

## BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2023- 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The March 20, 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  
Mayor Buddy Johnson

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

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

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#### **IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- *Mr. D Johnson asked to add an approval for 217 N Allegheny Street to tonight's agenda under the Heading VIII – Reports/HARB section. Brachbill motioned to add the action item to tonight's agenda. Bernier seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.*

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

A resident spoke regarding 4 issues he would like addressed:

- The STR at 227 E. Lamb Street. The resident reports that 6 gunshots were shot from the porch of the rental unit and that police were called to investigate. During the investigation, it was reported that 11 guests were at the property at the time of the incident. The resident expressed his concern regarding safety measures with STR's.
- He also expressed his concern with "No Mow May".
- He also expressed his concern over sidewalks that are in need of repair in the Borough.
- He also expressed concern over garbage on the curbs on Allegheny Street on the weekends.

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

Bellefonte Soccer Association requests to use the Soccer Fields at Governor's Park from March 27th, 2023- approximately June 10th, 2023. Monday-Thursday 5:30 pm-8:30 pm and Saturdays 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

*Cleeton motioned and McKean seconded to approve the use of Governor's Park Soccer fields from March 27<sup>th</sup> - June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the Bellefonte Soccer Association.*

*Brachbill motioned to amend the motion to be conditional approval and Tosti-Vasey seconded. No discussion of the amendment. Motion carried to amend the motion.*

*Conditional approval of the amended motion carried unanimously.*

A resident sent an email regarding No Mow May, Sidewalk repairs, Refuse on the street, and other concerns within the Borough. Council may take action or consider further discussion in a work session.

*McKean motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to re-enact the "No Mow May" recommendation. Discussion included Mayor Johnson mentioning that he feels the disadvantages outweigh the advantages for this concept. Several other council members also offered their opinions in favor/not in favor of "No Mow May". The motion was voted on via Roll-Call.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>nay</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>yay</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>		

*The motion failed to carry.*

Effective EMS Relationships with Township & Borough Officials: A Seminar for Leaders Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 6:30pm-9:30pm at the Benner Township Building. No council action is requested. The letter does request that interested attendees RSVP.

Bellefonte Art Museum requests to have Bees Knees Coffee Truck parked in front of 133 N. Allegheny St every first Sunday of the month from April through December 2023.

*Sedgwick motioned and Brachbill seconded to conditional approval the Bellefonte Art Museum request to have Bees Knees Coffee Truck parked in front of 133 N. Allegheny St on the first Sunday of the Month, April-December 2023. Discussion included a member asking if there are restaurants located within 150 ft of the proposed location. It was clarified there are not. It was suggested that the process be streamlined before the meeting so that motions do not have to be amended to be "conditional". No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*

Pelican SnoBall Parking Complaint. Council may take action or consider further discussion in a work session. There was a brief discussion regarding solutions, legalities and responsible parties.

*Tosti-Vasey made a motion that Borough staff determine if the business owner would be responsible to pay Public Works for any costs associated with painting extra lines in their lot. Dann seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

**\*\*There was another motion – but I did not catch the second motion. (25:26)** *No discussion. Motion carried.*

CBICC EnergyBiz Series Flyer: (No council action is requested)

1. Electric Vehicles for Businesses, Municipalities & Individuals
  2. Solar for your Business or Nonprofit
  3. Energy Efficiency for Business or Nonprofit Organizations
- To learn more or register visit: [www.cbicc.org](http://www.cbicc.org)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29. The event is by appointment only. To register visit [www.centrecountyrecycles.org](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.org) No council action is requested.

An email was sent with a suggestion for future use of the existing elementary school auditorium. No council action is requested.

Clearwater Conservatory Watershed Cleanup Day is Saturday, April 22, 2023. To register/volunteer visit [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/wcd](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/wcd) No council action is requested.

Rail Car Accidents in the USA. Consequently, staff was asked to inquire as to what rail cars going through the borough are carrying. The railroad operator responded to staff and stated they are checking with the Federal Railroad Authority and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to determine what they are allowed to share as far as what is being transported through the borough. Staff will provide any updates received. No council action is requested.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. <i>Communications</i>	Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary Club 74th Annual Bellefonte Children's Fair – save the date – June 3, 2023
2. <i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023
3. <i>Finance</i>	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice February 2023
4. <i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual February 2023
5. <i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual Summary February 2023
6. <i>Finance</i>	Treasurer's Report February 2023
7. <i>Finance</i>	-Voucher Summary February 2023

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the amended consent agenda.*

*Tosti-Vasey moved to have item 1 removed from the Consent Agenda.*

*No further discussion. Motion to approve items 2-7 carried unanimously.*

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to conditionally approve Item 1 – request to save the date of June 3, 2023 for the Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary Club’s 74th Annual Bellefonte Children’s Fair. Motion carried.*

**VIII. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson**

Parking Enforcement & Animal Control February 2023 Report

**Police – Chief Weaver**

February 2023 Police Report

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

1. Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) –

Recommended for approval: (More details on projects can be found in your agenda packet)

- o **217 N. Allegheny Street** – Roof replacement project.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve the project listed above. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*

2. Administrative Approvals: NONE

3. Items of interest: NONE

4. Zoning: NONE

**Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

**Nuisance codes** (NONE)

**Borough Manager** (NONE)

**Planning Commission** (NONE)

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

Change Sustainable Certification Program Resolution. (Climate Action Plan)

- o This certification is the first step in the process to be fully certified.
- o This certification specifies that your borough or municipality has a bronze, silver, gold or platinum designation regarding sustainability programs.
- o This resolution was tabled to give Council time to gather more information.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to remove this resolution from the table. Roll call vote: (Yay vote – removing it from the table / Nay vote – keeping it ON the table)*

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

*With a 6 yays - 3 nays vote – the motion to remove this resolution from the table has passed.*

*Brachbill motioned and Purnell seconded to re-table Resolution No. 03202023-001 to allow council to gather more information. Roll Call vote:*

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

*With a 6 yays - 3 nays vote – the motion to table this resolution has passed.*

- HBI Easter Egg Hunt on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

*Bernier motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the HBI Easter Egg Hunt Application.*

*Tosti-Vasey moved to amend the motion to state that:*

*\*the banner will be on the bridge from March 25-April 8<sup>th</sup> (Not 30 days)*

*\*Waiver for the reservation fee (\$400) but not the application fee (\$25) or \$100 damage fee (refundable)*

*\*Conditional on use of the Fire Police*

*\*Notify My Café Buzz and Bonfatto’s about the food trucks*

*\*\$85 fee for Borough Staff*

*Cleeton seconded the amendments to the motions. Discussion included a concern about restroom facilities being sufficient for the volume of people. The motion to approve the amendments passed. Motion to approve the original motion with amendments passed.*

- Yard Waste Pick Up begins Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Payment is due March 31<sup>st</sup> to the Borough Office. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the Wait-List please call the Borough Office at (814)355-1501. No council action is requested.
- Resolutions for PSAB. Proposed resolutions will be added to the April 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting. Approved resolutions will be submitted to PSAB on or before April 5<sup>th</sup>. No council action is requested at this time.

Traffic Light at Parkview and Zion update. The BAHS engineers completed their traffic impact “Scoping” process and submitted comments to PennDOT. The new elementary school project “may” cause new traffic lights and road realignments. The borough does not want to waste taxpayer money by doing a traffic light design (the first step in the process for getting a light in place) for Parkview Boulevard and Zion Road now when that intersection may change. As soon as we know what PennDOT will require of the school district, we can move ahead with our design and work toward the construction of a traffic light. No council action is requested.

South Water Street/SR 150 Wall Repair is scheduled to begin Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The project is projected to be complete by August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All northbound traffic will be detoured at Stoney Batter Road and use Route 144 to High Street, returning to Route 150. All southbound traffic--heading toward State College--will travel through the affected area in the northbound lane, with a potential 15-minute stoppage of traffic as needed. No council action is requested.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

Pennsylvania Safe Digging Month April 2023 Resolution No. 03202023-002.

*Dann motioned and Purnell seconded to approve Resolution No. 03202023-002. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking for clarification regarding any further plans by the Borough to further the resolution. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*

PennDOT upgrades to Pedestrian Signals at three intersections. PennDOT intends to upgrade the pedestrian countdown signals at three intersections in the borough before October. The intersections are:

- Allegheny & Linn
- Allegheny & Bishop
- Bishop & Wilson.

No Council action is requested.

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

Tosti-Vasey brought brochures from the Spring Creek Watershed Commission for Council member review.

PSAB June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Hershey Lodge.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that Mr. Holderman did a great job tonight filling in tonight in Ralph's absence.

Mr. Holderman mentioned 2 items for Council:

- 2 grant applications were submitted
- And 2 invoices for funding were submitted: 1 for the Big Spring Cover and 1 for the Bandshell.

Mr. Bernier mentioned 2 items that were brought up by the resident during public comment: Sidewalk repair and Trash on the street. He would like to reiterate that these issues need to be addressed and resolved. He also offered suggestions regarding ways to streamline the meetings.

Ms. Dann offered highlights from the Centre County Association of Boroughs meeting. The meeting was well attended. There were 6 boroughs in attendance.

Mr. Brachbill asked to have parking times and sidewalks added to the next work session.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.