

# **BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Regular Meeting**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**June 7, 2023- 7:30 p.m.**

**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**

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

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

The June 7, 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 (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  
Mr. Shawn Weaver, Police Chief

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

NONE

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

Chris Morelli spoke regarding the Community Cookout. He stated the event was a great success and he thanked the organizers. He also spoke regarding a HARB issue regarding a leaking roof in the Historic District. He encouraged Council to approve the projects listed for HARB tonight.

#### **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

2022 West Nile Virus Program and 2023 Kick-Off. No Council action is needed.

It was noted that if any Borough resident has sensitivities or allergies to any chemicals that might be used in the mitigation process, they are encouraged to reach out to the County Planning Office of Centre County Government. Wayne Laubscher is the West Nile Coordinator, and he can help answer any questions or concerns. His email address is [wlaubscher@centrecountypa.gov](mailto:wlaubscher@centrecountypa.gov) and his phone number is 814-404-4012 or the County Office number is 814-355-6791.

8 Cutest Small Towns in Pennsylvania Article. No Council action is needed.

Bellefonte Environmental Advisory Review Board Meetings notes March-May 2023. No Council action is needed. Tosti-Vasey announced several events coming up in the next three weeks that were included in this communication:

6/8/2023 is the last Energy Biz program from 4-5pm at the Innovation HUB in room 612 in State College. The program will focus on energy efficiencies for businesses, non-profits and government buildings.

There will also be a Backyard Composting Program, held June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:00 am-11:00 am in the Bellefonte Children’s Garden (behind the Historical Museum).

The presentation on the Sustainability Survey will be presented by Deb Cleeton during the June 20<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. <i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes May 15, 2023
2. <i>Finance</i>	Budget v. Actual April 2023
3. <i>Finance</i>	Budget V. Actual Summary April 2023
4. <i>Finance</i>	Treasurer’s Report April 2023
5. <i>Finance</i>	Voucher Summary April 2023

*Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve items 1, 4, 5 of the consent agenda as presented. Discussion included removing items 2 and 3 for questions. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve items 1, 4, 5 carried.*

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

*There was a discussion on items 2 and three of the Consent Agenda. Tosti-Vasey asked about a donation listed in item 2 and a blank column in item 3. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 2 and 3 carried.*

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

**VIII. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson**

Proclamation: A Philatelic Memorial of the Holocaust

**Police – Chief Weaver**

Police Report for April 2023

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

1. Recommended for approval:

1. 421 E. Curtain Street – porch remodel
2. 112 N. Allegheny Street – balcony dividers
3. 106 N. Allegheny Street – replace awning
4. 108 N. Allegheny Street – paint walls and replace door
5. 114 N. Allegheny Street – replace awning
6. 438 E Curtin Street – new roof
7. 375 E. Curtin Street - fence
8. 120 Dunlop Street – two business signs

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Bernier seconded to approve items 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 as presented. Discussion included Brachbill requesting to pull items 2, 3, and 4 from the vote, as he will abstain from those, and comments and clarifications about the roofing project at 438 E. Curtin 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		

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve items 2, 3, 4 as presented. No discussion. 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. Administrative Approvals: NONE

3. Zoning: Motion to approve Charles Cox for the Zoning Hearing Board vacancy.

*Cleeton motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the appointment as presented. 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		

4. Items of interest:

The upcoming HARB meeting has been changed/rescheduled for Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. The meeting will be virtual.

The 2023 STR (Short Term Rental) permits for all applications that have been received have been issued. Reminder letters have been sent to any known STR owners who have

not yet submitted applications for 2023. Final applications need to be submitted by July 31, 2023.

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

Bellefonte Arts and Crafts Fair August 4-5, 2023.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Bellefonte Arts and Crafts Fair August 3-6, 2023. Discussion including noting a date correction on the agenda from August 4-5 as stated to August 3-6, 2023, and mentioning the streets would be closed from Thursday, 8/3/2023 at 6pm to the conclusion of the event on Sunday, 8/6/2023. Tosti-Vasey also asked if the repair mentioned on the application (below ground “vault”) would be repaired and activated. It was clarified that this repair likely would not be completed before the event. 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		

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Parkview Request to use Governor’s Park Baseball Field for Baseball Showcase Camp on September 10, 2023.

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the use of Governor’s Park Baseball Field for the Baseball Showcase Camp on September 10, 2023. Discussion included clarification that this organization is not eligible for fee waivers. 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		

Request to hold Flag Day Ceremony in Talleyrand Park on June 14, 2023.

*Purnell motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve Bellefonte Elk’s request to use Talleyrand Park for their Flag Day Ceremony on June 14, 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		

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the waiver of the Talleyrand Park Rental Fees. 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		

Bellefonte Area Middle School Girls Lacrosse Banquet in Governor’s Park Fee Waiver request for June 9, 2023.

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the fee waiver for the BAMS Girl Lacrosse Banquet use of Pavilion No. 3 on June 9, 2023. Discussion included questions regarding event details and fee waivers . 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		

Logan’s Fire Company Picnic in Governor’s Park Fee Waiver request for July 22, 2023.

*Brachbill motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the fee waiver for Logan’s Fire Company Picnic use of Pavilion No. 12 on July 22, 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		

The Church of the Good Shepherd requests to close Valentine Hill Road from 9:00 am-4:30 pm on Sunday, July 23, 2023, for Vacation Bible School activities.

*Bernier motioned and Dann seconded to conditionally approve the closure of Valentine Hill Road from 9:00am-4:30 pm on Sunday, July 23, 2023, for Vacation Bible School upon the approval from Spring Township. 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		

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

Member comments regarding Borough announcements, issues, and projects/improvements.

McKean did not have any comments.

Purnell asked about the Hotel plans. There are no specific plans in place at this time. Covid and inflation have thwarted plans for the hotel. She also asked about the train derailment concern, and asked if Council can ask the Railroad Authority what their emergency plans are in the event of a derailment and contamination issues.

Ms. Cleeton mentioned that the Centre County Accessible Transportation Fair will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 1-6:30pm at the Nittany Mall, sponsored by CATA.

Tosti-Vasey asked a question about the list of goals – the Musser Lane Compost Facility Upgrade.

Mayor Johnson wished the Bellefonte Baseball Team good luck at the State Quarter Finals. They are one of the final 8 teams in the state!

Mr. Holderman commented that the Borough chose which streets to pave in the 2023 funding based on maximizing the budget. The streets chosen are McAllister, N Ridge, Cedar Lane, Armor Street and Hale Street. The borough is also planning to pave S Monroe but that will be from a different funding source. Hill and Manchester will not be paved this year but will be put back on the list for next year.

He also mentioned that the Borough received the NPDES permit for the Parkview Heights Stormwater Project – so they will begin drafting the RFP for that project.

Brachbill mentioned that several council members attended the State Boroughs Annual Conference in Hershey. The event was well attended and was very informative.

Dann mentioned the Air Quality Alert due to Canada Wildfires.

Sedgwick encouraged community members to attend the Holocaust Remembrance Display at the Historical Society. She commended the organizers for their hard work on the display.

She also commented that Union Cemetery is having a work day on Saturday, 6/10/2023, starting at 9am for anyone who would like to volunteer.

Johnson mentioned about the PSAB conference. He said Bellefonte was well represented at the event. Deb Cleeton and Doug Johnson both received Certified Borough Official certifications for their completion of the PSAB educational program. He also mentioned that Ralph Stewart received the AC Scales Award, an award for outstanding service. This award was well deserved. Congratulations, Ralph!

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.