

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 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 June 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 (Zoom)
- Ms. Rita Purnell
- Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
- Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey

**STAFF PRESENT**

- Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
- Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
- Mr. Shawn Weaver, Police Chief

**IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

New Business: Request from Trinity Church to use TALLYRAND Park – NOT Governor’s Park

New Business: Request from Trinity Church to use TALLYRAND Park – Motion to conditionally approve the banner hanging on the Veteran’s Bridge from August 27-Sept 10, 2023.

Old Business: Parking Ordinance: Motion to amend the proposed Parking Ordinance.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to add the above action items to tonight’s meeting agenda. Discussion included clarifications on the motions and the action items. Roll call vote. With a count of 8 no’s and 1 yay, the motion to add the above action items did not carry.*

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

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

Kevin Abbott, owner of Jabebo Studio, a business in the Borough, spoke regarding the Environmental Advisory Board Committee. He is a member of the committee and he introduced himself to Council and he encouraged Council to consider the importance of the committee.

Nancy Perkins publicly thanked Council for their work on the Climate Action Plan and the Sustainability Survey.

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

Resignation Letter from Bellefonte Fire Department Chief Gary Lohr. No Council action needed.

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority Monthly Newsletter June 2023. No Council action needed.

CATA announces proposed removal of XB Route. CATA will host a Public Hearing to hear public comments on Wednesday, June 28th, 2023, 4:30pm-6:30pm in the Bellefonte Borough Building, Council Chambers, located at 236 W. Lamb Street, Bellefonte. They will also accept comments via email and letters. No Council action needed.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

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

*Brachbill motioned and Bernier seconded to approve items 1-5 of the Consent Agenda. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion 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**

NONE

**Police – Chief Weaver**

May 2023 Report

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

1. Recommended for approval (Specific motions are stated in the OCA memo):

- 140 W. High St/110 S Spring St- Retaining Wall
- 214 N Allegheny St- Mural Landscape
- 420 E Linn St- Replace Wood Siding

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the items listed above. 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		

2. Administrative Approvals:

- 325 W Curtin St- Retaining Wall
- 111-113 E High St- Paint Window and Door trim
- 128 W Howard St (Trinity UMC)- New Roof
- 245 W. Linn St Rear- New Roof
- 166 E Linn St-New Roof

**Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

**Borough Manager and Assistant Borough Manager Reports** Received

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

CDBG Project 2023 Selection.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Talleyrand Park Suspension Bridge Rehabilitation. 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		

Special Event Application.

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to allow Staff to administratively handle Special Event Applications, including discretion on fee waiver requests. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey offering her reasons for why she is voting against this motion. 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	no

Mr. Doug Johnson	yay	
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Update to the Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule-RV Parking Permit.

*Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the addition of the RV Parking Permit Fee to the Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule as amended. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey offering her feedback and concerns about the proposed advertisement of the draft – which was then recounted as she was commenting on a different motion. 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		

Parking Ordinance Draft. Comments/feedback from Council.

*Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve advertisement of the amendment action with a date of July 5th, 2023 for that action. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey offering her concerns about the motion.*

*Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to table this action item until the next meeting. 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		

Planned Traffic Signal at Parkview and Zion Roads. Our consultant is working with Penn DoT to secure grant funding. Council is asking for resident and business owner testimonial statements that reflect the safety issues at this intersection since the available crash history is low. Residents can email the borough with their testimonial statements at [boro@bellefontepa.gov](mailto:boro@bellefontepa.gov). Mr. Bernier encouraged residents to also reach out to Council members with their concerns. No council action is requested.

Nuisance Code Administrator Vacancy Update. The new person, John Cabibbo, will be starting on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Until then, please contact the borough with nuisance code issues at [boro@bellefontepa.gov](mailto:boro@bellefontepa.gov). No council action is requested.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Dylan Crunick Charity Memorial Baseball Tournament August 12-13, 2023.

*Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Dylan Crunick Charity Memorial Baseball Tournament August 12-13, 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		

*Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to waive the Governor's Park Baseball Field fee. 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		

Trinity United Methodist Church September 10, 2023.

*Purnell motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the Trinity United Methodist Church event on September 10, 2023 in Talleyrand Park. 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 Cleeton seconded to waive the Tallyrand Park Usage Fee. 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		

Consider a Letter from Bellefonte Borough and Bellefonte Borough Authority expressing to Columbia Gas of PA our disappointment with their starting the Curtin Street work and then pulling out the crew for approximately one month.

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve staff sending a letter as described. Discussion included clarification of the letter details and responsible parties involved. 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**

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

Ms. Tosti-Vasey discussed a donation listed in the budget report two weeks ago that was in question. The donation was given towards the Water Tower Banner project. She thanked Mayor Johnson for soliciting the donation and for Wetzler's Funeral Home for the donation.

Ms. Purnell asked a question on behalf of a resident regarding the Water Street Wall repair. She asked what caused the wall collapse – and it was clarified that it was natural wear and tear and water damage.

Mr. Bernier asked for an update on the Armory Project. Mr. Stewart clarified that the project is progressing – but that inflation and supply chain issues are a hindrance to the project. The project will be divided into phases with the sprinkler system to be installed with future capital budget funding in order to make the project more manageable.

Mr. Stewart highlighted various events that happened in the Borough over the weekend, The Cruise, the Tasting Trail, and the Concert in the Park. He commended all the volunteers involved in all the events.

Ms. McKean commented on sound issues in the meetings. These problems will be solved when we move to our new quarters in the Armory.

Mr. Holderman made several comments regarding the Parkview Heights intersection project. He also talked about the Spring Street Streetscape project. The project is ready to be sent out to Bid.

Mr. Johnson congratulated the Bellefonte Area High School Red Raider Baseball Team on their State Championship. He also congratulated the Bald Eagle Area team! Several other members offered their congratulations to both teams.

Mr. Johnson congratulated Julie Brooks on completing the Centre County Leadership Course.

Ms. Dann encouraged residents to write their Senators and Congresspersons regarding the proposed RADAR (Law enforcement using RADAR) bill and encouraged them to move forward with and pass that bill.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Executive session followed tonight's meeting.