

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2023- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The October 16, 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
- Mayor Buddy Johnson (Excused)

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

Courthouse detour

Tosti-Vasey motioned to add information regarding the Courthouse detour and construction to "Communications". Seconded by Dann. 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		

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Resolution 10162023-01 - thanking Jim Baldwin and Paul Badger for their years of volunteer service to the Union Cemetery Association.

Brachbill motioned to approve Resolution No. 10162023-01. Seconded by Cleeton. 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		

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

Peter Serapine, a resident of East High Street, Bellefonte, presented a petition to add an off-leash dog park to the Borough.

Christian Bechtel, a Bellefonte resident, spoke regarding concern about graffiti and faded markings on railroad crossings.

Stacey Hancock, a resident of East High Street, spoke in favor of building an off-leash dog park in the borough.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

PA Bellefonte Waterfront Associates - Consider Allowing Additional Third-Party Commercial Building Code Inspectors/Services. No council action is requested at this time. This topic may be scheduled for discussion in an upcoming Work Session.

Petition for Off-Leash Dog Park in Joseph Masullo Memorial Park. No council action is requested at this time. This topic may be scheduled for discussion in an upcoming Work Session.

The Courthouse is planning to start a construction project on each side of the building. They will start on the North side (downhill side) of the building. More information will be available.

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

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	Council Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023
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Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda item. 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		

IX. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Police – Chief Weaver

September 2023 Report

Parking Enforcement and Animal Control September 2023 Report

Chief offered several clarifications regarding the submitted reports

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

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

348 E. Curtin Street – replace siding

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the project as presented with the modification that the siding be Hardi Plank or a non-combustible equivalent. 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		

Items of interest:

CLG Grant Project/Historic Design Guidelines

Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve Landmarks SGA, LLC. as the firm for the CLG Grant project to update the Bellefonte Borough Historic Design Guidelines. 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. Zoning:

There will be a hearing for the Zoning Hearing Board on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers.

There will also be a Planning Commission meeting on November 11, 2023, at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Liaison Reports (Reports were submitted)

Nuisance Codes

Mr. Cabibbo resigned on October 10. Staff will work to fill this position. The position requires approximately 10 hours a week.

Borough Manager (Submitted)

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Removal of Three Shade Trees within the Downtown.

Dann motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the request to remove and replace three trees in the Downtown as per recommendation from the Shade Tree Commission. Discussion included Mr. Holderman commenting that the vote from the Shade Tree Commission was 2-1, 1 voting member voted against removal of the tree in front of Temple Court. The concern was that the tree was a large tree. No further discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to remove the trees 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		

Governor’s Park Baseball Field Grant Funds remaining to be used to upgrade Restrooms and Batting Cage. Recommend Council designate one or two Council members to meet with the Mayor to make some decisions and provide staff with direction on how to finish out the overall project and grant funds.

Centre County Boroughs Association Fall Meeting, 6:00 pm, Wednesday, October 18th. Guest Speaker State Representative Kerry Benninghoff and LB Water is the meeting sponsor. There will be light refreshments provided. Please let Alyssa Doherty know if you plan to attend. No council action is requested.

EV Charging Station Update- The Borough submitted and was approved for the Alternate Fuel Tax Permit. Signage is being installed indicating 24-hour enforcement and hourly fee. Council will begin receiving monthly EV Charging reports on the 2nd meeting of the month. No council action is requested.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Request Historic Bellefonte Incorporated (HBI) Car Cruise Committee on October 10th, 2023 donated a total of \$3,000.00 to the Borough (\$2,000.00 for Picnic Tables and \$1,000.00 for the Police Department). Bellefonte Borough extends a thank you to HBI. No council action is requested.

John Nastase Construction Application and Certificate for Payment for Spring Street Streetscape Project.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to remit payment to John Nastase Construction for the Spring Street Streetscape Project. Discussion included a question regarding impervious surfaces. It was clarified that the increased amount of concrete will increase the amount of impervious surface. It was also clarified that the contract was for \$70,809.07. There was an additional cost of \$4,000. 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		

XII. COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

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

Mr. Johnson mentioned the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Association is bringing their railcar back into service and they will have a celebration at the Fall Fest.

Mr. Stewart commented that he and Ms. Brooks went to the Borough's Fall Conference. Many issues were discussed including funding, traffic safety, Short Term Rentals (STRs), computer safety, etc.

Ms. Dann also commented on the Borough Fall Conference. She enjoyed the conference.

Ms. Sedgwick commented that there needs to be more communication with the residential tenants in addition to the landlords and home owners about road closures and water shut-offs in the borough.

Mrs. Purnell is in strong favor of the Borough getting donations for a therapy dog. She also mentioned there are several fun fall activities coming up in the next few weeks and she encouraged community members to check the Borough calendar.

Ms. Cleeton commented that this coming Friday, October 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm the Bellefonte Library Friends will be holding an after-hours event where community members can come learn about the group and the local library. Light refreshments will be provided. She also offered a reminder to residents to clean up after their dogs in the Borough.

Tosti-Vasey commented about mail-in ballots.

Mr. Brachbill commented about the Borough's Fall Conference. He highlighted the financing discussions they had at the conference.

Mr. Holderman is happy that others are happy to be at the meeting tonight.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Tosti-Vasey. Second by Dann. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.