

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 21, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

The June 21, 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:**

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:**

Mr. Frank Halderman  
Mr. Ralph Stewart, Manager

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager  
Chief Sean Weaver

---

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

**Consent Agenda:** Finance May 2021 reports were received. Cleeton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

**Oral:** Nothing presented.

**Written Communications:** Written communications were received by Council members.

**Mayor:** Tom Wilson

Wilson discussed animal control enforcement and parking meter revenue report. The Cruise was discussed. There was a pretty good weekend in town, per Wilson. County grant funding was announced at the train station by Happy Valley Adventure Bureau. Businesses within Borough

received \$70,000 in grant monies via several entities, A performing arts event at Talleyrand Park is under consideration for August 6-7, 2021. Prendergast moved to conditionally approve the performing arts event with bands playing over the weekend and food trucks, Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

**Council President:** Joanne Tosti-Vasey

Tosti-Vasey updated Council on the waterfront development and gave a report on the Pennsylvania Municipal League Sustainability Conference.

**Building and Property:** Frank Halderman (excused)

Holderman presented the report. The west lot recycling containers were discussed. Relocation was discussed.

Holderman thanked the parks crews for mowing Union Cemetery this year due to lack of volunteers, the employees had the cemetery looking really sharp over Memorial Day weekend. Tosti-Vasey reported that the roadways in Union Cemetery have been paved have been paved using a charitable gift to the cemetery through the Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation.

**Finance and Government Performance:** Deb Cleeton

American Rescue funding was discussed by Holderman.

Cleeton moved to approve police vehicle lease. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried/ Cleeton moved to upgrade the police department with 11 body cams with double storage capacity with a cost of \$7,260.00. Prendergast seconded, Motion carried,

**Parks and Recreation:** Melissa Hombosky

Standing P&R Committee meetings will be held each Thursday following a council meeting at Hombosky moved to approve Summer Sounds series 2021. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried.

Hombosky moved to approve Bellefonte H.S. Orchestra to perform July 11, 2021 at 5 p.m. at Talleyrand at the bandshell, Johnson seconded, Motion carried.

Johnson moved to conditionally approve the additional Under the Lights date of Saturday, September 4, 2021 making this a two-night event on September 3-4 from noon to midnight each day. Brachbill seconded, Motion carried. The event will occur at 4:30 p.m.

**Human Resources:** Jon Eaton

Eaton moved to approve Section 112 Ethics Requirement of the employee manual. Brachbill seconded, Motion carried with one nay, Johnson.

Update given on new hires in Refuse. Staff is at full capacity, per Holderman.

The anti-discrimination ordinance and harassment policy were sent for legal review.

**Safety:** Randy Brachbill

Vultures issues were discussed.

Standing Committee meeting times have not yet been set up.

Cleaning up after dogs was discussed and subsequent fines and signs were discussed.

The SEDA-COG report was discussed briefly.

The fire executive meeting will be held on Jun 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

**Water and Sanitation:** Doug Johnson

The next Water Authority meeting will be held July 7 due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday requiring the council meeting to be held on July 6 at the regularly scheduled time for the Water Authority.

Holderman reported that Stewart will invite/see if the authority is interested in a joint council/authority work session on August 2.

Meetings for this committee will be set up on as-needed basis.

**Streets:** Mary Abbott

The sink hole on Locust Lane has been filled temporarily with a permanent fix at a later date.

Regular street sweeping throughout the borough has begun

The contract was signed with Buchart-Horn for the cover at the Big Spring and a traffic study at the intersection next to Big Spring.

Pennoni Engineering quoted the cost of reviewing the stormwater issues at Zion Road and Parkwood Drive to be \$14,500; they confirmed through PennDOT that this project can come out of the Highway Aid Funds.

Grant funding was discussed benefitting the visually impaired. North Central Sight Service attended the Streets Committee Meeting and offered the possibility a 50% match grants to the borough for projects to assist people who are blind or have low vision. The borough might be able to use some of these funds for the new curb cuts and bumpy pads at the diamond and later use some of these funds for auditory signals at the traffic lights throughout town.

Abbott moved to recommend the low bidder, Roadsafe Traffic Systems quote for \$29,900, for the temporary traffic calming measures. Johnson seconded. Motion carried. The barriers at the diamond will remain up until the temporary delimitators and curbing arrive and installed.

The paving list was changed. McAllister Street was deleted due to additional work being needed under the street; it will be done on the next round of paving. Church Lane at N. Spring Street was added to the list.

Sidewalk repairs were discussed.

Holderman reported that the PennDOT permit to move forward with the traffic-calming changes to the Diamond area has been received.

Faith Centre donations being left over the weekend was discussed. Johnson opined that this should have been fixed two years ago.

Blocking off roads without permit or notice to 911 and the police by contractors was discussed.

#### **Energy and Environmental Conservation:**

Prendergast discussed the Emergency Management Plan and solar plan.

#### **Zoning and Planning:**

Prendergast moved to approve the lot consolidation plan for the Luckovich property contingent upon County comment. Cleeton seconded, Johnson called the question. Motion carried.

**HARB: Certificates of Appropriateness -**  
**134 W. Pike Street – window replacement**  
**325 W. High Street deck addition, window replacement**  
**338 E. Linn Street – paint color change**  
**125 N. Spring Street – roof repair**

Brachbill moved to approve certificates of appropriateness for the projects as presented. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Extensive discussion was held on the roof project at My Café Buzz. It was mentioned that HARB denied the request for the shed type roof. Tosti-Vasey clarified that HARB did not disapprove the shed roof, but the material of the roof. The property owner spoke regarding the roof and challenges of the project. HARB requested that the property owner come back before HARB with this project. The property owner preferred not to come back with the project again, Council members went back and forth about whether or not to approve it ahead of the HARB meeting. Hombosky discussed a conditional approval upon HARB's sign off.

Hombosky moved to conditionally approve the shed style roof with matching shingles with HARB's approval at their meeting tomorrow. Prendergast seconded.

Johnson made a substitute motion to fully approve the shed style roof with matching shingles. There was no second.

Original Motion carried.

**Special Committee Reports:** Special committee reports were received by Council members. These included the joint Bellefonte Area Industrial Development/Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation meeting regarding at-risk properties and the Public Hearing held by CATA regarding the proposed changes to the Bellefonte CATA-GO and regular CATA services. Council requested that the Executive Director attend one of the meetings in July to discuss and present the final changes to the scheduling.

**Borough Manager: Stewart** – Report was submitted. A discussion on when and how to determine what to cover in the Council retreat was discussed. Stewart will survey the council as to topics to be covered and at the July 6 meeting will determine whether or not and when (1-day v 2-day) the retreat will occur.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Letter to CATA with proposed changes from Borough Manager was submitted.

Brachbill moved to approve Resolution 062121-01 and letters regarding the RCAP grant for the Waterfront Development Project. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Eaton moved to approve chapter 425-3 amendments to Building Safety and Property Maintenance Code regarding ornamental flowers in the right of way. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried with one nay, Tosti-Vasey.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Prendergast moved to approve the Talleyrand Bandshell Project. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Johnson moved to approve sending a letter to Corman and Benninghoff in support of HB1381 to allow council meetings quorums to include. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Wilson reported that the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Pennsylvania Mayor's Conference will be held on July 15-17 with Rep. Benninghoff speaking on the police radar bill and Council President and DEP representative Heidi Kunkle presenting on climate issues and policy at this meeting on July 15.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nothing presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brachbill moved to adjourn. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.