

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 5, 2021 - 7:30 p.m. via Zoom**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

The April 5, 2021 virtual meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 p.m. Executive session was held regarding real estate.

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  
Ms. Anne Walker

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

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**Minutes:**

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

**Consent Agenda:** Nothing presented.

**Oral:** Cleeton reminded everyone about Library Week 2021.

**Candidate presentations:** Candidate presentations were received by Council to fill the south ward Council seat vacated by Gina Thompson.

Walker nominated Mary Abbott for the open Council position. Eaton seconded the nomination. Brachbill nominated Barbara Dann, and Johnson seconded the nomination. Council voted 6-2 for Abbott to fill the vacancy. Brachbill and Johnson voted no.

**Written Communications:**

Pedestrian and lighting complaint was received by a resident.

Downtown Bellefonte Outdoor Expo planned for October 3, 2021 in Talleyrand Park. They are requesting 12 to 5 p.m. and a waiver of fee.

Brachbill moved to approve the date of October 3, 2021 for the DBI Outdoor Adventure Expo at Talleyrand Park with the full timing and Covid regulations to be deferred to Parks and Rec for recommendation with the reservation fee to be waived. Damage and administration fees will stand. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Boy Scouts of Junita Valley requested to use Governor's for a Pinewood Derby May 23, 2021 from 12-4:30 p.m. Pavilion 12 is requested to be used. They would like the fee waived.

Eaton moved to conditionally approve the use of Pavilion 12 at Governor's Park on May 23 from 12 to 4:30 p.m. for the pinewood derby. Being that they are not Bellefonte based, there would be no fee waiver and deferred to Parks and Rec. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bellefonte YMCA requested to use Governor's Park for the summer day camp program. This was deferred to parks and rec.

Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. Under the Lights special event was requested at the Waterfront or Talleyrand Park on September 3 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Brachbill moved to conditionally approve September 3, 2021 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. for the Under the Lights event, with location and details deferred to parks and recreation. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Annual watershed cleanup day is April 24 and Clearwater Conservancy is asking the Borough's assistance with clean up. The mayor will craft a proclamation for the cleanup day.

Brachbill moved to approve the public works crew's assistance with the cleanup from watershed cleanup day and appoint Stewart a contact person. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DBI is requesting to hold Fridays in the Fonte for four dates.

Eaton moved to conditionally approved June 25 and July 23 for Fridays in the Fonte. Prendergast seconded the motion with deferment to building and property. The other two dates need to be handled by the County Commissioners as those two events occur on county property.

Request to reschedule riff raff until October 2021. The letter writer is asking for an event in October in addition to May, if possible. The labor has not been budgeted for two dates. Lack of suitable crew numbers may inhibit the May event from happening.

Eaton moved to delay the riff raff until October 2021 due to lack of manpower in crews in the refuse department, dates to be determined. Walker seconded the motion. Brachbill offered that this will affect the yard sales. Johnson expressed that there was only one letter requesting the change and that everyone is geared up for it to happen in May. Cleeton suggested having a special bulk pick up in May in light of the actual riff raff event moving to October 2021. Hombosky offered

that it may create problems to move it. Prendergast would not mind having two collections and would like to see the budget expanded for two riff raff events. Motion failed with one aye (Eaton) and seven nays.

Centre County Refuse and Recycling is asking Council to oppose House Bill 255. Eaton moved that letters will be sent to local representatives to oppose HB 255. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Centre County Central Booking budget issues were discussed.

**Mayor:** Wilson discussed the police report and the police radar bill in the house and senate. Mayor's association has been lobbying for radar to be legal in Pennsylvania for the last 7 years and is the only state that does not allow local radar.

**Council President:** Tosti-Vasey discussed masking and social distancing and Covid-19. She also discussed the White House Office of Governor Affairs and discussed the American Rescue Plan and how it would impact Pennsylvania. Bellefonte will be receiving about \$630,000 in community assistance funding.

**Building and Property:** Eaton moved to approve the surplus items disposal through Municibid Auction. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Finance and Government Performance:** Stewart reported on the meeting with Delta Development and stated that the meeting went well. Another special meeting will be held on April 26 at 6:30 p.m., on Zoom.

**Parks and Recreation:** Hombosky reported on meetings with organizations over the past few week and discussions about Covid restrictions. She reported on the listing of requested reservations.

Hombosky moved to approve the Bellefonte Elk's request for use of Talleyrand Park for Flag Day on June 14, 2021 provided that the organizer follows guidelines as outlined in the meeting. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hombosky moved to approve the Bellefonte Little League's request for use of Talleyrand Park for Duck Race on June 19, 2021 provided that the organizer follows guidelines as outlined in the meeting, approve the Bellefonte Soccer Association's request for Governor's Park Soccer Field for league play from May 22, 2021 to June 12, 2021 provided the organizer follows guidelines as outlined in the meeting, approve the Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce request for use of Talleyrand Park annex for the annual croquet tournament on August 8, 2021 with rain date of August 15, 2021, provided that the organization follower guidelines as outlined in the meeting, approve the YMCA Centre County's request for Governor's Park for Volleyball Tournament on June 5, 10, July 31, 2021 provided the organizer follows guidelines as outlined in the meeting. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The YMCA triathlon request was not included in this motion. The event would require street closings and approval for Krauss Park. This will be on hold until the event planner gets back to Hombosky.

Hombosky received a notification that someone may be cutting down saplings at Krauss Park.

**Human Resources:** Eaton reported on the March 29 union negotiations. Stewart discussed vacancies in the Borough.

**Safety:** Brachbill reported on the Bellefonte Fire Department Executive Committee Meeting on March 25, 2021. Discussion was held on the fire chief's term. Chief Lohr's interim appointment as fire chief ends on June 30, 2021. The Fire Exec Committee is recommending that Chief Lohr continue for a full three-year term starting July 1, 2021.

Brachbill moved to approve Chief Lohr for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Water and Sanitation:** Stewart discussed the cyber security of water systems and the hacking of SCATA systems. Systems should be checked, and a solid security system should be in place. There will be an Authority meeting on April 6 at 6 p.m. The Centre County Refuse and Recycling hazardous waste collection was discussed. Grass and brush collection was discussed.

**Streets:** Cleeton reported on traffic signal maintenance. The existence of maintenance agreements was discussed.

Cleeton moved to conditionally approve the Bellefonte Cruise to be held on June 18 and 19, 2021 provided all Covid guidelines in place at the time of the event are met including capacity, social distancing, and masking. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Complete Streets PSAB webinars were discussed and suggestions were made for the Diamond area by Brachbill. Having a study done by an outside engineer was discussed. More police presence downtown was discussed.

Brachbill moved to have a consulting engineer assist the Borough with the traffic safety issues. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cleeton discussed the April 19 6:30 pm public meeting regarding public safety.

Cleeton also updated Council on the meter pay app system.

**Energy and Environmental Conservation:** Prendergast reported on the ICLEI funding. The finance director reported that the funds were not budgeted for.

Prendergast moved to approve the ICLEI funding based on a donation. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried with two nays – Brachbill and Johnson.

Prendergast updated Council on the student projects. The air quality control system was discussed. **Zoning and Planning:** Short Term Rental Ordinance was discussed.

Eaton moved to defer the draft ordinance to the solicitor and bring it back to Council after solicitor comment. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**HARB:**

**218 North Spring Street – retroactive approval –**

Cleeton moved to approve the porch repair and renovations to 218 North Spring Street. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention (Prendergast).

**221 North Allegheny Street – replace carriage house and main roof, paint exterior of carriage house, installation of fence along property line at rear, main house painting. (house was not painted brick; this was noted in error).**

Brachbill moved to defer the recommendation on painting the house brick back to HARB in light of the error. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Prendergast moved to approve replacing the carriage house and main roof shingles, wooden fence and painting the carriage house as recommended by HARB. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**420 North Spring Street – vinyl fence - HARB denied the request to install the vinyl fence. They recommended approving the gutters with downspouts to match the fascia color in half-round style.**

Prendergast moved to approve the gutters replaced in kind with true half-round metal gutters and disapprove the installation of the vinyl fence along side of the property. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Special Committee Reports:** Council members reported on special committees. Brachbill reported on the Tuesday, April 5 meeting of the Nittany Valley Fire Chiefs to discuss sharing fire equipment and manpower throughout the Valley. Brachbill then announced a scheduled meeting of the COG Public Safety meeting on April 13. Johnson reported on the Airport Authority meeting re approval of updated bylaws and movement forward on bids for a new equipment building at the airport. Air travel is starting to pick up a bit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Sidewalk Ordinance amendment was discussed. This was deferred to streets committee.

Borough Goals were discussed. The goals will be placed on the website. Street parking concerns with the Courthouse were discussed. The Courthouse would like dedicated spaces in the municipal lots. Nothing was decided. Discussion deferred to Streets Committee

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution 04052021-01 supporting local police use of radar was on the table. Eaton moved to approve the resolution. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Bellefonte Waterfront status report was given relative to the RCAP grants. Prendergast moved to approve the extension request. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.