

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The July 18, 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)

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Stewart Echols, Rick Jacobs, Mike Leakey, Derek Sherman, Scott Mauger, Dianne Richards, Tom Wilson, Bruce Cifelli, Kimberly Fragola, Bobbi & Doug Barnett, Carlton Hopkins

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)

A resident spoke regarding the roof replacement at his property, located in the historic district. The roof replacement was denied by HARB. He is asking for leniency as the project is 2/3 completed.

Another resident spoke regarding replacing the roof at the same property.

A contractor spoke regarding the roof replacement at the property mentioned above.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Council received a letter about the Awaken the Dawn Banner Request. The event is scheduled for July 19-23, 2022 in Talleyrand Park. They would hang the banner on the High Street Bridge.

Kent Bernier made a motion to allow the banner request for July 19-23, 2022. Cleeton seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

Council received a letter from the BASD Cross Country Team request to use Governor's Park.

Dann made a motion to approve the BASD Cross Country's use of Governors Park for their upcoming 2022 meets and practice schedule from August through November 2022. McKean seconded. Discussion included a question about a registration fee and dates. The motion carried.

Council received a letter from Saint John Catholic School Outdoor Mass and Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 28, 2022.

Sedgwick made a motion to approve Saint John Catholic Schools request to use Pavilion #12 for Blessing of the Backpacks and Outdoor Mass on Sunday, August 28, 2022. Cleeton seconded. Discussion included a question about insurance. The motion carried.

A letter was received from Saint John Catholic School regarding their Race for Education event, Thursday, October 27, 2022, at Governor's Park.

Bernier made a motion to approve Saint John Catholic Schools request to use Governor's Park Pavilions and walking path for their Race for Education event on Thursday, October 27, 2022, 8am – 2pm. Cleeton seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

A letter was received from HBI regarding Victorian Christmas Friday December 9th - Sunday December 11th and Decorating Day November 19, 2022.

McKean made a motion to conditionally approve the dates of Friday, December 9-December 11th for Bellefonte Victorian Christmas, pending further details. Sedgwick seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

Tosti-Vasey amended the motion. Sedgwick second. The motion carried.

A letter was received regarding Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. Consider sending letters to legislators opposing bigger trucks.

Dann made a motion to approve sending letters to legislators opposing bigger trucks. Cleeton seconded. Discussion included clarification that the letters would be sent to federal representatives. There are no costs involved. The motion carried.

Council received an email with a STR public comment of support. No Council action needed at this time.

Council received a petition and comments from residents opposing Short Term Rentals. No Council action needed at this time.

Council received another communication from a resident, opposing STR's in the residential district. No action needed.

Bellefonte EMS will hold their 5th Annual Joint Meeting August 30, 2022. The RSVP deadline is August 25, 2022. No Council action needed at this time.

Council received a response from PennDOT regarding the Traffic Light warrant study at SR 550 and Parkview Blvd. PennDOT will complete the study in September/October as requested. No Council action needed at this time.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

General Council Meeting Minutes July 5, 2022
Finance Budget v. Actual June 2022
Finance Budget v. Actual Summary June 2022
Finance Treasurer's Report June 2022
Finance Voucher Summary June 2022

It was requested to remove item 1, Meeting Minutes from the consent agenda.

Motion to approve items 2-5 of the Consent Agenda was made by Dann and seconded by Cleeton. No discussion. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the amended Council Meeting Minutes from July 5th, 2022 was made by Sedgwick. Seconded by Tosti-Vasey. No discussion. Motion carried.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson No report

Police – Chief Weaver No report

Tosti-Vasey raised a question about 5 ordinance violations that were mentioned in the Chief's report. It was clarified that some of the violations were curfew, open container and noise/fireworks ordinances. Chief Weaver will follow-up on next day with ordinances violated.

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

Call for motion/2nd to approve / issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following 3 projects:

- 109-111 E. Bishop – approve the project as presented, including lighting, paint colors, and awning.
- 111 E. Bishop (Shae Nouveau LLC) – approve the business sign as presented
- 109 E. Bishop (All Things Kind, LLC) – approve the business sign as presented

Motion to approve items 1-3, made by Bernier. Seconded by Dann. Motion carried. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Call for a motion/2nd to deny issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness:

133 W. Logan Street – deny the project based on cross section and profile not being consistent with recommended roofing material for residences in the historic district, per the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Motion to deny item 4, 133 W. Logan Street, made by Tosti-Vasey. Seconded by Bernier. There was a brief discussion. A question was raised regarding how often a home or property is in the historic district and the owners might not be aware, and how the borough and HARB can do better to inform new owners if their property is in the historic district. The HARB administrator clarified that she is working hard to find more ways to inform owners who reside in the historic district. A comment was made that in years past, council made a decision that based on the age of a structure, an owner may not need to comply with HARB restrictions. It was commented that this building does not meet that standard and should comply. It was clarified that this building was built between 1922-1936 and it is a 4-unit commercial building. The motion carried to deny the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Tosti-Vasey made a motion to issue a Conditional Certificate of Appropriateness for item 4, 133 W. Logan Street, for the roof to be replaced retroactively with the materials already in use, on the condition that when the roof is replaced again, it be replaced with HARB approved materials and meet all standards and specifications set forth by HARB. McKean seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Call for a motion to approve a permit for the demolition of a garage at 447 E. Lamb Street.

Cleeton motioned, Dann seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Liaison Reports Nothing presented.

Nuisance codes Nothing presented.

Borough Manager Nothing presented.

Planning Commission Nothing presented.

Zoning Nothing presented.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Update on Old Business items (Governor’s Park Baseball Field, Police Department Renovation, Musser Lane Composting, CDBG/TASA Projects, Cherry Lane curbing, Suspension Bridge and Personnel). No Council action needed at this time.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Shade Tree removal request.

Motion was made by Dann to approve sending the request to the Shade Tree Commission for their approval to remove the shade trees. Second by Bernier. The motion carried.

Feral cat issues and ordinance. Council is asked to review current ordinances and consider amendments if necessary. Consider a motion to add this item to the goals/issues list or schedule the topic for a future work session.

Motion was made by Tosti-Vasey to discuss this issue in a future work session. Second by Sedgwick. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Consider items from the Goals/Issues list to be scheduled for the 08/01/2022 Council Work Session. Plans are to have an economic-focused work session in August prior to the annual budget work starting in September. Call for a motion and second of goals to consider for 08/01/2022 Work Session.

Motion was made by Bernier to discuss this list at the 8/1/2022 work session. Second by Dann. There was no discussion. It was noted this is always a difficult and painful work session. The motion carried.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

The property owner involved in the roofing dispute spoke asking the borough to make sure to inform new owners that their new property is in the Historic District. He was completely unaware his building is located in the Historic District.

Joann Tosti-Vasey mentioned that she would like to see the names of public attendees listed on the meeting minutes.

Joann Tosti-Vasey also made a public statement regarding her disappointment in Council's vote last meeting to not move forward with the climate survey and action plan. She encouraged council to reconsider their position on this issue.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Bernier moved to adjourn. Dann seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.