

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

July 5, 2022- 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The July 5, 2022, meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order 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
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
Harry Brooks, Code Enforcement Officer
Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
Sean Weaver, Police Chief

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)

Bobbi Barnett, resident - spoke regarding the new traffic light that is being discussed.

Dianne Richards, resident - STR owner spoke regarding the STR (Short Term Rental) ordinance.

Barry Krockner, resident - spoke regarding the STR ordinance. He urged council to abandon the ordinance.

Susan Fairo, resident - STR owner spoke regarding the STR ordinance. She expressed concerns about the restrictions in the ordinance.

Bruce Cifelli, resident who is a STR owner spoke regarding the STR ordinance. He expressed concerns about the restrictions in the ordinance.

Lisa Drobka, non-resident who is a STR owner spoke regarding the STR ordinance. She expressed concerns about the restrictions in the ordinance.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Council received a letter from DBI regarding a location change for the July "Friday in the Fonte". Details will be worked out between staff and DBI.

Cleeton made a motion to conditionally approve the location change for "Friday in the Fonte" on July 29, 2022. Sedgwick seconded. Discussion included clarification about the conditions including reserved parking spaces, food vendors, street closures, etc. The motion carried.

Council received a letter from Good Intent Cider, LLC on S. Water Street regarding concerns about the pedestrian sign. This item will be discussed under "New Business".

There was a communication about parking meter concern. It was suggested to move this to a future work session meeting.

CATARide sent a communication regarding fall route schedules and changes. There is a public hearing scheduled for July 14, 2022. No action requested.

A communication was received regarding concerns about the STR ordinance. No action required.

There was a letter from a B&B owner regarding the sewer bill. The letter will be forwarded to the Water Authority for their review.

There was a letter from the Centre County Library regarding book reading. No action required.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

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Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Purnell and seconded by Dann. No discussion. Motion carried.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

No report

Police – Chief Weaver (presented by Mayor Johnson)

No report

Office of Community Affairs (OCA)/Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB)

There was a short discussion regarding concerns about the STR ordinance.

Call for motion/2nd to approve / issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following project:

214 N. Allegheny (Bellefonte B&B) – porch renovation project: poured concrete with natural stone on top with brick façade against porch riser or poured concrete brick, rehab current iron railing and re-install. (Tabled at last meeting. See the memo for additional details. Mr. Breidenbaugh will be present to discuss the project.)

Motion to remove the project from the table, made by Tosti-Vasey. Seconded by Cleeton.

Motion by D. Johnson, 2nd by Dann to allow owner to work with two options – Motion passed

Motion to approve item 1, 407 W. High Street, made by D. Johnson. Seconded by Dann. Motion carried. There was a brief discussion with the homeowner regarding the project. The motion carried.

Liaison Reports (NONE)

Nuisance codes (NONE)

Borough Manager Nothing presented

Planning Commission Nothing presented.

Zoning Nothing presented.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Petition (received at the June 21st council meeting) to have PennDOT complete a traffic light study at Zion Road and Parkview Blvd. Penn Dot will do a study to see if a traffic light is “warranted” only after the borough commits to paying for the traffic light in full, if the study indicates a traffic light is warranted. The cost is estimated to be \$350,000 as long as no other intersections are looked at by Penn DoT as part of the study. Council has previously held off on going to Penn DoT until a developer for the Armory was found. The developer will have to go to Penn DoT as part of any land development plan and would help pay for the traffic light if warranted. If council decides to have Penn DoT do the study and a traffic light is warranted, then we must take steps to have the traffic light installed. At the same time, we could look for state grant funding, but this is not a guarantee. Over 200 residents signed the petition.

Motion was made by D. Johnson to ask Penn DoT to do a traffic light warrant study for the intersection of Zion Road (SR 555) and Park View Boulevard. If so, it would be recommended to do the study when school is back in session. Seconded by Bernier. There was a brief discussion that included a question about funding. The motion carried.

EV Charging Stations Repair Quote.

Motion was made by Cleeton and seconded by Tosti-Vasey to approve the quote and repair work done by Clipper Creek for the EV charging stations. Discussion included questions about funding for the EV spaces during non-enforcement hours to cover the cost of the electricity to use the charging stations, and whether the repairs will work for the long term. Motion carried with 2 nays (Purnell and Dann).

X. NEW BUSINESS

Potter Street – use of a pedestrian crossing sign. Owners have used this sign primarily on weekends to alert drivers to slow down. There is no official crosswalk in that location. Consider moving this item to a future work session.

Motion was made by Tosti-Vasey to discuss this issue in a future work session, until a speed study can be conducted and there can be a cost analysis by engineers. Second by McKean. The motion carried.

Open container laws/special events. There are questions regarding the open container/alcohol policy and food truck/mobile vendor ordinance for special events in Talleyrand Park and in the downtown area. Policies need to be reviewed for consistency and state law compliance. Consider moving this item to a future work session.

Motion was made by Cleeton to discuss this issue in a future work session. Second by Dann. The motion carried.

EAB (Environmental Advisory Board) Memo and Survey

Motion by Tosti-Vasey and second by Cleeton to approve \$300 to be spent to send the survey via mail to 75 random residents. Discussion included a question as to whether the survey could be completed online to save the \$300 in mailing costs. The project is a collaboration between the 4 major non-profits in town: Bellefonte DBI, Chamber of Commerce, HBI and BHCA. It was clarified that a previous, similar mailing was very successful, and that there will be an electronic survey, as well. With 3 yays and 6 nays, the motion did not carry.

Motion by Tosti-Vasey and second by Cleeton to send the EAB survey to residents via email and website. With 4 yays and 5 nays, the motion did not carry.

Solar Exploration – See the three attachments/related documents. Consider joining Centre Region municipalities, others in joint RFP to explore solar energy options. There is a cost to this. The group has delayed moving ahead with issuing the RFP until hearing if Bellefonte is in or out, or until 60 days has expired (in August). Request that this item be scheduled for the upcoming work session.

Motion by Joanne Tosti-Vasey and second by D. Johnson to add this discussion to the July 18, 2022 work session. Discussion included site possibilities and other details regarding proceeding with this project. With 3 yays and 6 nays, the motion did not carry.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Scott Mauger, resident - spoke regarding concerns about property maintenance in the borough, ie: lawn mowing and landscaping issues. He cited the borough ordinance regarding lawn and property maintenance. He also voiced concerns about sidewalk repairs. He also expressed concern about cars with expired inspection stickers on roadways and in yards. Finally, he discussed yard sale signs being left on utility poles.

George Powel, - resident who is a STR owner spoke regarding the STR ordinance.

Jamie Northey, - representative from McGowan Governmental spoke to ask about the insurance bid.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Cleeton moved to adjourn. Purnell seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Executive Session followed tonight's meeting.