

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 15, 2023- 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The May 15, 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

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**IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

NONE

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

NONE

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

CATA Proposed Fall Service Changes and Public Hearing May 23, 2023, 4:30–6:30 PM, at Schlow Library in State College. No Council action is needed.

Bellefonte Easter Egg Hunt Thank you to the council. No Council action is needed.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda includes the following items:

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

*Brachbill requested to pull the minutes from the Consent Agenda for discussion.*

*Dann motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve item 2 of 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		

*Brachbill motioned, and Dann seconded the motion to approve item 1 of the Consent Agenda – Council Minutes. Discussion included Brachbill requesting two corrections and Tosti-Vasey requesting corrections as well. Roll Call vote. Motion to approve the Minutes with corrections 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**

Proclamation: National Police Week May 14-20, 2023  
 Officer Holt and Officer Neideigh received the Proclamation.

Proclamations: Emergency Medical Services Week May 21-27, 2023

**Police – Chief Weaver**

April 2023 Report will be available for the June 7, 2023 Council Meeting.

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

**2. Zoning-**

Motion to approve the demolition of the rear garage at 111 E. High Street.

**1. Recommended for approval:**

- 113 E. High Street – Demolition of the rear garage that has been deemed structurally unsound by an engineer on two conditions:
  - The original bricks be saved and palletized, and
  - Within 90 days, the applicant will return to HARB with a proposed structure that would enhance the streetscape and give the nod to the time period of the original building.

- 112 N. Allegheny Street – Replace the door to the interior stairwell, paint the existing exterior wood siding, and install a stone tile floor at the entry.
- 141 S. Allegheny Street – Install the HVAC system with the exterior unit with the following conditions:
  - Add a black iron screen to surround the HVAC system with the refrigerant line entering the building through the basement, and
  - The exterior unit will be placed further down the side of the building to balance it between the two sets of windows, and
  - The placement of the condensation pipe will be approved administratively.
- 114 N. Allegheny Street – Business sign: Mini Mart

*Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the projects listed above. Tosti-Vasey requested that 112 N. Allegheny Street be pulled from the list, as Randy Brachbill cannot vote on that project. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve 113 E High Street, 141 S. Allegheny Street, and 114 N. Allegheny Street 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		

*Cleeton motioned, and Sedgwick seconded to approve the project at 112 N. Allegheny Street. Discussion included Brachbill commenting that he is abstaining from this vote. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
Mr. Randy Brachbill	ABSTAIN	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		

## 2. Zoning:

Motion to approve the demolition of the rear garage at 111 E. High Street.

*Brachbill motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the project at 111 E. High Street. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion for demolition approval 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		

**Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

**Borough Manager** (Reports were submitted)

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

**Bellefonte Cruise June 16-17, 2023.**

*Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the Bellefonte Cruise June 16-17, 2023, for the requested street closures, use of the North Parking Lot, designating x number of parking space on N. Spring Street (the number to be agreed upon between the Cruise and the Borough administration), and use of the Fire Police for the times requested by the Cruise. The following limitations were made to this motion:*

- The banners on both sides of the Veterans Bridge will only be placed on the bridge between June 2 and June 17 to comply with the Borough's 2-week banner hanging policy, and*
- The Borough will not create an ordinance prohibiting pets, bikes, and skateboards in the area of the Cruise, and*
- Hanging additional banners on the Borough's Waterfront Walkway Fencing and property is prohibited.*

*Dann raised a question about access to businesses around Talleyrand, including My Buzz Café, Bonfatto's, and CVS, and concerns about the construction on Water Street. Steward indicated that the northbound detour for the Cruise would continue up Stoneybatter to Bishop Street through to Wilson Street, and onto Linn Street. People interested in going to My Buzz Café, Bonfatto's, and CVS could turn left at North Spring Street, right on Lamb Street to Thomas Street, and then return to High Street. 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		

**Bellefonte Moose Lodge Rubber Duck Race September 10, 2023.**

*Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the Bellefonte Moose Lodge Rubber Duck Race on September 10, 2023. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey clarifying that the motion is conditional upon receiving approval from the Fish and Boat Commission and allowing the live radio broadcasting from noon to 3 PM. In addition, since this is a Bellefonte-based non-profit, the registration fee will be waived. 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		

2023 Paving Bid opening.

Hawbaker

- Option 1: N. Ridge Street - \$11,670
- Option 2: N. McAllister Street - \$66,471
- Option 3: Cedar Lane - \$11,360
- Option 4: Hill Street - \$21,763
- Option 5: Manchester Lane - \$49,308
- Option 6: Armor Street - \$18,793
- Option 7: Hail Lane - \$15,085
- TOTAL: \$194,450**

HRI, INC

- Option 1: N. Ridge Street - \$5,034.30
- Option 2: N. McAllister Street - \$66,528.45
- Option 3: Cedar Lane - \$5,161.65
- Option 4: Hill Street - \$13,802.13
- Option 5: Manchester Lane - \$34,630.65
- Option 6: Armor Street - \$14,593.50
- Option 7: Hail Lane - \$5,837.40
- TOTAL: \$145,588.05**

*Dann motioned, and Purnell seconded to allow staff to review, approve and select the lowest responsible bid. Discussion included members asking for clarifications about the various paving projects. 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		

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

Columbia Gas began work on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. The Gas Line replacement project started at the intersection of N. Allegheny Street and E. Curtin Street, working their way down E. Curtin Street. No Council action is needed.

DATE CHANGE: The council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, due to attendance at the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Annual Conference in Hershey, PA. No Council action is needed.

EV Charging Stations.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Dann seconded to approve the amendment of the Parking Ordinance to include metered spaces for EV Charging Stations. 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		

CDBG Vehicle Repair Project update. Memo/email in the packet. No Council action is needed.

Penn DoT SR 150 Wall Project Update 05082023, Rough Schedule for Completion. No council action is needed.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Bellefonte Area School District Parade request for September 28, 2023.

*Dann motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the BASD Parade request for September 28, 2023. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey commenting on her concerns regarding the school district only notifying the residents along Allegheny Street but not residents elsewhere affected by the parade route. She also asked if this would be a rolling road closure and if the Fire Police would be used for safety control. Roll call vote. Tosti-Vasey voted No. 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	NO
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Herbie’s Hometown Loop August 5, 2023.

*Dann motioned, and Sedgwick seconded to approve Herbie’s Hometown Loop on August 5, 2023. 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		

Propose a motion to obligate the remaining ARPA funding to the Parkview Heights Stormwater Project.

*Brachbill motioned, and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the obligation of remaining APRA funding to the Parkview Heights Stormwater Project. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	yay
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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		

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

Members may offer comments regarding various events and issues within the Borough.

Mayor Johnson reminded the community about the Community Cookout sponsored by Giant for Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 11–2 PM. He again thanked our Police and EMS workers for all they do for our community.

It was also noted that the Bellefonte Area High School Baseball team won the Mountain League Championship for the first time since 2005.

Mr. Brachbill mentioned that event applications should be comprehensive. Council members should not have to add conditions or waivers to event applications.

Tosti-Vasey mentioned she received an email from a concerned citizen about safety issues on South Potter Street for pedestrians and cyclists. The email was forwarded to the Borough Administration and President of Council Johnson. Tosti-Vasey requested this issue be added to a future work session. Tosti-Vasey also asked a question regarding the opening of the packet on the public website. It was clarified that a PDF of the Council packet was posted on the Borough website.

Ms. Cleeton commented about the streetlight replacement project in the downtown area. It was clarified that the Borough has been waiting on the delivery of 20 poles for over a year. The electrician for the project reported that the poles are expected to be in sometime in June. The new lights will have new bulbs installed.

Cleeton also asked a question regarding the beveled roof on the Reservoir Building. She noted it is showing signs of rust. It was clarified that the Water Authority would address this issue.

It was clarified that the public could report streetlights that are not working to the Borough for bulb replacement.

Ms. McKean also commented on the safety concerns on S. Potter Street, and she wants to assure residents that the council does hear the public's concerns and that the concerns will be addressed. She also thanked the council for their understanding as she joins the meetings virtually.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Dann and seconded by Tosti-Vasey. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.