

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2022- 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The June 6, 2022, meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Randy Brachbill at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (followed by a moment of silence.)

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kent Bernier
Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Deborah Cleeton
Ms. Barbara Dann (EXCUSED)
Mr. Douglas Johnson
Ms. Shawna McKean
Ms. Rita Purnell

Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mayor Buddy Johnson (EXCUSED)

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
Shawn Weaver, Police Chief

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Juneteenth – Federal Holiday. The June 20th meeting will be moved to Tuesday June 21st.
*Tosti-Vasey made a motion to move the 6/20/2022 meeting to 6/21/2022. D. Johnson seconded.
The motion passed.*

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)

none

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Council received a thank you letter from Tom Zilla recent retiree of the Centre Region Planning Office.

Council received a thank you letter from Historic Bellefonte, INC (HBI) regarding the Community Easter Egg Hunt.

Notice from CATA regarding their open house at the Nittany Mall featuring their accessible transportation options.

An email was received regarding property maintenance issues. It was forwarded to the code officer.

BASD communication regarding approval of the 2022 Homecoming Parade. *Tosti-Vasey made a motion to approve the parade. The motion is conditional based on the letter stating the event could change. Purnell seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.*

Union Cemetery work party, June 11, 2022 9am – 12pm. Headstone cleaning.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Minutes from May 2nd and May 16th, 2022

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Cleeton and seconded by Sedgwick. Motion carried. There was a spelling correction for the May 2nd minutes.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson – Mr. Brachbill stood in for Mayor Johnson who was excused.

Police Week Proclamation – designates May 15-21, 2022 as National Police Week

Police – Chief Weaver

Report on Parking Ticket non-payment disposition. From 1/1/22 – 5/31/22, the department has written 656 tickets. They have also written 134 tickets for alternate side tickets (tickets issued during snow removal and street cleaning). Out of the 656 tickets, 130 have gone to citations.

Office of Community Affairs (OCA) - see memo Ms. Thompson Submitted

Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB):

Motion to approval/the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following projects as presented: 134 E. Bishop Street (Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church) – Re-pointing of brick work to match original brick work on the parish house.

Motion to approve by Sedgwick, seconded by Bernier. There was a brief discussion. Motion carried.

Nuisance codes Nothing Presented

Borough Manager Nothing presented

Planning Commission Nothing presented.

Zoning Nothing presented.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority Recycle Rebate was tabled at the February 22nd meeting.

Cleeton motioned to remove Centre County & Refuse Rebate off the table. Sedgwick seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Purnell motioned to keep the rebate for upcoming projects. McKean seconded. Discussion included a question about what the motion means for customers. The rebate will go into the Borough "Refuse Fund" as revenue. The motion carried.

Letter/legal opinion from Borough Solicitor Jeff Stover providing answers to questions asked per Short Term Rentals. No council action requested.

North Spring Street – shortening of parking spaces to gain extra spaces. Due to obstructions, it is not possible to gain extra parking space(s) by shortening the existing spaces. FYI. No council action is requested.

Streetscape project 2020 and 2021 sub-grantee agreements. *Cleeton motioned to approve Streetscape Project 2020 and 2021 Sub-grantee agreements. Tosti-Vasey seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.*

LERTA Program. Centre County Government adopted their ordinance on May 17. All three taxing bodies – Borough, School District, and County - have officially joined the program. A LERTA Application has been developed and posted on the borough's website. No Council action is requested.

Reminder June 9th, 2pm-4pm is the Recognition Celebration in Council Chambers for former members. No action required from council.

Council Members who attended the recent PSAB Training are asked for feedback on their experience. There was discussion about the training. No response from the Council is required.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Dual Membership with PSAB and PA Municipal League – discussion and motion to end the dual membership by dropping the PA Municipal League.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to table this item until the end of November 2022. Sedgwick seconded. Motion carried.

Request for Proposals (RFP) to be completed for borough insurance coverage. It is a good practice to do this every three to five years. The annual renewal is August 1st. No action is required by Council.

Consider Items from the Goals/Issues list to be scheduled for the 06/21/2022 Council Work Session.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Mr. Scott Mauger, a resident thanked Brett Myer for the flags placed around town on Memorial Day. He also thanked borough workers for their excellent work cleaning up refuse from our streets and keeping our town clean.

Council Member Doug Johnson discussed the following items:

Bellefonte Victorian Christmas with HBI and DBI had a communication issue between the two organizations. He wanted to make sure the issue was resolved. It has been.

He also discussed reconsideration of inviting Jr. Council members through BASD. Mrs. Purnell offered to bring this idea to the district.

He also had questions about the Subway building, Armory properties, and the waterfront properties. Council responded: The Subway property is being used for COVID testing.

The Armory property was closed last month. The Borough is working to clear the Borough's belongings off the property. Also, it was clarified that the Borough is not mowing the Armory property.

The waterfront property was sold in December 2019. There was an arrangement made with the property owners that if the Borough mows the grass on that property until the construction starts, the property may be open to the public to use as extra open green space. The building project has been on hold because of COVID but is back on track now.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Cleeton moved to adjourn. McKean seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.