

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 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 (excused)
- Ms. Rita Purnell
- Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
- Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
- Mayor Buddy Johnson (excused)

STAFF PRESENT

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

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Tosti-Vasey asked to change the written communications – Joy of Gardening from “no action required” to “motion to approve”.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to change the “Joy of Gardening” item to an action item on tonight’s agenda. Cleeton seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

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

Claudia Wilson spoke regarding “No Mow May”. The resident is the person who first presented the Council with the idea of “No Mow May” last year, and she urged the Council to reconsider and research “No Mow May” and consider perhaps “Low Mow May” due to environmental concerns for local pollinators. She left information for Council members to review and offered to assist the council in reviewing this information.

Chis Morelli spoke regarding retail business times and related parking meter issues related to the required payment of parking in town after 5 pm. He also commented on the agenda. He suggested adding the packet attachments and more details added to the agenda that the public can access except for materials related to executive session business.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

2023 PennDOT Projects preview on Friday, April 7th in Talleyrand Park. No action is requested.

Joy of Gardening on April 15th in Talleyrand Park Edible Garden.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to approve the “Joy of Gardening” event on April 15, 2023 in Talleyrand Park. Cleeton seconded. There was a discussion regarding garbage removal fees. It was clarified that this will be a very small event and the entire park will not be used for the event. A member asked for clarification of the term “event” – to make it clearer going forward. Roll Call vote. Motion carried.

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

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

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| General | Council Meeting Minutes March 20, 2023 |
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Brachbill motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the consent agenda. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

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

VIII. REPORTS

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)

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Special Event Applications:

- NOVEL Con- May 6th
- Outdoor Adventure Expo- May 21st
- Friday in the Fonte/Movies in the Park- May 26th, June 30th, July 28th
- September 29th & October 27th
- Bellefonte Community Band July 4th Concert- July 4th
- Centre Gives Fest- May 11th
- Central PA Tasting Craft Beverage Expo- June 18th
- Watermarke in the Park- September 17th
- Bellefonte Field of Dreams Volleyball Tournament- June 6th
- Bellefonte Soccer Association-March 28th – June 10th
- Bellefonte Art Museum Monthly Reception- First Sunday April-December 2023
- Good News Adventure Camp- July 31st – August 4th

Brachbill motioned, and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Special Event Applications for NOVEL Con on May 6, Outdoor Adventure Expo on May 21, Friday in the Fonte/Movies in the Park on May 26, June 30, August 25, September 29, and October 27, Bellefonte Community Band July 4th Concert, Watermarke in the Park on September 17, Bellefonte Field of Dreams Volleyball Tournament on June 6, Bellefonte Soccer Association from March 28 through June 10, Bellefonte Art Museum monthly reception on the first Sunday of each month from April through December 2023, and Good News Adventure Camp from July 31 through August 4. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the Special Event Applications for: Centre Gives Fest, Central PA Tasting Craft Beverage Expo – without the fee waivers. Discussion included a question about fees and clarification that neither of the two organizations is “non-profit” and neither are based in Bellefonte. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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| Mr. Randy Brachbill | yay | Ms. Rita Purnell | yay |
| Ms. Deb Cleeton | yay | Ms. Johanna Sedgwick | yay |
| Ms. Barbara Dann | yay | Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey | yay |
| Mr. Doug Johnson | yay | | |

Yard Waste Pick up begins Wednesday, April 12th, 2023. The payment was due March 31st 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.

Masonic Lodge Parking Lot Lease Agreement.

Cleeton motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Parking Lot Lease Agreement between Bellefonte Borough and Masonic Lodge. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

Ridge Street between High and Pike Streets.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the staff's recommendation to leave the street as is with the exception of not allowing parking on either side of Ridge Street between Pike and High, due to the narrowness of the road. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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| Mr. Randy Brachbill | yay | Ms. Rita Purnell | yay |
| Ms. Deb Cleeton | yay | Ms. Johanna Sedgwick | yay |
| Ms. Barbara Dann | yay | Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey | yay |
| Mr. Doug Johnson | yay | | |

Proposed Resolutions for PSAB.

- Resolution 04032023.02 Fee for State Police Coverage
- Resolution 04032023.03 Penn DoT maintenance of storm systems in SR RoWs in boroughs
- Resolution 04032023.04 Increase Funding for Police, Fire and EMS services
- Resolution 04032023.05 Amend State Right-to-Know Law

Brachbill Motioned and Dann seconded to submit the above Resolution(s) to PA State Boroughs Association for consideration. Tosti-Vasey motioned to amend resolution 04032023.02 by adding "who do not have their own police services" at the end of the Therefore Be It Resolved clause to clarify that the added fee is only for municipalities that do not any provide police services within their municipal boundaries. Cleeton seconded the motion. After some discussion, Roll call votes for approval of both the amendment and the amended resolution was called. Motion carried.

Vote on the Amendment

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------|----------|
| Mr. Kent Bernier | yay | Ms. Shawna McKean | (absent) |
| Mr. Randy Brachbill | yay | Ms. Rita Purnell | yay |

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|------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Ms. Deb Cleeton | yay | Ms. Johanna Sedgwick | yay |
| Ms. Barbara Dann | yay | Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey | yay |
| Mr. Doug Johnson | yay | | |

Vote on the Amended Motion

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

2023 Police Contract.

Bernier motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the draft Police Contract. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

X. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 04032023-01 Acceptance of funds for the Bellefonte Streetscape safety improvements.

Cleeton motioned and Bernier seconded to approve Resolution No. 04032023-01. Discussion included a question regarding clarification of grant funds for this resolution. This TASA grant is approximately \$350,000. The TASA grant is PennDOT funds in conjunction with CDBG funds to do the streetscape project on W. Bishop Street in front of the Waffle Shop to the corner of Smoker's Express, down to Representative Benninghoff's office on High Street. Council staff hopes to have the project out to bid in the summer – with a project start date in Fall. No further discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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| Mr. Randy Brachbill | yay | Ms. Rita Purnell | yay |
| Ms. Deb Cleeton | yay | Ms. Johanna Sedgwick | yay |
| Ms. Barbara Dann | yay | Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey | yay |
| Mr. Doug Johnson | yay | | |

John Nastase Construction Application and Certificate for Payment for Governor's Park Baseball Field Project. The invoice is for \$251,477.50

Bernier motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to remit payment to John Nastase Construction for the Governor’s Park Baseball Field Project. Discussion included the invoice amount and timelines for project completion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

Borough Office Closed Friday, April 7th, 2023 for Good Friday. Refuse will not be collected on Friday. Refuse will be collected on Wednesday, April 5th, 2023. No action is requested.

PSAB Voting Delegate appointment.

Purnell motioned and Brachbill seconded to appoint Barb Dann as Voting Delegate for 2023, and to appoint Doug Johnson as alternate Voting Delegate for 2023. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Members made comments regarding Borough issues and projects/improvements.

Holderman and Stewart mentioned that an additional leaf collection would occur in the borough the week of April 10-14. Street sweeping started today for the year. Musser Lane is now open on Saturday mornings until 11:45 am.

Stewart discussed the ADA access for the building to be completed by the end of April with an addition of the elevator after bids are returned later this year. The permeable sidewalk is being installed this week.

Brachbill requested a review of the 2023 goals.

Tosti-Vasey raised an issue regarding black vultures that are being fed by someone in town. Stewart suggested that the resident should first contact the PA Game Commission and then ask them for any further suggestions to deal with this issue. They may be able to enforce this potential violation.

Cleeton mentioned two transportation webinars from PSAB (April 5) and the Federal Highway Administration (April 12). She has signed up for both and will share the PowerPoints and recordings with interested council members.

Purnell asked again what materials are transported on the trains through town; Stewart hasn't yet heard back from TSA. Discussion of why nationwide, why there are more and more derailments. She then asked for a discussion on the Climate Action Plan, including the GHG emission data and the original survey. Johnson said he'd plan for this discussion at the 2nd work session meeting in May.

Sedgewick mentioned the July 4 Community Band and pointed out that it is their 40th anniversary year. Currently there are 77 members.

Dann mentioned the Easter Egg Hunt on April 8

Johnson mention the installation of push-button solar-powered pedestrian flashing lights that have been installed in Mifflin County. They can increase the safety between pedestrians and motorists and will be placed on a future work session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Brachbill motioned, and Dann seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.