

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

The June 7, 2021 virtual meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

**Consent Agenda:** Nothing presented.

**Oral:** Nothing presented.

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

Bellefonte Area High School Orchestra Program suggested for July 11 was referred to Parks and Recreation Committee due to a conflict with the BHCA Summer Sounds program.

Brachbill moved to approve a neighborhood block party from 2 to 9 pm in the 700 block of W. Lamb Street on September 4 with a rain date of September 5, 2021 for. Prendergast second. Motion carried.

Prendergast moved to approve food trucks at Talleyrand Park near the gazebo on September 5, 2021 starting at 2 p.m. for a private 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration. Brachbill seconded. The food truck ordinance was discussed. This request was for a private special event mean for the event participants only. Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to approve the request for Movies in the Park on June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, and August 7 at dusk each of these evenings. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

CATA service and resident concerns were discussed.

Prendergast moved to **send a letter to our state level elected officials to** oppose Senate Bill 597 with regard to placing community water and sewer systems under additional regulations associated with the PUC. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Brachbill moved to have in-person meetings, leaving the Zoom call for residents that may want to participate. Johnson seconded. Brachbill opined that everyone is encouraged to open up and that the Council should open up to. Eaton did not see the benefit of having in person meetings when the meetings can be done on Zoom. Hombosky opined that the Council has had more participation since they went to Zoom than in person. Brachbill called the question. Motion failed 5-3.

Three applications were received for the West Ward Council vacancy. Johnson nominated Frank Buddy Halderman for the West Ward vacancy. Cleeton seconded. Prendergast nominated Bill Kerry. Hombosky seconded. Mr. Johnson discussed the letters from the public that supported Mr. Halderman for the vacancy. Motion carried to nominate and appoint Halderman carried by majority.

**Mayor:** Scott Whitehill is the new parking and animal control officers who was sworn by the Mayor. Gary Lohr was sworn in as Fire Chief at the meeting. Mr. Halderman was also sworn in as a new member of Council at this meeting.

The fireworks law that was passed a couple of years ago may be rescinded by new legislation. Tosti-Vasey encouraged residents to write their legislatures if they want to see this law rescinded. Mr. Halderman moved to have Council write a letter in support of rescission. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried.

**Council President:** Tosti-Vasey discussed the ICLEI Sustainability Cohort program\_\_\_\_\_ which crafts sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction plans. The Borough joined in with the training in May and have had three meetings thus far. A sustainability board will be set up.

**Building and Property:** Nothing reported.

**Finance and Government Performance:** The American Rescue Plan funds were discussed. The finance committee will be on June 8 at 10 a.m. to review.

**Parks and Recreation:** DCNR grant was discussed for the suspension bridge. The County is helping with a request for a land development plant.

**Human Resources:** Eaton discussed the topics in the employee manual that will be under review. The two refuse positions were filled.

**Safety:** Brachbill updated Council on the SAFR grant. Brachbill moved to approve First Arriving to provide marketing and training support for the fire department. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

**Water and Sanitation:** Johnson discussed the state recycling grant application. Holderman discussed in depth. The tub grinder rental was discussed.

Eaton moved to move ahead with the grant projects. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Compost sale from the facility was discussed. Johnson moved to accept the proposal from DiLullo regarding the sale of the compost. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried.

**Streets:** Abbott discussed several streets projects and ordinances, in particular the grass in between the sidewalk and the street. Safety issues were discussed. Ornamental growth was suggested to be removed from the ordinance.

Abbott moved to remove the ornamental wording from the ordinance and to advertise now with the intent to start enforcement in 2022. Johnson seconded.

Halderman discussed beautification efforts in Bellefonte and how taking the wording out does not help with this. He stated that there is often grass space in between the area and the street where one can walk between mulch and trees. Brachbill stated that the ordinance calls out how high the plantings can be i.e. 6 inches. He opined that there just needs to be accessibility to get out of a car along the curb. Section E of the ordinance was screen shared for Council members.

Motion carried with one nay (Halderman).

Traffic calming update was given by Abbott. Parking app was discussed. Sidewalk replacement letters have been sent. Street sweeping was discussed. Street patching was discussed. Tree replacement was discussed briefly.

**Energy and Environmental Conservation:** Nothing to report.

**Zoning and Planning:** There is a June 14, 2021 PC meeting scheduled.

**HARB: Certificates of Appropriateness – 429 North Spring Street, gutter replacement**

Prendergast moved to approve the project. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried with one recusal.

Short Term Rental Ordinance committee members have been selected and the first meeting will soon be scheduled.

**Special Committee Reports:** Special committee reports were received by Council members. Stewart presented the Airport Authority report. Johnson presented the Nittany Valley MPO report. Brachbill discussed the PSAB Board of Directors meeting on June 2-3, 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The proposed Human Relations Commission ordinance was discussed in work session. The ordinance sections will be revised and move to advertise in July 2021. Legal counsel will be sought on the draft.

Brachbill moved to approve the 2021 CDBG project for the Streetscape Project on South Spring Street and West Bishop Street. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Keeping trash and businesses free of litter was discussed. The enforcement officer may be consulted. The Faith Centre was discussed. The stacks of clothing and refuse at their door is unsightly on the weekends. Johnson opined that it is a disgrace to the town to see the items accumulate over the weekend in the center of town.

Halderman would like Council to look into having public meetings held in person again. Some people are not internet savvy and cannot view the meetings online.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

August 16, 2021 Council meeting was up for consideration to cancel and to set up a Council retreat. Stewart asked Council interest.

Johnson moved to cancel the August 16, 2021 Council meeting. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried with one nay, Brachbill.

Stewart presented a sample agenda for a retreat to Council. The retreat would possibly be held in person.

The agenda with proposed motions helped with the prior meeting. This agenda did not have the proposed motions. Brachbill offered that that was helpful in speeding up the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nothing presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brachbill moved to adjourn. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.