

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2022- 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The October 3, 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
Sean Weaver, Police Chief

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There was a discussion regarding the motion made during the water authority discussion from last meeting. It was requested that the minutes from the last meeting be amended to resolve the issue.

Johnson motioned to move this item under Old Business. Cleeton seconded. Motion carried.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

NONE

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT - Agenda and Non-Agenda/General Items and Comments

Public Service Announcement: There is a drop box in front of Wetzler's Funeral Home for the disposal of American Flags that are worn or damaged.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Council received a letter regarding The Raider Reindeer 4K Run/Walk near Talleyrand Park on Saturday, December 10, 2022. They are seeking approval to save the date.

Dann motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the date of Saturday, December 10, 2022 for the Raider Reindeer 4K Run/Walk. Motion carried.

Council received a request from Faith Church to hold a Christmas candle lighting and carol singing event with hot chocolate and cookies in Talleyrand Park, Gazebo side, on Friday December 23, 2022 6:30-7:30pm. Setup beginning at 4pm and cleanup finished by 9pm.

Purnell motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Christmas candle lighting/ caroling event in Talleyrand Park, Gazebo side, on Friday, December 23, 2022 from 4pm-9pm with the additional time allowing for setup and cleanup.

Purnell motioned and Cleeton seconded to pay the administrative fee and waive the reservation and deposit fees.

Tosti-Vasey moved to amend the motion to waive the deposit fees. Sedgwick seconded the motion amendment. It was clarified that there is a policy that deposit fees are not to be waived. It was also noted that the deposit was already paid, and the check number was included with the request. It was further clarified that the church would not pay the \$200 and the damages fee, but they would pay the deposit, which is the administrative fee. The administrative fee and the damages fee are being waived. The reservation fee and the deposit fee will be paid.

Tosti-Vasey withdrew her amended motion.

Council voted to approve the original motion. The motion carried.

Council received a communication from Logan's Fire Company to announce their Open House on October 30, 2022 1pm-4pm. No Council action required.

Council received a communication from the Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML) regarding the increase in Fee Schedule for 2023 for Campbell Durrant, P.C. No Council action required.

Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority status update and new Fair Share Agreement. Mike Musser spoke to represent the NVJRA.

Kepler Pool – \$2.175 in donations and grants, 2 pending grants for \$995 and \$75, for a total of \$3.2M to redo the pool. Total target for fundraising is \$500,000.

New Fair Share Agreement - funds the operations of the Authority and Kepler Pool.

The Authority is hoping to have the pool open for a few weeks of the swim season this coming summer, 2023.

The Authority cleaned up around the pool to prepare for winter.

Johnson motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the drafted Fair Share Agreement with Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority. Discussion included a question regarding changing the date of payment.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Sedgwick seconded to amend the motion by conditionally allowing Bellefonte to fund its portion of the pool cost once property taxes have come in next year. The motion to amend carried.

The main motion was then voted on and carried.

Letter from the Pennsylvania DEP regarding the Drought Watch. No Council action required.

Letter from the Pennsylvania DEP regarding abandoned oil and gas wells. Staff will post to website, no Council action needed at this time.

Correspondence from a resident regarding speeding on E. Cherry Lane. Matter will be addressed by Police Department. No council action needed at this time.

GreenGov Council & Penn State Sustainability Institute's Sustainability Webinar Series. No Council action required.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

General Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2022

Motion made by Tosti-Vasey to approve the Consent Agenda item 1. Seconded by Cleeton. Discussion included comments regarding several changes to the minutes. Motion carried to approve item 1.

IX. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Baseball field at Governor's Park – "John Montgomery Ward Baseball Field". Mayor Johnson offered some comments regarding John Montgomery Ward, and the ball field.

Police – Chief Weaver (NONE)

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

Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) - Motion to approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following projects as presented:

125 N. Allegheny (Masonic Lodge) - Replace and repair 120 defective exterior bricks at left elevation and tuck-point, tool method, missing mortar joints of brick and exposed stone foundation.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the project as presented. Motion carried.

Zoning:

Zoning Hearing Board heard a variance request for a non-owner-occupied STR. The variance was not granted.

Liaison Reports (NONE)

Nuisance codes (NONE)

Borough Manager (NONE)

Planning Commission (NONE)

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Brachbill called for a motion to replace Substitute with Amendment – Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve replacing the wording “substitute” with “amendment”, to address the original motion.

Council Meeting of 10/3/2022 - Mr. Brachbill stated that at the previous Council meeting on 9/17/2022 during the discussion of the motion to leave the Spring Creek Watershed (Motion by D. Johnson / 2nd Bernier) a Council Member made a second motion called a Replacement motion to replace the original motion. Mr. Brachbill asked if this was an Amendment and was informed this was a Replacement Motion to replace the original motion. Mr. Brachbill said he never heard of a replacement motion. The Council Member stated its in Roberts Rues of Order; it was voted on and approved. At the 10/3/2022 meeting It was found that Replacement was replaced by Substitute and the main motion was not addressed. As you cannot have two motions on the floor at the same time, this activity was out of order. Mr. Brachbill also stated that he contacted PSAB and spoke to Ron Grutza, (Sr. Dir. Of Regulatory Affairs) for information concerning a replacement motion. After a few days Mr. Grutza responded that he could not find information on replacement motion. Mr. Brachbill stated we needed to address the main motion and in order to that Substitute should be removed and replaced by Amendment which the amended motion would become the original motion. This correction would not affect the outcome of the action taken at the 9/17/2022 meeting. The motion to replace the wording carried as shown below.

Tosti-Vasey made an amendment to have Bellefonte Borough stay on the Spring Creek Watershed Commission. The Water Authority will appoint 2 elected representatives from Council to sit on the committee, with affirmation by Council.

Cidery- South Potter Street update. Council discussed this issue but did not take action.

Special Event Application Draft. For Council review - submit all questions before October 17, 2022 meeting.

Short Term Rental Ordinance Public Hearing is Scheduled for November 17, 2022 at 5:30pm at Lambert Hall. No action required. Mr. Brachbill requested that the date be changed as not all Council members are available for Oct. 17th. Mr. Stewart will reach out to the Undines to select additional openings of Lambert Hall and add those dates to a new doodle calendar for Council selection.

Armory Building Update - 301 North Spring Street – Closing/transfer of property to Bellefonte Borough occurred on Friday, September 30th, 2022. Council President Brachbill formed an oversight committee with Mayor Johnson, Council members Dann, Sedgwick, D. Johnson and Brachbill. Staff will assist the committee. No council action required.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

PennDOT has been contacted about the unlevel pavement on East Bishop Street. No action required.

Consider Items from the Goals/Issues list to be scheduled for the 10/17/2022 Council Work Session.

Centre County Boroughs Association will have a fall meeting on Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, at 6pm in the Council Room.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Executive session-followed.