

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 2021- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

The December 6, 2021 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by at 7:30 p.m. Work Session was held prior to the meeting to review the proposed 2022 Budget.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence remembering those lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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
Mr. Michael Prendergast

EXCUSED: Ms. Mary Abbott

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was given on the Diamond traffic calming area. Matt Hill 629 East Beaver spoke on behalf of Free Masons Bellefonte Lodge 268 and the parking permits. The permits expire on December 31, 2021. He would like them extended.

Consent Agenda: Mr. Prendergast moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Written Communications: No Council action taken.

Office of Community Affairs:

PLANNING COMMISSION: PC met on November 8, 2021.

ZONING:

Pop Up Picnic Businesses – Hombosky stated that Parks committee already looked at this and under the current ordinance, they do not currently need permits as events with less than 20 people do not need permission or a permit to use the parks. Items in the description were erroneous and do not apply to the current pop-up picnic business, but could for other, future similar businesses. Tosti-Vasey moved to send this item to Parks committee for review and recommendation. Prendergast seconded. Motion passed.

HARB:

Mayor: Wilson stated a proclamation for Bellefonte Victorian Christmas. The two-hour courtesy parking was discussed. The beaver in the park was discussed. It will be trapped and relocated.

Council President: Nothing reported.

Building and Property: Enterprise Fleet Lease proposal is still being considered.

Finance and Government Performance: EMS millage will be held at .25 as in the past. Countywide EMS service should be considered down the road. Budget for 2022 does include a .5 mill increase to cover shortfall in the general fund. EV charging station electricity recoument was discussed.

Parks and Recreation: Hombosky moved to approve the guided walk through the park by Clearwater on June 19, 2022, waiving fees as in-kind. Tosti-Vasey seconded. Motion carried. Footbridge completion was discussed. It is now too cold to pour concrete. DBI winter market was discussed. There are over 70 vendors.

Human Resources: Eaton moved to approve the public works contract. Tosti-Vasey seconded. Motion carried.

Safety: Workplace safety committee meeting was held on November 17, 2021.

Water/Refuse/Compost Facility: Authority meeting will be held on December 21, 2021. Leaf pick up will end next Monday.

Streets: Tosti-Vasey moved to conditionally approve DBI's request of pole lights and planters to so that DBI can move ahead with their grant applications with the final approval to be given after grants are received, HARB comments are received and final plans are presented to Council. Prendergast seconded. Motion carried with one nay - Brachbill.

Diamond parking options were discussed. Johnson moved to remove the delineators and curbing permanently, restoring the parking by State Burger, and removing the parking by the brownstone. Halderman seconded. Motion carried with five yeas and three nays – Eaton, Prendergast, and Tosti-Vasey.

Energy and Environmental Conservation: The Bright Cities grant was finalized. A request by the Fish and Boat Commission to plant trees along the Waterfront Park was discussed. The Community Environmental Advisory Board met on December 3. The last ICLEI Cohort Training class was held on November 16; there will be some additional follow up from ICLEI in January or February 2022. Tosti-Vasey attended the PML virtual Sustainability Conference on November 16.

No Council action taken.

Special Committee Reports: Reports were received by Council on rotating council leaderships and the creation of a Code of Conduct for Public Meetings. In addition, summary reports of meetings held by the Spring Creek Watershed Commission on November 17th, the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission Meeting on November 18th, and the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) Coordinating Committee meeting on Nov. 23rd were presented

Borough Manager: November 2021 report to be submitted by December 20, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

CNET funding for Bellefonte meetings was discussed as well as a change of council meeting dates to Tuesdays. Johnson moved to approve consider moving the meetings from Monday to first and third Tuesdays. Tosti-Vasey seconded. Motion failed.

2022 Meeting Dates were discussed. A draft will be put in the next packet for review.

Contract Code services agreement was discussed.

Social Media policy was discussed. Hombosky moved to remove from the table. Eaton seconded. Motion carried. Hombosky moved to approve the Bellefonte Borough Council policy for Social Media for individuals and channels. Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

Speed sign on Crawford Lane was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: Prendergast moved to approve the 2022 budget for advertisement. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried with one nay.

Solicitor expenses were discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tosti-Vasey discussed ABC appointments.

ADJOURNMENT: Prendergast moved to adjourn. Cleeton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.