

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

February 06, 2023- 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

February 6, 2023, 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 (Zoom)
Ms. Shawna McKean
Ms. Rita Purnell
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick (Zoom)
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey (Zoom)
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

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

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to remove the STR duplicate item under “zoning” and move it to “New Business”. The motion carried.

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

Greg Cromer, Aerial Photography – Introduction of townscape photos available. The public can see the aerial view of Bellefonte on his website <http://americafromthesky.com>. Click on Pennsylvania and then look for Bellefonte in the listing.

Christian Bechdel resident spoke regarding the museum he owns on South Spring Street that features Die Cast Model Vehicles. He would like some help from Council to market and promote the museum. He feels the museum is a valuable asset in our community.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Bellefonte Community Band Concert July 4, 2023 in Talleyrand Park. Motion/ 2nd to conditionally approve the date of July 4, 2023 for the Bellefonte Community Band Concert in Talleyrand Park.

Bellefonte Cruise June 16 & 17, 2023. Motion/ 2nd to conditionally approve the dates of June 16th and 17th, 2023 for the Bellefonte Cruise.

Centre Foundation requesting use of Talleyrand Park Thursday, May 11, 2023 for Centre Gives Fest. Motion/ 2nd to conditionally approve the date of May 11, 2023 for Centre Gives Fest.

Bellefonte Moose Rubber Duck Race. Motion/ 2nd to conditionally approve the date of September 10, 2023 for the Bellefonte Moose Rubber Duck Race in Talleyrand Park.

Central PA Tasting Trail Craft beverage Expo in Talleyrand Park Saturday, June 18, 2023. Motion/ 2nd to conditionally approve the date of June 18, 2023 for the Central PA Tasting Trail Craft Beverage Expo in Talleyrand Park.

Lion's Club Annual Rib Sale Fundraiser April 15, 2023. Motion/ 2nd to approve the Lion's Club's use of the parking spaces by the Brownstone building at the Diamond for their Annual Rib Sale on April 15, 2023, from 7am-3pm.

Centre County Library request to hold the Novel Con event on May 6, 2023. Motion/ 2nd to conditionally approve the date of May 6, 2023 for the Centre County Library Novel Con.

Summer Concert Series in Talleyrand Park. Motion/ 2nd to approve the Summer Concert Series in Talleyrand Park on Sundays beginning June 11th and concluding Sunday, August 13, 2023 7pm-8pm in the Gazebo.

Brachbill motioned and McKean seconded to conditionally approve the dates for the 8 events listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

Nathanial and Maria Day Petition to vacate a portion of West Lamb Street. Council took action to have this Petition reviewed by the borough solicitor and staff for a recommendation

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to have the petition reviewed by the borough solicitor for a commendation. Motion carried.

Walker Township Zoning Amendment for Marks Custom Meats. No council action required.

Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit for SR-0150 adjacent to Spring Creek. No council action required.

Duck Sampling in Talleyrand Park. Motion/2nd to approve duck sampling within Talleyrand Park.

Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the duck sampling in Talleyrand Park. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey's comments regarding her personal approval of the duck sampling. Motion carried unanimously.

EMS Legislative Breakfast Invitation March 9th, 2023. No council action is required.

Reminder – the next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st due to President's Day (Feb. 20th).

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. <i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes January 17, 2023
2. <i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual December 2022
3. <i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual Summary December 2022
4. <i>Finance</i>	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice December 2022
5. <i>Finance</i>	Treasurer's Report December 2022
6. <i>Finance</i>	Voucher Summary December 2022
7. <i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes January 17, 2023
8. <i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual December 2022

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the amended consent agenda. Item 2 was removed from the Consent Agenda. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking a question about item 2. Motion carried unanimously.

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to table discussion of item 2 until Council can get an answer from the Finance Director.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson's spotlight tonight was on Girl Scout Troop 400037. They are working on their Democracy for Daisy's Badge. He encouraged the public to reach out to him if anyone would like more information on any community programs that benefit our youth.

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

1. Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB):

Recommended for approval/the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness:

(More details on projects can be found in your agenda packet)

- Downtown Mural Project – proposed by DBI (Downtown Bellefonte Inc)
 - There are 3 proposed locations for the mural project; after a further review, one will be selected and brought back to HARB for a certificate of appropriateness . No council action is required.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Stan Wallace Sewage Enforcement Officer Fee Schedule. No council action is required.

X. NEW BUSINESS

John Nastase Construction Application and Certificate for Payment for Governor's Park Baseball Field Project.

Brachbill motioned and Purnell seconded to remit payment to John Nastase Construction for the Governor's Park Baseball Field Project. The motion carried.

Spring Street Streetscape Project. Council is requested to take action to select a design associated with the project.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve option B. No discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed 2023 Street Paving Contract from the Public Works Streets Department.

Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve Street Paving List with modifications to be made based on the budget. Motion carried.

Comments on traffic – New elementary school at Airport and Governors Park Roads. *Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to ask that the Borough Manager draft a letter containing suggestions to the BASD to make safety and traffic light improvements at the Airport and Zion roads and the intersection of the Airport and Governors Park Road based on the discussion held during the Work Session. [The following was discussed during the Work Session:*

- The intersection of Governors Park Road and Airport Road should be evaluated due to current visibility and topography angles. Council has suggested the consideration of a round-about design for that intersection.
- The intersection of Airport and Zion Roads should be signalized due to current visibility levels and volume of traffic on Zion Road. Moreover, consideration should be given to the need for turning lanes when exiting from Airport Road onto Zion Road.
- It is desired to have two traffic signals along Zion Road – one at Parkview Boulevard (currently warranted) and one at Airport Road – instead of re-aligning Airport and Parkview Boulevard, due to the loss of property for Right-of-Ways. Penn DoT representatives mentioned that it is preferred to have only one signal in the distance between Airport Road and Parkview Boulevard, however, “clustering” can be done. Clustering – a traffic signal at Airport Road and Parkview Boulevard would be the borough's preferred improvement.]

. Motion carried.

Annual Short-Term Rental (STR) Application/Permit Fee.

McKean motioned and Dann seconded to set an annual STR Application/Permit Fee of \$130. The fee may be adjusted up or down after additional data is collected. No discussion. Motion carried. The application for STRs will be available starting February 7, 2023. Discussion followed regarding whether or not the 30-day period for applications in the R1 and R2 zones

ends on the implementation date of the ordinance OR 30 days after the ordinance goes into effect. Stewart indicated that the borough would get this time limit legally clarified, but didn't have a clear answer to this question this evening.

Link to PSAB Legislative Priorities and Resolutions Process.

<https://boroughs.org/subpage.php?link=Resolutions%20Process>

The deadline for submissions is April 5, 2023. Council should schedule time in an upcoming work session to discuss legislative priorities. No council action is requested at this time.

Parking Fees and length of enforcement time. Consider scheduling time in an upcoming work session to discuss current fees and hours for parking enforcement. No council action is requested at this time. Brachbill questioned reviewing this item again. Stewart indicated that the office has received more comments on this issue since the previous discussion.

Adequacy of lighting in the downtown, visibility of pedestrians, and lighting at crosswalks. Consider scheduling time in an upcoming work session to discuss the adequacy of the lighting in the downtown. No council action is requested at this time. Tosti-Vasey requested inviting Jennilyn Shuster from DBI to be included in this discussion.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. D. Johnson clarified his statement from the last meeting regarding the reimbursement of the Pension Fund. Mr. Johnson stated that the finance director was following the direction of the finance committee – and he wanted to publicly apologize for naming her in his comments.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey commented that the Sustainability Survey is now available to borough residents, business owners, and commercial property owners in both paper and online versions. It has been sent out to the 75 randomly selected households in the borough to complete and return. The survey will be open until one month after the Borough's Spring Newsletter is sent out; this newsletter will include a link to the survey. She also requested that the link to the survey be pinned on the Bellefonte.net webpage until the survey closes so that it does not disappear under additional announcements. Stewart said that they would check to see if this is possible.

Ms. Purnell would like to remind residents that it's National Valentine's Shopping Day. Get your gifts for your valentine before it's too late!

Mayor Johnson was happy to see the sun! A rare occurrence in Happy Valley.

Mr. Holderman is happy to be in the meeting tonight and he commended Mr. Bernier on his chairing the meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to adjourn tonight's meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.