

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

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

Executive Session and Work Sessions were held prior to the meeting,

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mr. Douglas Johnson
Mr. Jon Eaton
Mayor Tom Wilson
Ms. Melissa Hombosky
Ms. Debbie Cleeton
Mr. Frank Halderman
Ms. Mary Abbott
Mr. Michael Prendergast

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
Shawn Weaver, Police Chief
Harry Brooks- Code Enforcement Officer
Shawn Luse- BB Police Officer

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Minutes: Brachbill **moved** to approve the minutes. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Tim Manis, Landscape Architect spoke about the ornamental plantings in the right of way. He will assist the Streets Committee in reviewing and possibly coming up with an alternative way to handle the concerns raised related to the current ordinance.

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

Brachbill **moved** to approve Watermarke Church's request for a banner to be hung September 12 through 19, 2021 on Veteran's Bridge. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Reimagine Appalachia resolution was on the table for consideration. Resolution No. 2021-09-07-03. Prendergast **moved** to approve the resolution. Cleeton seconded the motion. Halderman inquired about the resolution and discussed who was supporting this resolution and Bellefonte not being part of the areas within the resolution. Tosti-Vasey explained that this is a climate action resolution dealing with the infrastructure and the organization sponsoring it is trying to get both nonprofits and governmental entities to sign on to help communities. Abbott **made a substitute motion** to refer the resolution to the Environmental Committee. Prendergast seconded the motion. Brachbill and Johnson agreed that it should be voted down and be done with at the meeting. Roll call vote: Eaton, yes; Hombosky, yes; Prendergast, yes; Tosti-Vasey, yes; , Abbott yes; Johnson, no; Halderman, no; Cleeton, no; and Brachbill, no. Motion to refer carried.

League of Women Voters' requested to hang banner on the light posts in the downtown area below the Hometown Heroes banners. This was referred to HARB to recommend a policy on hanging banners on the banner with final review by Streets Committee. Halderman asked that labor costs be reviewed in the process. Brachbill did not want to see the banners obstruct the Hometown Heroes' banners.

Centre County Airport along with the commissioners are trying to create a pool of incentives to create additional flights into the area from Atlanta, etc. This was referred to the finance committee. Johnson explained the funding process to support attracting a new flight to Charlotte from SCE and suggested an amount between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

Centre County Booking Center agreement with the Borough was discussed. This was referred to the finance committee.

Annual EMS joint meeting was discussed. Follow up was referred to the finance committee.

A request to install a crosswalk between the Courthouse and Annex on East High Street was referred to the Streets Committee.

Covid-19 testing press release was announced.

Johnson **moved** to refer to Parks Committee and review and give final approval for the public picnic request sponsored by Centre Point Church on September 18, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Office of Community Affairs:

PLANNING COMMISSION: Planning Commission meeting will be held September 13, 2021.

Thompson gave a brief overview of the short-term rental ordinance and asked Council for questions.

Mayor: Wilson complimented the organizers and volunteers for another successful Under the Lights event this year.

Council President: Federal Assistance program for renters was discussed.

Building and Property: Nothing reported.

Finance and Government Performance: Cleeton **moved** to approve Resolution 09072021-01. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation: Hombosky **moved** to approve the Elks Lodge soccer event in Governor's Park on September 18, 2021 beginning at 1 p.m. Abbott seconded. Motion carried.

Human Resources: Committee meeting will be held on September 8.

Safety: A COG Public Safety meeting will be held on September 14.

Water/Refuse/Compost Facility: Johnson **moved to table** action on the One Water Report resolution until after the Spring Creek Watershed Commission has a chance to respond to the Bellefonte Borough Water Authority's letter. Prendergast seconded. Brachbill suggested referring the Resolution to the Water Authority. Motion to table carried.

Authority meets on September 8, 2021 in person and is open to the public.

Streets: Abbott discussed several streets projects, including Pedestrian Crossing system, Railroad Street Bridge, Diamond Design and Crawford Lane vehicle speeding, meter parking, and the right of way ordinance. No council action was taken.

Energy and Environmental Conservation: The ICLEA meeting, SUN (Solar United Neighbors) Solar membership information, and the Bright Cities Grant Program were discussed.

Prendergast **moved** to approve the SUN Solar membership partnership program. Cleeton seconded. Brachbill felt that the public needs to know more about this program before Bellefonte becomes a partner. Prendergast explained that community membership would be available to any community member who might be considering solar energy for their homes and the only cost would be for the actual installations by the property owner members joining the Co-Op after they individually sign a contract with the installer. Motion carried with two nays – Brachbill and Halderman.

Special Committee Reports: Nothing presented.

Manager Report: Nothing presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Right of Way ordinance draft was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Policing and Communities of Color Task Force Report was received, and a presentation will be done at the next meeting Work Session by Emil Cunningham.

Eaton **moved** to require wearing masks in council chambers and throughout the borough building for everyone unless you are not in close contact with others or you are in your own office until further notice. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Term limits/rotation of Council Chair, Co-Chair, and Pro Tempore was discussed. This issue will be referred to the Ad Hoc Committee for review

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

Eaton **moved** to adjourn. Prendergast seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.