

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2022- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The January 18, 2022, meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Randy Brachbill, Council President, at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence to remember firefighters who may have been affected by cancer, and their families.

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
Sean Weaver, Police Chief

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Appointment of Stormwater Engineer for 2022. This will be listed under New Business.

Tosti-Vasey moved to add appointment of stormwater engineer 2022 to the agenda. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items) None.

Written Communications:

Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the Bellefonte Little League's Duck Race request for Talleyrand Park using the spring fed side of the waterway on April 22, 2022, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. This approval includes use of safety guidelines from 2021 and following CDC guidelines in place at the time of the event. Dann seconded. Motion carried.

Dann moved to approve the road closure of Allegheny Street from Howard to Burroughs for May 7, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Centre County Library's Novel Com event. Approval is conditioned upon PennDOT approval of the street closure and communications with the Bellefonte Police, residents, and businesses within a block of the street closure. Cleeton seconded. Tosti-Vasey inquired about closing West Howard as it would impact less traffic.

Tosti-Vasey moved to table. Bernier seconded. Motion carried.

Bernier moved to approve the Centered Outdoors event at Talleyrand Park June 19-22, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Approval is conditional upon following CDC guidelines at the time of the event. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the event and waive fees due to in-kind donations. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Johnson moved to approve a meeting between Borough Council and representatives of the Borough Authority. Dann seconded. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Tosti-Vasey moved to accept the Consent Agenda, less the minutes. Sedgwick seconded. Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021, as amended. Ms. Purnell seconded. Motion carried.

Cleeton moved to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022, as amended. Tosti-Vasey seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS: Mayor Johnson gave a brief report on his first few weeks as Mayor. Chief Weaver spoke briefly about the police report presented to Council.

Office of Community Affairs:

PLANNING COMMISSION: Draft meeting minutes provided.

ZONING: Centre Region Code report provided.

Cleeton moved to increase snow removal fees from \$25 to \$50 to be in line with the grass cutting fine of \$50. Sedgwick seconded. Motion carried.

HARB:

Tosti-Vasey moved to appoint Mike Leakey, registered architect to HARB with a term ending December 31, 2027. McKean seconded. Motion carried.

LIASON REPORTS: Brachbill discussed the liaison report listing. Tosti-Vasey had suggested additions to the report list.

CURRENT/OLD BUSINESS:

Johnson moved to support the letter from the Bellefonte Water Authority dated January 11, 2022, sent to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission (SCWC) not to join the One Water Plan. Dann seconded.

Tosti-Vasey discussed the Borough's involvement with the One Water Plan and how it related to Spring Creek that runs through the Big Spring. Stewart clarified that the Water Authority is not interested in being regulated on how to sell water in the future or who gets the water. They asked for a resolution to clarify their points. Johnson discussed the Authority's recommendation to Council. The Authority is not interested in having another layer of government control over the Borough water source. The Borough can always become part of the One Water Plan at a later date, if determined beneficial and appropriate. Sedgwick discussed resident input. Brachbill discussed cost and withdrawing from the One Water Plan and assets remaining with the SCWC. The prior Nestle event was discussed briefly.

Roll call vote: Bernier, yes, Brachbill, yes, Cleeton, yes, Dann, yes, Johnson, yes, McKean, yes, Purnell, yes, Sedgwick, yes, Tosti-Vasey, nay. Motion carried, 8-1.

The Penn State Sustainability initiative was discussed briefly. No Council action taken.

Cleeton moved to advertise the LERTA draft ordinance and approve correspondence with school district and the County regarding their interest/approval. Dann seconded. Motion was withdrawn.

Tosti-Vasey moved to advertise for public hearing on the LERTA ordinance with posting of the ordinance on the website to be held on February 7, 2022, at the Council meeting. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Bernier moved to set a date and time for a Council orientation using Google calendar, during a Council work session, date, and time to be determined. Tosti-Vasey seconded. Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey moved to approve and appoint Donald M. Franson, P.E., P.L.S., as the Borough Stormwater Engineer for 2022. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Riff raff and yard sale dates were discussed. The Cruise's donation of \$2,500 for a picnic bench at Talleyrand Park was discussed. Stewart thanked The Cruise staff for their donation.

The EV charger was damaged during a power surge. The cost for repair is up to \$4,000.

Tosti-Vasey moved to replace the EV charging stations in the North Lot with an estimate of \$3,800.00 using money from the parking fund. Cleeton seconded.

History of the EV stations were discussed. Possible grant monies were discussed. Johnson discussed costs for the meter base alone and additional charges for electric when a vehicle is charging.

Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey moved to appoint Brian Varner to the Authority. Cleeton seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bernier, nay, Brachbill, nay, Cleeton, yes, Dann, nay, Johnson, nay, McKean, nay, Purnell, nay, Sedgwick, yes, Tosti-Vasey, yes. Motion failed 6-3

Johnson moved to appoint Joe Beigle to the Authority. Dann seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bernier, yes, Brachbill, yes, Cleeton, nay, Dann, yes, Johnson, yes, McKean, yes, Purnell, yes, Sedgwick, nay, Tosti-Vasey, nay. Motion carried. Motion carried, 6-3.

2022 Council goals listing was discussed briefly.

Tosti-Vasey discussed the history of the Climate Action plan committee involvement with the Borough's concerns. Brachbill had concerns about Council not knowing costs of anything that is proposed to be done. Tosti-Vasey stated that the programs would not cost anything and if the committee was disbanded, the services may not be able to be brought back into the Borough again. Brachbill would like copies of the minutes at the very least. Council was asked if anyone would like to serve on the committee.

Rodney Beard, attorney for the IDA completed the paperwork for the Gamble Mill property project. The money came to the Borough as a grant with the understanding that the Borough turns around and makes it a loan to the Gamble Mill owners. It is a loan that keeps on helping down the line with other properties that may need help in rehabilitation and refurbishment. The Gamble Mill is basically refinancing, and the bank wishes to have a high debt on the debt possessions that the money via the grant. This is called a subordinate mortgage. Holderman

reiterated that Council already agreed to be subordinate, and they knew the Gamble Mill would go out for refinancing.

Johnson moved to agree to the revised subordinate mortgage. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried with one nay, Tosti-Vasey.

NEW BUSINESS: No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Nothing presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

Johnson moved to adjourn. Dann seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate