

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2023- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 3, 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
Ms. Shawna McKean
Ms. Rita Purnell
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey (Zoom)
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

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

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Nominations and Election/Rotation of Officers

Mr. Brachbill will stepdown as President
Mr. Doug Johnson will move from Vice President to President
Mr. Bernier will move from Pro-Temp to Vice President

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the rotation of officers as stated above. No questions. The motion carried.

D. Johnson motioned, and Bernier seconded to nominate Barbara Dann as Pro-Temp. No questions. Motion carried.

V. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

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

Resident Scott Mauger spoke to remind borough residents to please clear their walkways within 24 hours of the end of any winter storms/weather. He wanted to remind residents that there is a borough ordinance regarding snow removal.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda includes the following items:

<i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes December 19, 2022
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Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Brachbill seconded to approve the amended Minutes. Motion carried.

D. Johnson suggested that amendments be submitted for review before each meeting. Brachbill motioned, and Bernier seconded that all revisions to the minutes will be submitted the Thursday before the Monday meeting. No discussion. The motion carried.

IX. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson commended Chief Weaver and the entire Bellefonte Police Department for their hard work and dedication to our community. He thanked them for their time away from their families over the holidays, working to keep our community safe.

Police – Chief Weaver

NONE

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

Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB): NONE

2. Administrative Approvals: NONE

3. Items of interest:

Mark Johnson submitted a volunteer application to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board

4. Zoning: NONE

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

2023 Bellefonte Borough Fees Schedule - amended.

Dann motioned, and Purnell seconded to approve the 2023 Bellefonte Borough Fees Schedule. There was a question regarding the Water and Sewer line item (“other sources”).

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Brachbill seconded to remove that item from the fee schedule. Motion carried.

McKean motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the fee schedule without the Water and Sewer line item. No discussion. Motion carried.

The Water Authority recommended Doug Johnson for reappointment to the Water Authority

Dann motioned, and McKean seconded to reappoint D. Johnson to the Bellefonte Water and Sewer Authority. No discussion. Motion carried.

ABC Appointments/Reappointments

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Bernier seconded to approve the appointments of Amy Kelchner as the 2nd alternate and reappointment of Gay Dunne as the 1st alternate, and Pat Long to a 5-year term to HARB. No discussion. Motion carried.

Brachbill motioned, and Bernier seconded to approve the reappointment of Mark Edwards to the Planning Commission.

Brachbill motioned, and Bernier seconded to approve the appointment of Chris Morelli to the Planning Commission.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to approve the appointment of Jon Eaton to the Planning Commission.

Stewart pointed out that nominations do not require a second.

The three candidates for Planning Commission were voted in order of nomination. Mark Edwards was approved unanimously. Chris Morelli was approved with one nay – Tosti-Vasey. No votes were taken for Jon Eaton, as only two seats were open and filled by the last two votes.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and McKean seconded to approve the appointment of Greg Wendt conditionally. Discussion included making the appointment conditional until receipt of an updated application. Motion carried.

Brachbill motioned, and Sedgwick seconded to approve the appointment of Mark Johnson to the Zoning Hearing Board. No discussion. Motion carried.

McKean motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the appointment of J. Bryce Taylor to the Centre County Library Board. Motion carried.

The Citizen Vacancy Board Member and the Civil Service Commission appointments will be appointed at the next Council meeting.

Short-Term Rental Ordinance Draft - Council should consider comments received and determine any next steps – further consideration, amendments, solicitor review of any proposed changes, etc.

Brachbill motioned, and Sedgwick seconded to hold a special work session meeting to review the comments and information received. It was decided the meeting will be held on January 10, 2023, at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. Motion carried.

Council meeting schedule for 2023

The June 5 council meeting conflicts with the Borough's Association Annual Conference in Hershey, June 4th-7th. The proposed alternate date is Wednesday, June 7. CNET can cover the meeting on June 7 if Council approves the date change.

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to change the June 5, 2023, meeting to June 7, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Brachbill clarified that there would also be a work session at that meeting. The motion carried with no further discussion.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Consider Items from the Goals/Issues list to be scheduled for the January 17, 2023, Council Work Session.

McKean motioned, and Dann seconded to consider items from the Goals/Issues list to be scheduled for the January 17, 2023, Council Work Session. Tosti-Vasey asked for clarification of the motion. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking for Council to provide a working document for Council to review at the next meeting. No vote was taken.

Council Member Comments for the Good of the Order:

Rita Purnell offered thanks to those who watch or participate in Council meetings. Their interest and participation in their community are appreciated.

Randy Brachbill mentioned that there is still an opening in the Civil Service Commission. Interested applicants can contact the Borough office for more information.

Shawna McKean commented on the house fire that happened last week on Water Street. She questioned the fire hydrant issue. Stewart clarified that the fire companies need some education regarding hooking into hydrants during a fire emergency. The hydrants were functioning correctly.

Trivia Question: Of the 67 Counties in PA – where does Centre County fall in regard to population size? The most populous is Philadelphia – with over a million residents. Cambria County is the 67th county; it is the least populated. Centre County is number 22 on the list.

Tosti-Vasey commented that the Environmental Advisory Board has a meeting tomorrow morning, January 4, 2023.

Doug Johnson thanked the Council for their support, and he looks forward to a productive year.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.