

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2021- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The October 4, 2021 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey at 7:30 pm.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Dann

Additions to the Agenda: Items were added to the agenda under Environmental and Sustainability and Safety.

Minutes: Nothing presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

Consent Agenda: Tosti-Vasey removed two items regarding Victorian Christmas and the Parks and Rec DBI Under the lights document from the Consent agenda. Brachbill removed the DBI

small business shopping information. Johnson pulled the Verizon HARB correspondence from the Consent Agenda as well.

Eaton moved to accept the Consent Agenda, excluding those items pulled. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Johnson discussed the Verizon building. He discussed the letter regarding the Verizon building renovations asked what Council members thought of the response. Ms. Thompson stated that the engineer has a meeting scheduled with the property owner next door. She does not know the outcome of the meeting, but she knows that the Verizon representative was open to speaking with the resident and explaining the project in detail. The noise would decrease.

Johnson moved to approve the HARB recommendation for 217 North Allegheny Street from the September 20, 2021, Council meeting. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Brachbill discussed the DBI shop small event. The banner was discussed.

Brachbill moved to approve the letter with a recommendation to leave the banner in place if no other banners are requested to be hung. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey discussed the consent agenda for Bellefonte Victorian Christmas. She has questions regarding COVID. She would like Streets to review this event relative to the CDC recommendation to wear masks indoors.

Tosti-Vasey discussed the DBI Under the Lights consent agenda item. They requested a food truck on the street, and she was not sure how that would infringe on other businesses in town. Hombosky stated that an exclusion from the ordinance would apply to private events.

Prendergast moved to approve the DBI Under the Lights' request. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Written Communications: No Council action was taken. Communications were received from the Faith Centre on the proposed diamond changes and on an announcement regarding the Reimagine CATA project.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Next Planning Commission meeting is October 11, 2021.

HARB: Halderman discussed the painting project at 153 East Curtin Street presented at the last HARB meeting. He opined that the Board was not very courteous and was condescending to the property owners regarding their color choices. He opined that it was an attack on the property owners' choice of colors versus the personal preference of board members. The HARB also suggested that the property owner remove the shutters, which had nothing to do with the painting request. He stated that the HARB has an advisory power to make a recommendation to the Council and does not have the power to change the choices of homeowners. They are not meant to make case-specific advice and address exceptions or alter features. The guidelines are specific to rehabilitation treatments. He stressed that HARB was only a recommendation body. Mr.

Halderman also commented on HARB's somewhat lack of consistency. Corey Kegerise, the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission representative, confirmed to Halderman that the HARB does not have the authority to force a homeowner to change their color choice to paint the house.

Mr. Halderman moved to approve the colors as submitted to HARB. Johnson seconded.

Thompson discussed her thoughts on the HARB meeting and the color hues of the paint colors picked for the home. She also talked with Corey Kegerise from Pennsylvania Historic Preservation. Mr. Kegerise said that it is not recommended that HARB review paint colors at all, as the paint is easily changed; it is a personal choice for many property owners. She will relay this information back to HARB. There are no illustrative design guidelines, and design guidelines were created in 2010. He encouraged Ms. Thompson, as part of the CLG, that Bellefonte publish illustrated design guidelines to be a part of the CLG. He suggested that an updated guidelines initiative be worked on this year. There are CLG grants available for this type of guideline work. Having design guidelines will aid in averting opinions rather than following design standard guidelines. Ms. Thompson would like to apply for the grant and move on the new design guidelines, which will be placed on the HARB website. Note, the HARB website section is currently not very user-friendly.

Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor: The police report was briefly discussed. The Diamond was discussed. Wilson opined that the reflectors were not appealing to many of the residents. He wanted to express his frustration and residents' frustration that the current condition is not conducive to a historical town, especially in the middle of the Diamond. Wilson encourages residents to express their opinions at the public meeting on November 4, 2021, in Council chambers at 6:30 pm and 10:30 am on November 6, 2021.

Wilson remarked on the Outdoor Expo and music festival and thanked Council members who attended.

Council President: Tosti-Vasey asked that everyone at the meeting use the sign-in sheet.

Building and Property: Halderman discussed setting up a committee meeting to discuss the Enterprise Fleet Rental proposal and replacing a police vehicle totaled in a recent accident.

Finance and Government Performance: Cleeton announced a series of committee meetings to talk about the 2022 budget and referred back to this evening's work session on the smaller 2022 budget proposals.

Parks and Recreation: Nothing presented for action. Ms. Hombosky thanked the police for continuing to patrol our parks.

Human Resources: Eaton discussed the public works union contract. The next meeting with the Public Works Union is scheduled for 3 pm on October 12, 2021.

Safety: No action items. Vultures in the area of Masullo Park were discussed. Migration seems to have taken care of the problem until the Spring. This issue may be reconvened if necessary.

State police fire marshal and use of Centre County Code fire personnel use were discussed. Brachbill moved to allow the Chief of Fire Department of Bellefonte to work with either the PSP Fire Marshall or Centre Region Code Fire Marshall. Halderman seconded.

Chief Lohr asked that this issue be delayed until a legal opinion is received.

Prendergast moved to table the motion. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Water/Refuse/Compost Facility: Authority meets on October 5 at 6 pm in Council Chambers. Leaf collection was briefly discussed. Grass and brush collection were also discussed.

Streets: Abbott discussed plantings in the right of way between street and sidewalk. The Diamond traffic calming was discussed as well as the upcoming public meetings. Halderman discussed the traffic signals which PennDOT has approved in other municipalities. Signage at the Diamond was discussed, and Tosti-Vasey indicated that Pennoni advised that the signs would likely not be approved for the area in question.

The Streets Committee agreed with HARB that the League of Women Voters' light pole banners would not work well with the Hometown Heroes banners.

Abbott moved to deny the request for League of Women Voters for light pole banners and instead encourage them to put up regular banner(s) across Allegheny and High Streets. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

A moving closure for the Halloween Parade will be in place. Abbott moved to approve the closure of North Allegheny Street from Linn to Lamb Streets between 10 and 11 am and then do a moving street closer from there south on Allegheny Street and then on West High Street from 11 am to noon for the Halloween Parade, pending PennDOT approval. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

Energy and Environmental Conservation: A joint Bellefonte/State College application was submitted for a Bright Cities Grant for tree plantings in both municipalities. Committee meets on October 6 at 4 pm.

Special Committee Reports: Special committee reports were received by Council. A two-year rotation of Council leadership was discussed. The CCMPO meeting was discussed.

Manager Report: Nothing presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Summary relative to airport flight expansion was received by Council. Liquid Fuels application was submitted. Spring Creek Watershed Commission response is forthcoming.

Jim's Restaurant on Cherry Lane submitted road closings concerns affecting surrounding businesses during Friday in the Fonte.

NEW BUSINESS: A resolution with PennDOT to change the railroad crossing at Railroad Street was presented. Brachbill moved to accept resolution No. 10042021-01 Railroad Crossing Upgrades at Railroad Street. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

The General Assembly's Proposed HB 1841 regarding neglected and abandoned cemeteries was discussed. The bill, as currently written, would require municipalities other than 2nd class townships to take over the care of these cemeteries and resting grounds but without any attached funding to this care. Eaton moved to write a letter proposing to include all municipalities and not exclude Second Class Townships and request funding. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing presented.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.