

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2023- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 17, 2023, meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM.

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 (Zoom)
- Ms. Rita Purnell
- Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
- Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
- Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

- Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
- Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
- Ms. Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Johnson requested to add a vote to approve a Community Cookout, sponsored by Giant Food Stores, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, from 11 AM – 2 PM, at the corner of Allegheny and West High, to tonight’s agenda, under New Business.

D Johnson motioned, and Mayor Johnson seconded to add approval for the above event as listed to tonight’s agenda under New Business. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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

Mary McMurtrie, the lead organizer of the Bellefonte Community Easter Egg Hunt, spoke regarding the fee schedule for this event, held at Talleyrand Park. She requested that the fees charged for the event be waived.

Lisa Drobka spoke in support of waiving the fees for the Bellefonte Community Easter Egg Hunt.

Tom Wilson supported waiving the Bellefonte Community Easter Egg Hunt fees. He encouraged Council to contact community organizations to discuss future fee structure changes.

Chris Morelli spoke in support of waiving the Bellefonte Community Easter Egg Hunt fees. He praised the event organizers and encouraged Council to better communicate with the community for future events and changes. He also talked about the free electric vehicle charging stations. He encouraged Council to charge a rate for the charging station. He also said that bees aren't needed to pollinate his lawn.

Gary Powers spoke regarding the fees for the Bellefonte Community Easter Egg Hunt. He encouraged Council to adopt policies to ensure event organizers are not charged for existing damages to the community parks/areas.

Mary Lesser supported waiving the fees for the Bellefonte Community Easter Egg Hunt.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

No Mow May or Low Mow May. No action was taken for this communication.

Comment regarding fees for Bellefonte Easter Egg Hunt. Council will discuss this issue and communicate any changes with the event organizers.

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. Council may take action or consider further discussion in a work session.

Dann motioned, and Cleeton seconded a motion for staff to send a letter opposing bigger trucks traveling through the state, particularly in municipalities. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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

The Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	General Council Meeting Minutes April 3, 2023
2. Finance	Finance Stover McGlaughlin Invoice March 2023

3. Finance	Finance Budget v. Actual March 2023
4. Finance	Finance Budget v. Actual Summary March 2023
5. Finance	Finance Treasurer's Report March 2023
6. Finance	Finance Voucher Summary March 2023

Brachbill motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the consent agenda. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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

Mayor Johnson 2 Proclamations presented:

- o National Library Week - April 23-29, 2023 (American Library Association)
- o Watershed Cleanup Day – April 22, 2023 (27th year!)

Police – Chief Weaver

March 2023 Report included in the packet.

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

- Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) –
 Recommended for approval: (More details on projects can be found in your agenda packet)
 1. 148 Saint Paul Street – Wood fence.
 2. 107 E. Linn – Standing seam metal roof replacement.
 3. 301 N. Spring Street – exterior ADA ramps.
 4. 301 N. Spring Street – Ground-mounted directory sign

Brachbill motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the above-listed projects.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Dann seconded to amend the listed approvals above by removing the 4th listing, 301 N. Spring Street/Ground-mounted directory sign. Council voted to approve to amend the motion. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey stating her reasons for amending the motion. She mentioned a grant that was awarded to Borough for signage. She feels the sign as proposed is a misuse of Borough funds and does not follow the Borough's brand design. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried to amend the motion.

Mr. Kent Bernier	no	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	no
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	no	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	no		

Council did a roll call vote to approve items 1-3 listed above, as listed. No discussion on items 1-3. Motion to approve items 1-3 carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Rita Purnell motioned, and Brachbill seconded to change the Borough portion/panel of the sign designed to match the existing Borough branding using the brand's logo, colors, and font. Discussion included several Council members discussing different ideas regarding the sign design. Council did a roll call vote to approve the motion. With five nay's and four yay's, the vote for this motion failed.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	no
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	no
Ms. Deb Cleeton	no	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	no
Ms. Barbara Dann	no	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the original project as presented. Roll call vote. With one nay vote, the motion to approve the sign as presented initially/recommended by HARB carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	no
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

2. Zoning-

The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Wednesday, April 26, at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers. They will be hearing a variance request from the Bellefonte Teener Baseball Club for relief from the sign ordinance to display sponsorship banners on the ball field fence during the baseball season. The public is invited to attend the meeting and speak for or against the request for relief.

2.

3. Items of interest: There will not be a HARB meeting on April 25.

4. Zoning: NONE

Liaison Reports (Reports were submitted)

- Borough Authority
- Centre County Airport Authority
- Centre County Library Board
- Workplace Safety Committee
- CNET Board of Directors Annual Report

Borough Manager March 2023 Report
Assistant Borough Manager March 2023 Report

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Centre County Library NOVEL Con requested for the fees to be waived. There has been discussion about lowering the fee by having volunteers handle some of the associated tasks.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the Centre County Library fee waiver request for the NOVEL Con event or modify it conditional upon volunteer assistance. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey requesting that the Library pay the \$25 application fee. Doug Johnson volunteered to pay the fee himself. Roll call vote to waive all fees. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Bellefonte Bandits Legion Baseball application for the use of Governor's Park Baseball Field in June & July 2023.

Cleeton motioned, and Sedgwick seconded to approve the Bellefonte Bandits Legion Baseball request to use Governor's Park Baseball Field. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking for clarification regarding the field usage. She recommended amending the motion, but it was clarified that this wouldn't be an issue. The motion was not amended. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Bellefonte Children's Fair.

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the Bellefonte Children's Fair. No discussion. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Penn DoT SR150 Water Street Wall Construction Project update. No Council action is requested.

Special Event Definition and Fees.

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to freeze the new fees associated with the special event definition and fee system until the new ordinance is passed. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	no	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Scope for Borough communications with the public.

Tosti Vasey motioned, and Sedgwick seconded the following motion:

- *Except for executive session materials, the protected packet will be opened to the public by increasing the website's bandwidth.*
- *The packet will be placed on the public website*
- *The Borough will continue to put events on Facebook as they come.*
- *Then, looking forward to next year's budget, staff will review and determine what other forms of media we could access to improve borough communications with the public. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in borough parking lots.

Cleeton motioned, and Bernier seconded to review methods so the Borough can adopt/set fees and implement charges for EV Charging. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking for clarification of the motion. The final approval for the method to charge these fees will return to the Council for final approval. No further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Posting of council agenda materials, including attachments. The staff has reviewed this suggestion and will begin posting materials/attachments in a pdf format on our website unless an item is deemed to fall into a protected category. No council action is requested. Tosti-Vasey thanked the staff for working on updating the website as she had requested several years ago to make this finally happen.

X. NEW BUSINESS

CATA Local Match Share Agreement.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve CATA Local Match Share Agreement. The discussion included details regarding the resolution. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

CATA Local Match for State Operating Financial Assistance Resolution No. 04172023-01.

Cleeton motioned, and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve Resolution No. 04172023-01. Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

By A Thread Block Party on Bishop.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the West Bishop Street Block Party on July 22 without alcohol from Allegheny to Spring Street. Dann commented that this block party would be PennDOT's Water Street construction detour for the construction period. Thus the detour will not be complete at the requested time for the Block Party., The motion was amended to deny the Block Party on Bishop until after the construction and the detour has ended, OR move the event to Perry Lane instead of West Bishop Street on July 22. The discussion included a question regarding whether the detour would affect the event. The motion with the amendment was voted on with one combined vote for the amendment and revised motion; it carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Retirement Recognition for Borough Officials/Employees Open House, Thursday, May 18, 2023, 2:00 -4:00 PM, in Council Chambers. No action is requested.

Centre County YMCA Summer Camp Program request to use Governor’s Park. They will use other Pavilions the week of July 31 - August 4 as the Good News Adventure Camp will utilize Pavilions #1 & #3.

Bernier motioned, and Brachbill seconded to approve Centre County YMCA Summer Camp use of Governor’s Park Pavilions #1, #2, & #3 Monday-Friday 6:30 AM-6:00 PM beginning June 7 through August 24, 2023. Discussion included clarification that the Good News Camp was already approved, so both groups agreed to share the park. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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		

Community Cookout on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. Mayor Johnson requests approval to hold a Community Cookout on May 24, 2023, from 11 AM – 2 PM, serving free chips, hotdogs, and Drinks, sponsored by Giant. He would like to hold the cookout by the Brownstone building. He would like to ask that the two parking spaces in that area be blocked off, and he would like a tent in those two spaces.

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the Community Cookout. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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 announcements, issues, and projects/improvements.

Ms. Purnell made comments regarding “No Mow May.” She suggested a plant swap for local plants and asked the EAB to look into creating a pollinator program for the public.

Ms. Sedgwick commented on the cemetery cleanup.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey commented on the Business Sustainability Roundtable she attended on April 6 in Reading, PA. The Roundtable discussed Climate Action Plans and programs on energy efficiency that First Energy provides to municipalities, businesses, and nonprofits.

Mr. Brachbill added to Ms. Purnell’s on plantings suggested by our Treasure – Brachbill questioned how well the pervious walkway will hold up over the coming years.

Mayor Johnson thanked Council for approving the Community Cookout event.

Mr. Holderman offered comments on several items:

- Donated trees along the waterfront
- Police Contract approval
- Street sweeping

Mr. Stewart commented on the completed ball field project. He publicly thanked Mr. Holderman for his efforts to complete the project over the past few months.

Mayor Johnson mentioned that the Borough hopes to hold a community open house to celebrate the ball field opening.

Mr. Johnson mentioned a brief executive session after tonight's meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

The executive session followed tonight's meeting.