

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2022- 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The August 1, 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

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Harry Brooks, Code Enforcement Officer
Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
Shawn Weaver, Police Chief

GUESTS

Dianne Richards, Carlton Hopkins, Doug & Bobbi Barrett,
Bruce Cifelli and Bob Gresh.

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items)

Carlton Hopkins spoke regarding the roofing project on S. Thomas Street that was denied by HARB. He respectfully asked Council to approve his roof as is.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Council received a letter about the Centre County Suicide Prevention Task Force. Resolution for September 2022 Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month. September 10th, 2022 will be Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day.

McKean made a motion to approve a resolution for September 2022 Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month with September 10, 2022 being Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day. Cleeton seconded. A question was raised regarding if this is a resolution or a proclamation. It was clarified that it is a resolution. The motion carried.

Council received a request to hang purple lights on the lamp posts on High Street between Allegheny and Spring streets again this year in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Dann made a motion to approve the request to hang purple lights on the lamp posts on High Street between Allegheny and Spring Streets. Purnell seconded. A question was raised regarding removal of the lights. The motion carried.

Children's Advocacy Center of Centre County recognizes October as "Centre County Protects Kids Month" and "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" and requests to hold an event on October 4th, 2022, 11am – 1pm, in Talleyrand Park, and to have the fees waived for the event.

McKean made a motion to approve the request to use Talleyrand Park on October 4, 2022, 11am-1pm, for the Child Advocacy Center Event, and to have the fees for this event waived, except the admin fee. Cleeton seconded. The motion carried.

Request to hang purple ribbons on the trees on High Street, Allegheny and Talleyrand Park again this year in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day and National Recovery Month. The ribbons would be hung before the August 31, 2022 Overdose Awareness Day and then removed by the beginning of October.

Dann made a motion to approve the request to hang purple ribbons on the trees along High Street, Allegheny St and Talleyrand Park. Sedgwick seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

Council received a request to use Governor's Park for the Dylan Crunick Memorial Baseball Tournament, and for the fees to be waived for this charity event.

Tosti-Vasey made a motion to approve use of Governor's Park Baseball Field for the Dylan Crunick Memorial Baseball Tournament August 13th & 14th, 7 AM until dusk on both days. Cleeton seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

Purnell made a motion to approve that the fees be waived for this event, except the admin fee. Cleeton seconded. Tosti-Vasey commented that she is opposed to the fee waiver because she could not find this organization listed as within the boundaries of Bellefonte. There was a vote, 6-3. Bernier, Johnson and Purnell in support of waiver. The motion did not carry.

Council received a request to block off E. Linn Street from N. Monroe Street to Simpson Street on September 4, 2022 for a Block Party between 12pm (noon) - 9pm.

Tosti-Vasey made a motion to approve the road closure of E. Linn Street from N. Monroe Street to Simpson Street on September 4, 2022 from 12pm to 9pm. Cleeton seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

Council received mail from a resident about an ongoing issue of brown water on Green Street. No council action required.

Council received a communication regarding concerns about short-term rentals from a resident that lives next to an Airbnb. No council action required.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

General Council Meeting Minutes July 18, 2022

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Tosti-Vasey and seconded by Sedgwick. Tosti-Vasey offered several revisions to the minutes. Motion carried with amendments included.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson offered his appreciation for all the volunteers involved in the Summer Sounds from the Gazebo Series this summer. He reminds Council and residents of the last two upcoming events on August 7th and 14th.

Police – Chief Weaver

No report

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 project as presented:

141 S. Thomas Street – HARB motion to deny the roof replacement based on roof material inconsistent with Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to deny the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the roof replacement at 141 S. Thomas Street. Seconded by Cleeton. There was discussion to clarify

the details about the project and the motion as presented. The motion to deny the certificate failed.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to issue a conditional Certificate of Appropriateness for 141 S. Thomas Street, by placing a lien on the property, allowing for the roof to be replaced retroactively with the materials already in use, on the condition that when the roof is replaced again, it will be replaced with HARB approved materials, and meet all standards and specifications set by HARB and the Secretary of Interior Standards, for the treatment of historic properties. Seconded by Doug Johnson.

Discussion included questions regarding the project. Holderman commented that HARB is planning to have a PHMC speaker come to the next meeting on August 15th to discuss HARB related issues, and that many questions that council may have will likely be answered by the presentation. The motion carried.

Nuisance codes (NONE)

Borough Manager (NONE)

Planning Commission (NONE)

Zoning (NONE)

IX. OLD BUSINESS

The Short-Term Rental (STR) Committee has questions for the Borough Solicitor.

Cleeton made a motion to approve sending STR Committee questions for legal review. McKean seconded. There was a question regarding if this was for one specific question, or if this was regarding the entire ordinance. It was clarified that this is regarding several issues, questions and topics. The motion carried.

Received 902 Composting Grant from PA DEP. No Council action required

2022 Street paving is complete. No Council action required.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Personnel Issues. No Council action required.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Bob Gresh spoke regarding the STR ordinance. He expressed his support of STR's and how they can improve a community. He urged Council to table the STR ordinance issue for a year and see if the issue resolves itself. He also mentioned that there are no hotels in the borough, so STR's are a good way to bring tourists to the area.

Tosti-Vasey announced to the public that the DEP is changing the Electric Vehicle Purchase Rebate Program. If you bought an electric vehicle before July 1, 2022, be sure to submit your request for that rebate by August 1, 2022.

Randy Brachbill Council member, spoke regarding the comments made by another Council Member at the last meeting during the public comments section. He wanted to clarify that the climate survey issue could be revisited later in the year, and that his reasons for postponing the issue are that there is lower staffing during summer months due to vacations, and it would create additional work of staff to issue the survey to the public.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Dann moved to adjourn. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.