

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 21, 2023- 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The February 21st, 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 (Zoom)
- Ms. Deborah Cleeton
- Ms. Barbara Dann
- Mr. Douglas Johnson (Zoom)
- Ms. Shawna McKean (Zoom)
- Ms. Rita Purnell
- Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
- Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
- Mayor Buddy Johnson (Excused)

**STAFF PRESENT**

- Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
- Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
- Shawn Weaver, Police Chief

**IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

*Tosti-Vasey motioned, and D Johnson seconded not to approve DBI’s request to add their event date request to the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was requested. The motion did not carry.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>nay</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>nay</i>
Mr. Randy Brachbill	<i>nay</i>	Ms. Rita Purnell	<i>nay</i>
Ms. Deb Cleeton	<i>nay</i>	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	<i>nay</i>
Ms. Barbara Dann	<i>nay</i>	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	<i>yay</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>nay</i>	Mayor Buddy Johnson	

*D Johnson motioned, and Brachbill seconded to approve DBI’s request to add their event date request to the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was requested. The motion carried with one nay – Tosti-Vasey. The request will be added to tonight’s Consent Agenda.*

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

Sandy Sherman, a resident of the Cadillac Building, spoke regarding the parking situation at her residence. She mentioned several issues with the parking in that area.

Joann Neal, another resident, also spoke regarding the parking situation at the Cadillac Building.

Scott Rhoat, Chief/Executive Director of the Bellefonte EMS, spoke regarding the report submitted for tonight’s meeting. Bellefonte Borough had 496 emergency calls in 2022. That’s 27% of the total call volume, significantly down from previous years. The lower call volume is related to Centre Crest moving out of the Borough and was predicted. The loss in call volume also represents an approximately \$70,000 loss in revenue for the organization, with no reduction in expenses.

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

Parkview Heights Lot for Sale. Council may take action to schedule an initial discussion in a work session. No action is required.

Red Parking Spaces 200 block of N. Allegheny St Complaint. Council may consider this item in a future Work Session. No action is required.

PSAB Annual Conference June 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Hershey Lodge. No council action is required.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda includes the following items:

<i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes February 6th, 2023
<i>Finance</i>	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice January 2023
<i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual January 2023
<i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual Summary January 2023
<i>Finance</i>	Treasurer’s Report January 2023
<i>Finance</i>	Voucher Summary January 2023
<i>General</i>	Communication Bellefonte Victorian Christmas Conditional approval for December 8th, 9th & 10th, 2023. Final approvals will be given at a later date.
<i>General</i>	Communication Bellefonte Chamber Annual Croquet Tournament Conditional approval for Sunday, June 25th, 2023. Final Approvals will be given at a later date.
<i>General</i>	<p>Communication Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. Conditional approvals for the following events, days, and times. Final approvals will be given at a later date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Friday in the ‘Fonte:</b> County Courthouse Fridays May 26th, June 30th, July 28th, and September 29th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. +1 hour before the event start time for set up and 1 hour after the event for clean up (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Movies in Talleyrand Park:</b> both the Gazebo and Annex sides of the Park, Fridays May 26th, June 30th, July 28th, and September 29th</p>

	<p>immediately following Friday in the ‘Fonte events Event time from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.; +1.5 hours before the event start time for set up and 1 hour after the event for clean up (6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bellefonte Under the Lights Waterfront Dinner:</b> Waterfront Park, Friday and Saturday, September 15 – 16, from noon Friday to 11 p.m. on Saturday (includes setup and take down times). Rain date, Friday and Saturday, September 22-23.</li><li>• <b>Outdoor Adventure Expo:</b> both the Gazebo and Annex sides of Talleyrand Park, Sunday, May 21st, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (includes setup and take down times). The rain date is Sunday, May 28th.</li><li>• <b>Small Business Saturday:</b> Saturday, November 25th</li><li>• <b>Winter Market:</b> both the Gazebo and Annex sides of Talleyrand Park, Sunday, December 10th from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (includes setup and take down times).</li></ul>
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*Cleeton motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the amended consent agenda. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey making comments about the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **VIII. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson** No report

### **Police – Chief Weaver**

Chief Weaver offered comments and clarifications regarding his December 2022 and January 2023 reports.

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

Administrative Approvals: NONE

Items of interest: NONE

Zoning: NONE

**Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

**Borough Manager** (Report Submitted)

## **IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

Speeding on East Howard Street Report – Police Chief Weaver

Budget v. Actual December 2022 with Memo explaining reserves from Finance Director

*Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to remove Budget v Actual December 2022 from the table. No discussion. Motion carried.*

*Brachbill made the motion, and Cleeton seconded to approve the Budget v. Actual December 2022. Tosti-Vasey requested staff create a report focusing on what and how much of the reserves from prior years are being used in the current year. She also requested that this report include how these funds are being audited and tracked over time. This report should be created and submitted to the Council yearly, if not quarterly. Motion carried.*

Aerial Photo Information – Introduction at the February 6th council meeting. Greg Cromer, [www.gregcromer.com](http://www.gregcromer.com). No council action is requested.

Downtown lighting, pedestrian safety, crosswalk lighting. Consider a motion to have staff prepare recommendations and cost estimates for improving lighting at the intersections. Also, consider sending a letter to PennDOT requesting permission to install lighted crosswalks downtown.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Sedgewick seconded to have staff prepare recommendations and cost estimates for improving lighting at intersections throughout the commercial district. At the same time, staff will send a letter to Penn DoT to seek permission to install lighted crosswalks downtown. No discussion. Motion carried.*

Parking fees and enforcement hours.

*Dann motioned, and Purnell seconded to monitor conditions for six months to allow staff a chance to gather data. No discussion. Motion carried.*

Electric Vehicle Charging in municipal lots.

*Dann motioned, and Cleeton seconded to ask staff to develop options for charging EV owners for the electricity used in municipal lots. The discussion included comments by Tosti-Vasey regarding her positive thoughts on the motion. Motion carried.*

Vacancy Board chair.

*D Johnson motioned, and Brachbill seconded to appoint Frank “Buddy” Halderman to fill the position of Vacancy Board Chair. No discussion. Motion carried.*

Mr. Holderman commented that the cameras had been installed at Musser Lane.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

Centre County Boroughs Association meeting, 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 15th, at the Bellefonte Borough Building, 236 W. Lamb Street. The Teeter Group is sponsoring this meeting, and Senator Chris Dush will be the guest speaker. No council action is requested at this time.

Monthly Reports and Various updates from the Assistant Borough Manager. No council action is requested at this time.

Refuse Container Fee Schedule and Musser Lane Camera update.

*Dann motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve a change to the fee schedule to charge \$75 for a new 95-gallon refuse container. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking for clarification on the motion. Staff indicated that this fee is being increased for the garbage and the brush containers. Motion carried.*

#### **XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mrs. Purnell commented regarding the train derailment in Ohio – and expressed concern about the train tracks in Bellefonte running so close to our water supply. She also mentioned Mr. Bechdel's toy car museum. Mr. Stewart mentioned Borough Staff are working with Mr. Bechdel to help him with his business venture.

Tosti-Vasey was asked to present an announcement by Commissioner Amber-Concepcion regarding the PA school funding system. The statewide education funding system was deemed unconstitutional by the PA Commonwealth Court and will need to be reformed. A rally will occur on the Courthouse Steps on Saturday, February 25th, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Council and the public are invited.

Mr. Holderman is happy to be at the meeting tonight.

Several council members commended Mr. Bernier on stepping in to run the meetings.

Mr. Brachbill commended the Logan Fire Company for collecting food during January to deliver to residents.

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Dann seconded to adjourn tonight's meeting. The motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.