

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 20, 2021- 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

The September 20, 2021 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 p.m.

A Work Session was held prior to the meeting; topics covered were a presentation on Policing and Communities of Color Report presented by Dr. Emil Cunningham and a presentation by the Hartman Group Insurance on borough liability issues.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey  
Mr. Randall Brachbill

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Dr. Emil L. Cunningham  
Barbara Dann  
M. Alex Germano  
Matt Bonchack, Hartman Group  
Don Gaetano, Hartman Group

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**Additions to the Agenda:** None.

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

Amendments to the agenda were discussed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comment was given by Dr. Alex Germano with concerns about the projects that the Verizon building is undertaking that has gone through HARB. He had objection to the louvers and would like Verizon to hold the building to a higher standard historical window and a noise pollution reassessment is done due to the noise coming from the building.

**Consent Agenda:** Brachbill removed 145 West High Street and 217 North Allegheny Street HARB. Eaton moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Brachbill discussed the 145 West High Street project; the mounting of the mini-split unit was clarified that it will be on the Spring Street side. Brachbill moved to approve the project for the Spring Street side. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Johnson discussed the concerns with the Verizon building HARB project. He agreed and opined that it needed further review with the noise pollution that the louvers are creating. The failed maintenance of the front louvers was discussed. Stewart stated that the architect will be contacted. Brachbill moved to table the Verizon project. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

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

Prendergast moved to approve use of the Bellefonte fire police, if available, to assist Howard Fire at the Punkin' Chunkin event on October 16, 2021. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Prendergast moved to conditionally approve the parade route for the Annual Halloween Parade on October 30, 2021 including the closures until 4 p.m. Johnson seconded. Motion carried. The remaining portion of the request was referred to the Streets Committee for final review and acceptance.

Johnson moved to approve the December 11, 2021 date for the BAHS Class of 22 Raider Reindeer 4K. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried. The remaining portion of the request was referred to the Streets Committee for review and recommendation.

Parking concerns correspondence was added to the agenda.

### **Office of Community Affairs:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Next PC meeting will be held on October 11, 2021. The sign ordinance was briefly discussed. The League of Women Voters banner was discussed briefly. It was briefly discussed at HARB due to time constraints.

HARB: HARB recommends that rather than having banners attached under the current Hometown Hero banners, that requests like this be considered for placement as banners across West High and

South Allegheny Streets on our banner poles. This issue is now referred to the Streets Committee for review.

**Mayor:**

Department is down a vehicle due to an accident.

Wilson discussed fireworks regulations. PML is requesting a firework hearing relative to Act 43 and consumer fireworks. Eaton moved to contact the state legislators relative to reversing the consumer fireworks legalization. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

The October 3, 2021 Outdoor Expo will be held in Talleyrand Park. This is the second expo and will run from noon until 5 p.m. There will be live music to run to 7 p.m.

**Council President:** Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting was discussed. The Bellefonte Water Authority letter was discussed at this meeting. An official reply will be sent soon.

Lightning struck one of the historical homes in the Borough last week. Five fire companies assisted, and minimal damage was sustained. The home was saved. Tosti-Vasey thanked all of the emergency responders who helped save the Garret house and all of their work throughout the year. She requested a moment of silence in their honor.

**Building and Property:** Nothing reported.

**Finance and Government Performance:** Cleeton moved to assist with funding in the amount of \$1,500 to obtain two American Airlines flights originating from State College to Charlotte NC. This money will only be expended if American Airlines commits to these two flights per day. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried with one nay.

**Parks and Recreation:** Nothing presented for action.

**Human Resources:** Public works union agreement negotiations were discussed. No action items.

**Safety:** No action items.

**Water/Refuse/Compost Facility:** Draft Authority minutes in packet. No action items.

**Streets:** Abbott discussed the survey results regarding the plans for traffic calming around the diamond. Public comment meetings will be held on November 4, 2021 6:30 p.m. and November 6, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Abbott moved to advertise the public meetings including CNET coverage. Brachbill seconded. Motion carried. The vegetation ordinance will be discussed at the committee meeting on September 30, 2021.

**Energy and Environmental Conservation:** Prendergast moved to approve the Bright Cities grant program application. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

**Special Committee Reports:** CCMPO meeting will be held and the road projects will be discussed, including Phoenix Avenue intersection. State College connector public comment period will be held on September 22 and 23 from 1 to 8 p.m. at the Windham Hotel in Boalsburg.

**Manager Report:** Report provided.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Nothing presented for Council action.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Nothing presented for Council action.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Nothing presented.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.