

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2023- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The October 2, 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
- Ms. Rita Purnell
- Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
- Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey (Zoom)
- Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

- Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
- Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
- Ms. Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
- Ms. Julie Brooks, Assistant Superintendent Public Works

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Holderman requested to remove the “Removal of Shade Trees/Shade Tree Commission” item from the heading of “Current/Old Business” as he has not heard back from the commission. This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to remove this item from tonight’s meeting agenda. No discussion. 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

Joseph Griffin, a borough resident, spoke regarding the cancellation of “Bellefonte Under the Lights”. He shared some history about the event and encouraged Council to continue the event in

the future. He also commented on the EV (electric vehicle) charging stations. He is not in favor of removing the charging stations.

Nancy Perkins, a borough resident, spoke regarding the removal of the EV charging stations. She does not support the removal of the charging stations and encourages Council to keep the charging stations.

Stephanie Peters, the Executive Director of the Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of herself and various residents and business owners regarding the EV charging stations. She asked Council to reconsider removing the stations and keeping them in the downtown area for residents and visitors to use. She feels the charging stations are an asset to the downtown area.

Dan Alters, a Benner Township resident and a spokesperson for Centre County Citizens' Climate Lobby, spoke in favor of keeping the EV charging stations.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

PennDOT Conversation about Electric Vehicle Charging Dates and Locations. No council action is requested.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (will be acted upon by a single motion unless otherwise noted)

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

<i>1. General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023
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Brachbill motioned and McKean seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items with Tosti-Vasey asking for the minutes to be corrected. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey offering her comments and amendments for the minutes. 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

The mayor offered a Proclamation for National Fire Prevention Week October 8-14, 2023. He encouraged residents to review their family fire safety plan and check their home smoke alarms.

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

1. Recommended for approval (Specific motions are stated in the OCA memo):
DBI Mural Project for back of building at 123 S. Allegheny Street

Call for a motion to remove the DBI Mural Project from the table.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and McKean seconded to remove the DBI Mural Project from the table. 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		

Call for a motion to approve the following HARB project:
 DBI Mural Project for back of building at 123 S. Allegheny Street

Brachbill motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the project as presented. Discussion included a question regarding an upkeep/maintenance plan for the project. The project is expected to last for 10-20 years before any maintenance is required. It was clarified that the property owner has a contract with the artists for upkeep and maintenance, which would be the responsibility of the property owner. The Borough would not be financially responsible for the upkeep of the mural. No further 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		

Call for a motion to approve Resolution No. 10022023-01 to recognize the service of Patricia Long to the Bellefonte HARB

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Resolution No 10022023-01 to recognize the service of Patricia Long to the Bellefonte HARB. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey offering her personal commendations to Pat Long for her service. No further 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		

Call for a motion to approve Marc McMaster as the new real estate broker representative on HARB.

Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve Marc McMaster as the new real estate broker representative on the HARB. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey offering her comments regarding this appointment as related to the HARB ordinance requiring having a realtor seated on HARB. No further 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		

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

South Spring Street Streetscape Project Schedule. No council action requested.

Centre County Boroughs Association Fall Meeting, 6:00 PM, Wednesday, October 18th.

- o Speaker Invitation to State Representative Kerry Benninghoff and LB Water has agreed to sponsor the meeting. Please let Alyssa Doherty know if you plan to attend.

Police Department Renovation Update. The elevator installation is behind schedule and will probably not be completed until early spring 2024 rather than this October. A facility committee meeting will be held next month. No council action is requested.

EV Charging Stations –removal of Charging Stations.

Bernier motioned and Dann seconded to approve the removal of EV Charging Stations within the Borough Lots. Discussion included council members offering comments as to why this item is on the agenda. It was clarified the EV Charging Stations are affected by the Alternative Fuels Tax. 3 costs need to be covered with the charging stations: 1. Parking. 2. Electricity. 3. Alternative Fuels Tax. It was clarified that while the charging stations may be an asset to the Borough, they are also more work and more costs for the Borough. There are also huge costs incurred for repairs if the units are damaged. It was further clarified that the units were “free” when first approved and installed but now there are additional costs involved for the Borough for use, staff costs, maintenance, and upkeep.

Brachbill motioned to table this discussion and action item to be further discussed in a work session and voted on at a later meeting. McKean seconded to table this action item. Roll call vote. Motion to table carried.

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	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	no		

John Nastase Construction bid withdrawal for Parkview Heights Stormwater Project. No council action is requested. The contract will be awarded to the second lowest bid, John Klarr Construction.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Aggressive Bees within the Borough Memo. Call for a motion to declare Aggressive Bees a nuisance within the Borough.

Dann motioned and Bernier seconded to declare Aggressive Bees a nuisance within the Borough. Discussion included a question regarding the “next steps” for declaring this a

nuisance. It was clarified that the enforcement officer would enforce this nuisance ordinance. It was further clarified that the Borough is working on establishing a “Bee Keeper Ordinance” to be adopted by Council.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to table this item for further discussion, clarification, and input from the community. There was no second to her motion.

Roll call vote for the original motion as stated. 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 requested to continue to discuss the issue surrounding EV Charging stations.

Ms. Purnell did not have comments tonight.

Ms. Cleeton attended the recent blood drive and she reports there was very low attendance, less than 15 people signed up to give blood. She strongly encourages the public to donate blood as it can be life-saving to those in need. She also reminded the public about the general election coming up on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The last day to register to vote is October 23, 2023. If you’re planning to use a mail-in or absentee ballot, the application deadline to request those ballots is October 31, 2023. You can visit the website www.pavoterservices.pa.gov for more information. Tosti-Vasey added that the ballot drop boxes would close at 9 am on Monday, November 6.

Mr. Brachbill requested clarification on whether or not the Alternative Fuel Tax report and payment to DEP had to be done on a monthly basis or on an annual basis as that could affect the amount of staff time involved in completing the paperwork.

Ms. Brooks is very happy to be at the meeting tonight. Mr. Holderman shares her sentiment and would like to state for the record that she stole the words right out of his mouth.

Mayor Johnson complimented the community on the Homecoming Parade. It was a great event.

Mr. Holderman commented that street paving for the year should be finished by the middle of the week.

Mr. Johnson clarified that the EV Charging Stations item was on tonight’s agenda in order to establish a fair fee for the use of the stations – not to approve the removal of the stations. He reminded council that the decision to table this action item only further delays addressing and solving this issue in the borough.

Ms. McKean commented that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She encouraged the public to wear purple in support of survivors and victims. She reminded the public that domestic violence can occur in many different forms. CentreSafe is a community organization that can help victims of domestic abuse.

Mr. Bernier did not have any comments tonight.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Dann motioned and Brachbill seconded to adjourn tonight's meeting. No discussion. Motion to adjourn carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Bellefonte Borough Council Meeting

Monday, October 2, 2023

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	Phone Number
Dan Alters	229 Chicory Av Blf	570 244 8671
Donald Townsend	133 1/2 w Lazen	814 699 1200
Joseph Conith	133 N Spring St Bellefonte	484 331-4856
Melodie Helm	334 E Howard St Bellefonte	814 883-8052
ANCY STEPHENS	445 E. CORNUS ST Bellefonte	814-884-7577
Jennette Seward	137 N. Spring st. Bellefonte	
PETER WARREN	137 N SPRING ST BELLEFONTE	814 777 3079
Stephanie Peters	Bellefonte Chamber	814-574-8900