

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Reorganization and Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2022- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The January 3, 2022, meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Buddy Johnson at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence for family, friends and neighbors who were not with us in the start of 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mr. Douglas Johnson
Ms. Barbara Dann
Ms. Shawna McKean
Mayor Buddy Johnson
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
Mr. Kent Bernier
Ms. Deborah Cleeton
Ms. Rita Purnell

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

Mr. Bernier was sworn in as Council member.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Mr. Johnson moved to nominate Mr. Brachbill for President. With no opposition, Mr. Brachbill was appointed President.

Mr. Brachbill moved to nominate Mr. Johnson for Vice-President. With no opposition, Mr. Johnson was appointed Vice President.

Mr. Brachbill moved to nominate Mr. Bernier for office of Pro Tem.

Mr. Brachbill moved to nominate Ms. Dann for office of Pro Tem.

Roll call vote was taken with a 6/3 vote in favor of Mr. Bernier.

Gavel was transferred to Mr. Brachbill.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items) None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Ms. Tosti-Vasey discussed the One Water Plan project. She indicated that this would need to be decided by the next Council meeting. She inquired about a response from the solicitor regarding short term rental properties. Stormwater Engineering Consulting Services was left off tonight's agenda. That appointment will be made at a later date.

Consent Agenda: Nothing actionable presented.

Written Communications:

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to conditionally approved the Friday in the Fonte events for 2022. The fees, except for application fee, are waived and more information needs to be obtained regarding control of alcohol sales. Dates will be confirmed for availability once all staff returns. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to conditionally approve the Chalk the Walk event on July 29, 2022, starting at 4 p.m. on High, Allegheny and parts of downtown Bellefonte. Mr. Bernier seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Tosti-Vasey moved to conditionally approve the Bellefonte Under the Lights dinner for Friday September 2 and 3, 2022, providing dates are available from 4 p.m. Friday till 8:30 p.m. on Saturday with rain dates of September 9 and 10. If construction commences on the site, the dinner will be moved to the park. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to conditionally approve the Outdoor Expo for October 2, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. conditioned on availability of those dates, pending a plan for control of proposed craft beverages. Fee waived except for application fee. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to approve Small Business Saturday for 2022 and allow for the banner to be hung across High Street from November 15 to January 1, 2023, with the caveat that if another

request comes in the banner only by flown between November 15 and 29, or until the two days prior to the next request for a banner hanging. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to conditionally approve the Winter Market on December 10, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. including set up and take down in conjunction with Victorian Christmas. Mr. Johnson seconded.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey had concerns as last month when the event was held there was some upset regarding the lack of coordination between the Arts and Crafts Fair and Winter Market. At the December 20, 2021, meeting, Council discussed that the discussions would occur, and they would coordinate vendors. Nothing in the request letter states this. Mr. Johnson stated that he was not concerned and recommended conditional approval. Motion carried with one nay Tosi-Vasey.

Office of Community Affairs:

PLANNING COMMISSION:

ZONING:

140 Railroad Street, Demolition Permit Request

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the demolition of 140 Railroad Street. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried. Ms. Thompson agreed to correspond with the owner to ensure that the demolition is done in an environmentally safe manner due to its proximity to Buffalo Run.

RESOURCES: Information was provided to Council 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bernier moved to approve moving to a rotation of Council leadership. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve Resolution 20211220-01. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson moved to rescind the motion on the parking spaces reinstatement at the Brownstone building, northwest corner of the diamond, from the December 20, 2021, meeting. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson moved to reinstate the two spaces that are closest to the YMCA sidewalk as originally designed. Mr. Bernier seconded.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to restrict the two parking spaces to compact cars and to be posted no trucks, SUVs, according to vehicle code. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried. The amended motion then carried with one nay - Tosti-Vasey.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Cleeton moved to discuss changing the mask mandate for the Borough building. Motion failed as it had no second.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to appoint Mr. Jon Eaton to the Borough Authority.
Mr. Johnson moved to appoint Mr. Joe Beigle to the Borough Authority.
Council appointed Mr. Jon Eaton to the Authority via 5-4 hand raised vote.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to conditionally appoint Mr. Mark Edwards to the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Stewart stated he agreed on the conditional appointment until he checked with staff.

Ms. Cleeton moved to appoint Mr. Doug Johnson to the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Bernier seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson moved to appoint Mr. Dave Lomison to the Borough Planning Commission. Mr. Bernier seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to appoint Mr. Dave Lomison to the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to appoint herself and Mr. Jon Eaton to the Spring Creek Water Shed Commission. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to appoint Bob McWilliams to the Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Cleeton moved to recommend appointment of Mr. Doug Johnson to the CCMPO. Mr. Bernier seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson moved to reappoint Stanley Wallace as Borough SEO. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to advertise the position for the Vacancy Board. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Committee appointments were discussed at length.

Mr. Bernier moved to have a committee as a whole. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion of how to run the work sessions as presented by Mr. Stewart. Park View Heights issues was added to the list of potential topics to the one that Mr. Stewart listed. These will be presented at the next meeting for council to pick and choose the priority items.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to give the nonunion employees the same wage increase as the public works employees including the \$1500 one-time bonus for employees who are in the Defined Benefit Retirement program. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.