

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 18, 2023- 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The December 18, 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

**STAFF PRESENT**

- Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
- Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
- Ms. Julie Brooks, Assistant Superintendent Public Works
- Mr. Shawn Weaver, Chief of Police

**IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Request to change the New Business item “C-Net Closed Captioning” from No Action to an Action item. The action will be to request for Council to consider approving the Closed Captioning.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to change the above-listed item to an action item on the agenda. No discussion. Roll call vote. The 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**

Cindy Hahn, Executive Director of C-Net spoke to Council regarding C-Net broadcasting of meetings. She encouraged Council to carefully consider all aspects of the situation and to not withdraw from C-Net Services.

Stephanie Peters, the Executive Director of the Bellefonte Intervalley Chamber of Commerce spoke on behalf of the Chamber and the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society, thanking everyone for their help and support servicing over 6,000 passengers since October.

Andrea Murrell, Co-Chair of the Talleyrand Park Committee, spoke regarding the ice skating rink that is proposed to be installed. She discouraged Council from approving the rink being installed on the Gazebo side. She hopes an alternate site can be considered for the rink.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2024 BUDGET**

No Public comments were made regarding the proposed 2024 Budget.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

- Complaint: Traffic safety and noise concerns in the Pine Street neighborhood. This concern will be taken up during a later Work Session
- Complaint: Speed Limit Signs on Pine Street. This concern will be taken up during a later Work Session
- Donation Request: Out of the Cold Shelter.
- Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority Municipality Report for December 2023.
- What the U.S. will look like if the world heats up beyond 1.5 degrees.

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

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. <i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes November 20, 2023
2. <i>General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes December 4, 2023
3. <i>Finance</i>	Budget V. Actual November 2023
4. <i>Finance</i>	Budget V. Actual Summary November 2023
5. <i>Finance</i>	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice November 2023
6. <i>Finance</i>	Treasurer's Report November 2023
7. <i>Finance</i>	Voucher Summary November 2023

*Brachbill requested to remove item 1, and Tosti-Vasey requested to remove items 2 and 3 from the Consent Agenda. Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 4, 5, 6, 7. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 4, 5, 6, 7 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		

*Discussions regarding item 2, December 4, 2023 Minutes, included changing some wording to provide further clarification. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda item 2, Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2023 with corrections, carried with one nay.*

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	nay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

*Discussions regarding item 3, Budget V. Actual Summary November 2023, included Tosti-Vasey requesting to change some wording to provide further clarification. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda item 4, with corrections, 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		

*Discussions regarding item 1, Council Meeting Minutes November 20, 2023, included changing some wording to provide further clarification. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda item 1, Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2023 with corrections, 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**

The mayor commended the Borough on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bellefonte Borough Tree Lighting. He is looking forward to future tree lightings!

Victorian Christmas Proclamation was read at the 12/8/2023 Opening Ceremony. The community was very thankful for the complimentary parking and the entire event was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers and organizers.

Candy Canes will be provided to all BAMS students compliments of Giant Food Stores. Thank you, Giant, for your generous donation.

**Police – Chief Weaver**

Question from Tosti-Vasey regarding the difference between Warrants vs 302 Warrants. It was clarified that a 302 Warrant is in regard to a mental health evaluation. A warrant is for any other violation that does not involve mental health.

Mayor Johnson also thanked our police force for being present for all the holiday festivities.

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

The Planning Commission will meet on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

The next HARB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. This may be canceled if there are no projects to review.

Information was presented regarding the Safe Routes to Parks Action Plan for Bellefonte

**Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

**Borough Manager** (Submitted)

**X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

Consider Special Projects update. No council action is requested.

2024 Council Meeting Schedule – proposed.

*Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the 2024 Council Meeting schedule with any modifications. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking if there had been discussion about changing the Authority meeting schedule for election day. It was clarified that elections do not usually affect the Authority meeting schedule so it was not previously discussed.*

*Tosti-Vasey then motioned to amend the Planning Commission meeting on Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the no meetings on federal holidays protocol. Cleeton seconded. Discussion included Gina mentioning that Planning Commission members do not have an issue with meeting on Monday Oct 14 as planned. Another council member mentioned that it really should be left up to the Planning Commission to change their schedule. Roll call vote. With 8 nays and 1 yay, the motion did not carry.*

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

*Roll call vote for the original, unamended motion to approve the 2024 Council Meeting Schedule. No discussion. Roll call vote. The 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		

Spring Creek Watershed Commission 2024 Budget. A budget increase is being requested.

*Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Spring Creek Watershed Commission 2024 budget with increase. No discussion. Roll call vote. The 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		

Tax Ordinance No. 12182023-01.

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Tax Ordinance 12182023-01 with no modifications. No discussion. Roll call vote. The 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		

2024 Bellefonte Borough Budget.

*Dann motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the 2024 Budget for Bellefonte Borough with any modifications. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey requesting to amend the budget under C-Net costs.*

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to amend the following C-Net closed captioning line items: line 400.314, reduce from \$2000 to \$1,235 and line 400.329 – C Net Expenses from \$18,850 to \$19,615. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey explaining her rationale for the amendment. Roll call vote. The motion to amend the budget did not carry.*

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

*Roll call vote for the original motion, 2024 Bellefonte Borough Budget. No further discussion. The 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		

2024 Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule.

*Dann motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the 2024 Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule with any modifications. No discussion. Roll call vote. The 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		

Authorities, Boards and Commissions Vacancies. Appointments/ Reappointments will be made at the January 2nd, 2024. Council Meeting. No action is requested.

Follow-up report for Earth Disturbance Complaint at 1308 Summit Drive. No council action is requested.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

C-NET Closed Captioning beginning in the 1st Quarter of 2024. No action is requested. **\*This item was changed to an action item under Additions/Corrections to the Agenda at the beginning of this meeting.**

*Dann motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the Borough sending a letter to C-Net discussing adding Closed Captioning service as soon as it's available. No discussion. Roll call vote. The 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		

CNET Broadcasting of Council Meetings. Bellefonte Borough Council, as a result of a Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Justice, must have an in-frame sign language interpreter for all broadcasted meetings within 90 days. In order to preserve the option of discontinuing CNET coverage while all options are explored, Council must give CNET a one-year notice before discontinuing the CNET coverage.

*Call for a motion to give CNET notice that Bellefonte Borough will be withdrawing from CNET coverage beginning January 2025. This notice is being given to “preserve the option” of discontinuing CNET coverage. At this time, approving the motion does not absolutely mean that CNET coverage will discontinue January 2025.*

*Brachbill motioned to table this item. Tosti-Vasey seconded to table this motion. Roll call vote. The motion to table carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>nay</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>nay</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>nay</i>	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	<i>yay</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>yay</i>		

Ice Skating Rink in Talleyrand Park.

*Dann motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the Ice-Skating Rink be installed in Talleyrand Park on the Gazebo side. Discussion included several members offering opinions and comments regarding the rink, funding, safety, lighting, visibility and location. Roll call vote. The 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>nay</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>yay</i>		

Borough Offices will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There will be no Refuse collection on Monday or Tuesday. Refuse will be collected on Wednesday, December 27th, 2023. No action is requested.

Borough Offices will be closed on Monday, January 1st, 2024 for New Year Day. Refuse will not be collected on Monday. Refuse will be collected on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024. No action is requested.

Policy for elected official travel/training reimbursement.

*Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve requesting staff to provide a draft policy for elected official travel/training reimbursement by the second meeting in January. No discussion. Roll call vote. The 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>		

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

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

Mrs. Purnell wished everyone a merry Christmas!

Ms. Cleeton thanked Mayor Johnson for his opening remarks at Victorian Christmas and expressed pleasure for the public participation in the weekend and hopes that this level of participation will continue in the future.

Tosti-Vasey highlighted all the upcoming holidays – Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Eve, and New Year’s Day.

Brachbill thanked everyone and wished the community a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Mayor Johnson once again thanked everyone in the community for all the fun Holiday events and he wished the community Merry Christmas and happy holidays. He hopes everyone gets to spend time with friends and loved ones and has a safe and happy holiday. He also thanked Mr. Johnson for his hard work on Council.

Mr. Holderman also thanked all the volunteers for their hard work all through this year for all the fun events in our community this year – the Arts and Crafts Fair, the Cruise, Victorian Christmas, the Tree Lighting, the train rides, etc. He genuinely appreciates everyone’s efforts.

Mr. Stewart commented that he is thankful for the council members and Mr. Johnson for all their efforts to keep our community running smoothly and safely.

Ms. Dann thanked several council members for their help at agenda meetings. She also wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Ms. Sedgwick thanked the fire departments and our officers for helping to keep everyone safe during the holidays.

Ms. McKean attended Victorian Christmas and she enjoyed the event and she thanked all the volunteers for all their efforts. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy, and healthy New Year.

Mr. Bernier commented that he salutes all who serve on Borough Council.

Mr. Johnson commented about holding the meeting at the Armory – and thanked the entire Borough staff for making it happen. He also thanked the contractors. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Council President. This is his last meeting as Council President. He especially thanked Mr. Holderman and Mr. Stewart for their guidance and help. The new officers for 2024 will be:

Mr. Kent Bernier – President  
Ms. Barb Dann – Vice President

Mr. Johnson also mentioned that he formed a Bandshell committee of Deb Cleeton, Barb Dann, and himself to meet with members of HARB and some members of the Stage and Parks Committees to discuss the new Bandshell. That meeting will occur in January.



**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Brachbill. Second by Dann. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.