

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2021 - 7:30 p.m. via Zoom**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

The May 17, 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 work session on Spring Creek.

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. Mary Abbott

**EXCUSED:**

Ms. Anne Walker

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager  
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager  
Chief Sean Weaver

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The new management team at the Wastewater Treatment Plan was introduced to Council.

**Minutes:** Eaton moved to approve the minutes. Cleeton seconded the motion, as amended. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:** Brachbill moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Oral:** Members of the public spoke about short term rentals.

**Written Communications:** Written communications were received by Council members. Action items were as follows:

Eaton moved to send a letter of support for HB1318. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to approve Resolution 05172021. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to approve the submission of a waiver for ADA exterior access. Hombosky seconded the motion.

Liability was discussed by Tosti-Vasey. HARB agreed with the waiver request. The historical features of this structure will be preserved if a waiver is granted.

Motion carried with one nay – Tosti-Vasey.

Anne Walker's resignation from Council was read into the record.

**Mayor:** Wilson reported on the parking and revenue breakdown report. The animal control report was discussed briefly. Weaver discussed new equipment for traffic control obtained via grant. Barking dogs in the Borough were discussed briefly by Brachbill.

**Council President:** Tosti-Vasey discussed the American Rescue plan funding. The first half will arrive this week and the state may add additional rules on the use of the funding.

**Building and Property:** Committee will meet Thursday to discuss the fleet management report.

**Finance and Government Performance:** Cleeton discussed the recovery funds. There will be a webinar Thursday at noon.

**Parks and Recreation:** Hombosky discussed committee approvals. Pine Wood Derby was approved via email.

**Human Resources:** Eaton discussed human resource committee meeting regarding the nonuniform contract negotiations. Holderman discussed current vacancies in the Borough.

**Safety:** Brachbill discussed the COG safety meeting. SAFR grant was discussed. A marketing firm will be selected and approved by Council on June 7, 2021.

**Water and Sanitation:** Johnson discussed riff raff week. Musser Lane compost center will remain on Covid hours.

**Streets:** DBI/YMCA cornhole tournament was discussed. By A Thread requested vendors outside of her shop for grand opening on July 17 from 10-3.

Abbott moved to conditionally approve the By A Thread event after final discussion with the committee. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

Proposed changes to the diamond area were discussed. Abbot moved to approve the changes and submit the changes to PennDOT for approval. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Abbot moved to approve ten designated spaces for rent by the Centre County Gov't for employees at \$50 per month per space with seven spaces in the North parking lot and three in the South parking lot. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried.

Abbott moved to approve the Chalk the Walk event for 2021. Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Curbside parking spots in the front of the local restaurants was discussed. The committee thought that it would be best to do this gradually. Abbott moved to limit the spaces to be one per restaurant starting June 1, 2021 and eliminate all together starting after Labor Day. Prendergast seconded. Brachbill amended the motion to carry the one stop on until January 1, 2022. Hombosky seconded. Motion carried.

**Energy and Environmental Conservation:** Prendergast stated that a committee meeting will be set up to review the emergency management and solar reports.

**Zoning and Planning:**

Pa Historical Museum Committee is requested to award a grant for a statewide project and looking for Bellefonte's involvement as a pass through.

Johnson moved to propose and request funding from the state Historical Preservation Office to have them conduct a study of the economic impacts of local preservation programs in Bellefonte as one of several COG communities in Pennsylvania with the PA Heritage Foundation acting as administrator. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

341 West Lamb Street – Bellefonte Mart Land Development Plan

Brachbill moved to approve the land development plan. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**HARB:**

431 East Curtin Street - door and step project, 447 East Curtin Street – roof, 109 South Thomas Street window replacement

Prendergast moved to approve the projects as presented. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

A conflict in the ordinance pertaining to flowers in the right of way was discussed.

Defective sidewalk report was presented.

Prendergast moved to approve the list. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

**Special Committee Reports:** Special committee reports were received by Council.

Brachbill moved to hold and schedule standing Council meetings. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Final draft of the strategic management plan was reviewed.

Prendergast moved to approve the STMP plan. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried.

Draft of the Ordinance for the local human relations commission along with an MOU was placed in the council packet. It will be reviewed at the June 7 Work Session.

Lobby has been closed to public since Covid started. The lobby will reopen the lobby on June 1 with full start of in-person staffing.

Revisions were made to the sidewalk ordinance.

Prendergast moved to approve the draft with amendments. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Covid guidelines were discussed. It was suggested that Council meetings be held in person from here on out.

Johnson moved to hold in person Council meetings with continued masking as outlined by Wolf starting June 7, 2021. Brachbill seconded. Wilson stated that he wished to stay on Zoom as he did not want to wear a mask for four hours in person. Johnson called the question. Motion unanimously failed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Property owner submitted email with comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brachbill moved to adjourn. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.