Council not to waive this fee as it has not been done in the past. It would be a bad precedent to begin doing this.

Prendergast moved to amend the motion to approve the use of Talleyrand Park by the Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce for their annual croquet tournament on August 8 with a rain date of August 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with fees being waived with the exception of the \$20 admin fee (non-refundable) and the damage deposit which will be refunded after the event if the park is left in good condition. All other provisions will be deferred to Parks and Rec for review and recommendation for final approval. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to approve the Sunrise Rotary Children's Fair on June 5, 2021 in Talleyrand Park. All other provisions will be deferred to Parks and Rec for review and recommendation for final approval. The rental fees would be waived for using the park, as they are a non-profit. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Parking issues on South Allegheny and Logan Street were discussed.

Anna Keckline correspondence was acknowledged as received.

Gina Thompson's resignation letter from Council was received. Council members thanked her for her service.

Brachbill moved to approve the resignation from Gina Thompson. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The municipal elections were discussed briefly.

Emergency rental assistance program COVID relief update was discussed briefly.

2023 - 12-year PennDOT Highways funding program was discussed briefly. Public input was requested. www.talkpatransportation.com

Department of Labor and Industry Audit of ADA and accessibility requirements re: building permit applications.

Mayor:

Bellefonte was recognized by Travelmag.com as one of the top ten places to visit in PA with residents under 100,000 persons. The Bellefonte Works property (Sutton) was toured by Wilson and other members of staff and Council.

Council President:

Tosti-Vasey reported that the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17. She also provided information received this morning that Wolf is relaxing some of the COVID guidelines effective on April 4, 2021.

Building and Property:

Prendergast moved to approve the amendment to the deck expansion between the Borough and My Buzz Café. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The electronics recycling event was discussed briefly. Brachbill moved to approve the recycling event on April 23 and 24 A certificate of insurance is required. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance and Government Performance:

Stewart discussed the annual audit process in the Borough.

Parks and Recreation:

March 18, 2021 a meeting will be held with the Parks committee. Holderman gave an update on Kepler Pool.

Human Resources:

The HARB vacancy was discussed. An application was received from Philip Ruth.

Eaton moved to approve the application of Philip Ruth for HARB. Mr. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The collective bargaining contract was discussed briefly.

Borough vacancies were discussed by Stewart. Three new people will be starting between now and the beginning of April at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Four applications for the Assistant WWTP Supervisor have been received.

Safety:

Brachbill discussed street crossing issues on Bishop due to the Fish Fry and an incident near the Hoffbrau. He was very concerned about crosswalk safety. A letter to PennDOT was discussed addressing these concerns.

Water and Sanitation:

Johnson discussed the April 7 Musser Lane meeting regarding policy. The brush and grass container collection fee was discussed. Authority minutes were provided.

Streets:

Cleeton reported on the meter revenue report.

Lions Club fundraiser on April 10 from 11am to 1 pm was discussed briefly. Cleeton moved to approve the Lions Club event. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The T2 system app information was discussed. Cleeton moved to approve T2 for service to the Borough. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Street paving schedule has been advertised for bids, due April 19 at 4 p.m.

Energy and Environmental Conservation:

Prendergast updated Council on the sustainability project for Talleyrand Park. The Climate Action Plan DEP discounted membership fee was discussed.

Prendergast moved to approve the payment of \$500 for the remainder of the year to obtain assistance from ICLEI, the company that assisted the borough through DEP in crafting the Climate Action Plan for technical assistance and reviews in setting up this board. Hombosky seconded the motion. Motion to table by Prendergast to see where the funding would come from. Motion carried with two nays – Hombosky and Tosti-Vasey.

Borough Energy Management Plan was discussed briefly.

Zoning and Planning:

Short Term Rental Ordinance was discussed. It was reviewed by the Planning Commission.

HARB:

Certificates of Approval were presented.

Brachbill moved to approve the work at the porch on 251 North Allegheny Street and the improvements on the carriage house. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to accept the rejection of the porch floorboard replacement at 127 East High Street by HARB and allow administrative approval to Centre County Housing Authority for the tongue and groove flooring, if not they would need to come back to HARB for further discussion. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nuisance Code report was received by Council.

Discussion was held on changing the sidewalk ordinance to notify residents and property owners of the need to repair their sidewalks with the borough providing a list of interested contractors (no recommendations or borough contracting for these services); other amendments will be drafted to insure timely repairs of the sidewalk. Motion to revise the sidewalk ordinance made by Brachbill. Seconded by Prendergast. Motion carried.

Special Committee Reports:

Code stats were received by Council.

Nittany Valley Planning Commission will meet on March 18, 2021.

The Nittany Valley Fire Committee will hold a meeting the same date to discuss the DCED fire study.

OLD BUSINESS:

Special meeting with consultants for the Strategic Management Plan will be held on March 29 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom.

Motorist/pedestrian safety issues will be scheduled for a special work session with Council for April 19, 2021.

Holderman discussed the 2020 Block Grant Funds streetscape project for South Spring and West Bishop Streets was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Centre County Government, particularly around the courthouse, is having issues with the new permit parking area. Stewart discussed the situation. Concerns will be discussed and a resolution to the issues will be brought back to Council.

The American Rescue Plan was discussed by Tosti-Vasey. In addition to the stimulus checks being to families in the U.S., Local Governments will also be provided some financial assistance. Bellefonte was issued \$617,035.00 to be used to replenish lost revenue and mitigate costs from the pandemic. Hombosky discussed the CBICC small business grant program that opened this week.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.