

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

July 5, 2023- 7:30 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The July 5, 2023, meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:37 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 (Excused)
Ms. Shawna McKean (Zoom)
Ms. Rita Purnell
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mayor Buddy Johnson (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT

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

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

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

NONE

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Bellefonte EMS 6th Annual Joint Meeting Monday, July 31, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to ssrhoat@bems.net by Friday, July 28, 2023. No Council action requested.

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT) meeting with Robert Bielunas on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. No Council action requested.

PennDOT SR150 Wall Project Construction Update for Week of 7-3-2023. No council action requested.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda includes the following items:

<i>I. General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes May 1, 2023
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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	n/a		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

NONE

Police – Chief Weaver

Update on S. Potter Street Safety Concerns

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Banner Application Information. Banner Applications were for hanging banners over Allegheny and High Street. The Borough no longer accepts these applications as the Borough due to the metal support poles needing to be replaced. The Veteran’s Bridge does not have a Banner Application. Organizations submit banner requests for Veteran’s Bridge in writing on their Special Event Applications. Banners are only approved to be hung for two weeks. FYI, no Council action requested.

Parking Ordinance Draft - Comments/feedback from Council. Motions to update the draft will be considered.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Brachbill seconded to approve all changes to the draft as presented during today’s earlier Work Session 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	n/a		

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the advertisement of the draft for council action on July 17, 2023. No discussion. Motion carried.

Bellefonte/Centre Region COG Rental Unit Code Amendments Ordinance Draft.

Dann motioned, and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the advertisement of council action on July 17, 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	n/a		

X. NEW BUSINESS

Approval to hang Fire Station Recruitment Signs.

Brachbill motioned, and Cleeton seconded to waive any/all fees and other related permits for the Bellefonte Volunteer Fire Department. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking several clarifying questions and making comments regarding the signs. 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	n/a		

American Legion Club 33 requests to close Decatur Lane from E. Howard Street to the end of the parking lot on August 12, 2023, from 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.p.m. for a Members Only event.

Dann motioned, and Cleeton seconded to approve the closure of Decatur Lane from E. Howard Street to the end of the parking lot on August 12, 2023, from 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Discussion included Dann asking for clarification about administrative approvals. It was clarified that street closings are not handled administratively and need Council approval. 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	n/a		

Sustainability Projects List – Partnering with PSU Stainability. Consider choosing a project (s) from the list.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Brachbill seconded to forward all project(s) from the list presented to allow Ilona Ballreich, PSU Sustainability Director, the flexibility to find an available class(es) for these projects. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey making comments and clarifying the projects listed. Don Holderman explained that the Sustainability Project was started to give PSU students real-life projects and work experience. There was an extensive discussion regarding the pros and cons of the project list. It was clarified that each project listed could cost the Borough approximately \$1200. After discussion, it was suggested that this action item be tabled pending further information and clarification.

Tosti-Vasey moved to table this item and Dann seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to table 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	n/a		

Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Borough received an offer to have 2017 data updated. This Inventory would be done at no cost except for the staff time involved.

Brachbill motioned, and Dann seconded not to update the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The discussion included Mr. Stewart clarifying that there is no staff available at this time for this project. Tosti-Vasey offered her opinion on why she feels it is essential to update this Inventory. She pointed out that in January 2023, Council rejected another offer to review the GHG inventory due to the cost and lack of money in this year’s budget but would consider it for the 2024 budget. This subsequent vote to reject a free offer for redoing the Inventory appears to be an attempt to eliminate the Climate Action Plan by refusing to do the updates outlined in the plan and then later saying we haven’t followed through with a review as requested several times by members of the Council. Then Brachbill stated that he wanted more detail on the status of the Climate Action Plan before going forward with the Inventory.

Tosti-Vasey made a motion to amend the motion to ensure that the 2024 budget the GHG inventory as a priority item under Goal 4 (Develop Long-Term Environmental Sustainability) of the Borough’s Priority Driven Budgeting Process as outlined in the STMP report of 2022. There was no second to her motion to amend.

There was a roll call vote for the original motion to not update the Inventory. The motion to not update carried with six-yay votes and two-nay votes.

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

Corning Water Main Break on July 28 - Overview by Borough Manager. No council action is requested.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

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

Sedgwick mentioned the combined Bellefonte Community and the State College Municipal Band concert in Talleyrand Park on July 4. The bands wanted to thank Council for approving the event.

She also mentioned both groups are excited about the Bandshell project! Thank you to Council for supporting live music in our area.

Stewart presented a plaque given to the Council by Historic Cruise Inc to thank the Council for supporting the Bellefonte Cruise.

Holderman had two updates:

Spring Township approved the land development plan for the building that will be erected at the Composting site at Musser Lane. That project is moving forward.

The Parkview Heights Stormwater Project – the engineer provided a draft, and the proposal needs modifications. Borough staff will meet with the engineers on-site to discuss the issue and help find solutions.

Bernier mentioned an email that was received regarding street safety in Parkview Heights/Woodland Drive. He would like to add that issue to a future work session.

Brachbill mentioned that the Apartment project at 112 N. Allegheny Street is nearing completion, and an open house will be around August 7, 2023.

Tosti-Vasey shared two interest items.

She brought copies of the June edition of State College Magazine. Bellefonte was mentioned in two of the articles. One article is on Solar Energy, and one is on the increase in electric vehicles throughout the county.

She also received a complaint about the loud fireworks set off around town all week and weekend. She mentioned that the same complaint is received yearly over the 4th of July and New Year's Eve.

Purnell shared three interest items.

She asked if there were any updates regarding Railroad safety in the Borough.

She said a resident contacted her about a hump forming in the road near the high school entrance. Mr. Stewart said he would be sure Borough staff would look into it.

She also mentioned seeing the movie "The Sound of Freedom". She encouraged other Council members and residents to see the film about human trafficking which is an important issue in our country. Tosti-Vasey followed this comment by announcing the National Human Trafficking Hotline -- 888-373-7888.

McKean also commented on fireworks in the Borough. She felt that the residents were more respectful this year – but she would like to remind residents that home fireworks can be stressful to veterans, those with PTSD, and pets.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Dann seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

An Executive session followed tonight's meeting.

