

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2021 - 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The April 19, 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 and personnel and a public hearing was held on pedestrian traffic safety.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

SWEARING IN: Mary Abbott

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
Ms. Mary Abbott

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

Minutes: Brachbill moved to approve the minutes. Prendergast seconded the motion, as amended. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Cleeton moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

Oral: Public comment was received from Chris Morelli on possibly using Talleyrand Park for a Bellefonte Senior Ball unaffiliated with the school. The event would take place 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, May 8 for an event under the lights. Any residue funds will be donated to the Bellefonte Youth Center.

Brachbill moved to conditionally approve the Bellefonte Senior Ball on May 8 from 6-9 p.m. in Talleyrand Park with final approval to be made by the parks and recreation committee. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Elizabeth Hay commented to Council on Wetzel's funeral home odor from the crematorium and fire coming from the stack. She was concerned about fire safety for nearby properties. The business owner reported the incident as situation normal to the Fire Chief. The DEP regulates crematoriums in Pennsylvania.

Prendergast moved to ask DEP to perform an inspection and defer the remaining of this complaint to the Environmental and Sustainability Committee and ask Code and Fire to attend to discuss what can be done in the meantime. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Written Communications:

Written communications were received by Council members.

The Fair Districts Pennsylvania's requested to use Talleyrand Park on April 29, 2021 and portion of sidewalks in town for a march from Senator Corman's office through the park and back up to Rep. Benninghoff's with tables set out in the park and in front of Benninghoff's office. Tosti-Vasey explained that in accordance with the First Amendment the Borough had limited authority regarding their march. She deferred them to the Streets Committee.

A public hearing will be held by CATA regarding CATA Go and the CATA bus services. There was a complaint received from a resident regarding CATA Go and the proposed change in routes starting on August 31, 2021.

Friday in the Fonte and Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. requested a street closure on May 28, 2021 at East High Street from South Allegheny to Penn Street to 9 p.m. This was deferred to Streets Committee. Dominos delivery system was discussed. They will need to use the road.

Interest in the Borough joining ICIEI group to assist the Borough in the next phase of setting up the environmental task force with the DEP paying the membership fee. The first meeting with ICLEI is scheduled for this coming Thursday.

A plaque was proposed to be installed at the old Academy. A historic marker or plaque were discussed. The request needs to be sent to the PA Historical and Museum Commission for consideration.

Infrastructure report was received by Council regarding Bellefonte.

Bellefonte, Inc. requested to have their outdoor office working space under the eaves of the train station in Talleyrand Park. The chamber has already approved the request.

Eaton moved to approve the event as long as they stay under the eaves. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

YMCA requested to hold a volleyball tournament ongoing in the expanded area of Talleyrand Park. This was deferred to Parks and Rec.

Prendergast conditionally approved the request to hold the tournaments with dates to be determined to begin after the parks and rec committee meeting review. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Letter was received from Barbara Dann regarding short term rentals. Drafts and review by Solicitor were discussed.

Mayor: Wilson provided a report on the police and animal control. Wilson announced two proclamations, one for Watershed Clean Up Day and the other for Bells Across America.

Council President: Tosti-Vasey reported on the Drive Electric PA Coalition Meeting she attended on April 15, 2021.

Building and Property: Walker reported that the committee will be meeting to discuss Friday in the 'Fonte details.

Finance and Government Performance: Cleeton updated Council on the finance committee meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Committee meeting was held on April 14, 2021. Hombosky moved to approve the YMCA Day Camp Program. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Grant application for train station has been submitted by Holderman. The suspension bridge grant application has also been submitted.

The ADA restroom is near completion. Interest in having a brewery in Bellefonte was discussed.

Human Resources: Union bargaining talks continue. Holderman discussed several job openings in the Borough.

Safety: Brachbill was unable to attend the Centre Region Safety Meeting. The Logan Fire Co. purchased a 2001 pickup truck with equipment box. Workplace Safety Committee attended their annual training.

Water and Sanitation: Musser Lane Recycling Center was discussed. The operations will continue as currently exist. It is operated on an honor system. Violators will be identified and fined.

The Authority held a meeting. Smoke testing will restart May 10-14, 2021.

Streets: Holderman opened street paving bids. There were 6 options – 1. McAllister Street \$48,708 2. Spring Street \$19,840 3. Howard Street \$21,092 4. Parkwood Drive \$33,040 5. Halfmoon Hill \$21, 332 and 6. Allegheny Street \$22, 836 – for a total of \$166,848 from HRI, Inc. Glenn O. Hawbaker bid as follows: 1. \$41,944 2. \$17,424 3.\$18,233 4. \$22,050 5. 17,949.75 6. \$19,756 for a total of \$137,406.75. Streets will review.

There was a public hearing held this evening on pedestrian and motorist safety. Cleeton moved to approve Pennoni and Associates for a traffic calming solution at the Diamond area of the Borough. Brachbill seconded the motion.

Eaton had concerns with the monetary sum of their estimate. Action needs to be taken sooner rather than later and the quickest way to get something in place and deal with PennDOT is to hire Pennoni, per Johnson.

Brachbill called the question.

Motion carried with one nay, Eaton.

The committee is working on the draft sidewalk ordinance and finalizing the resolution for the complete streets resolution. Permit parking for the County is being reviewed. T2Mobile Pay agreement is pending.

Energy and Environmental Conservation: Holderman reported on the energy management plan coming out of the climate action plan. The Spring Creek millrace dam sustainability project was discussed briefly.

Zoning and Planning:

HARB:

- 121 South Allegheny Street – façade work
- 118 North Allegheny Street – New Wave Salon – sign
- 378 East Curtin Street – self-supporting car port
- 452 East Curtin Street – replacing portions of fence on property

Cleeton moved to approve certificates of appropriateness for the four projects presented. Brachbill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The brick house paint that was discussed at a prior Council meeting was discussed. HARB is recommending denying the application which was to paint the brick at 221 North Allegheny Street. Painting is not recommended.

Prendergast moved to deny the painting of the house but to allow administrative approval of the color previously approved for the garage. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried with one nay, Brachbill.

105 West Curtin Street – HARB denied the application was presented due to materials. Property owner as on the zoom meeting. The project was replacement of a white wood fence with a white vinyl picket fence. The property owner stated her case as to why the vinyl fence would be appropriate in her situation.

Hombosky moved to approve the installation of the white vinyl fence, being deemed appropriate for homes built after 1950. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Holderman announced that residents need to keep their grass less than 6 inches long and bushes and trees are to be trimmed to not obstruct sidewalks and overhead. There will be sidewalk inspections conducted in the next couple of weeks and those needing repairs will be notified via mail. The contractor list was discussed, noting that a list will be available in the borough offices but are not to be considered as a recommendation for services. Each property owner will need to make that assessment themselves.

Special Committee Reports: Council members reported on special committees, including BAIDA (Holderman), C-NET Board of Directors (Holderman), Tax Collection Committee (Stewart), and Nittany Valley Fire Study Committee (Brachbill).

Brachbill moved to sign the articles of agreement for participation in the Nittany Valley Fire Study with DCED. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Draft short-term rental ordinance is still being reviewed by the solicitor.

Central Pa Tasting Trail event on June 20, 2021 is interested in using the extended area of Talleyrand Park. They provided details and a map. This will go back to Parks for a final review.

Prendergast moved to conditionally approve the request by Central Pa Tasting Trail with details on dates and times to be approved by Parks and Rec. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with one recusal by Hombosky.

The municipal recycling and waste program (902) grant was discussed by Holderman.

Bellefonte Arts and Crafts festival was canceled for 2021.

NEW BUSINESS: Draft Borough newsletter was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.