

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 2, 2024 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS, JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER

Mr. Brachbill, Ms. Cleeton, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Tosti-Vasey were sworn in on December 29, 2023, by Centre County Judge Julia Rater. Christian Larson, Junior Council Member, was sworn in by Mayor Johnson.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (followed by a moment of silence)

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

- Mr. Kent Bernier, *President*
- Mr. Randall Brachbill
- Ms. Deborah Cleeton
- Ms. Barbara Dann, *Vice President*
- Mr. Douglas Johnson, *Pro Tempore*
- Ms. Shawna McKean
- Ms. Rita Purnell
- Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
- Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
- Mr. Christian Larson, *Jr. Council Member*
- Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

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

V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS and PRO TEMPORE

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

By agreement in early 2022, borough council officers agreed to rotate/re-organize annually. Mr. Johnson will step down as council president. Mr. Bernier will move from Vice-President to President. Ms. Dann will move from Pro Tempore to Vice-President.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the officers as noted. 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		

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRO TEMPORE

Nominations do not require a second and are voted on in the order that nominations are made. Voting continues until one nominee attains a majority vote.

Tosti-Vasey nominated Deb Cleeton for the position of Pro-Tempore. Barb Dann nominated Doug Johnson. Roll call vote to nominate Deb Cleeton as Pro-Tempore for 1 year. The vote for nomination did not carry.

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

Roll call vote to nominate Doug Johnson as Pro-Tempore for 1 year. The vote for nomination carried 7-2.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	nay
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		

VI. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with Act 65 of 2021, If a matter is not on the Agenda, Council cannot take official action on it with some exceptions. The Council can act on matters relating to potential or real emergencies. Council may add a matter of agency business to its agenda through a majority vote. The Council should state the reason why the action item is being added to the agenda. Council may vote to add an action item(s) to the agenda.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded a motion to add the PennDOT Resolution on the Policy for Procedure for Consultant Selection to “Old Business” 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		

Tosti-Vasey motioned to add the Good of the Order back to the end of the meeting and all future meetings.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to add the Good of the Order back to the end of the meeting and all future meetings. No discussion. Roll call vote. The motion did not carry.

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

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

Tosti-Vasey made comments regarding the following three issues:

1. She noted that there was an executive meeting on December 18, 2023, related to personnel issues that was not stated at that meeting.
2. She requested staff to review and update the Goals Discussion Tracker for 2024.
3. She asked the Administrative Staff and the new council leadership to invite Brandi Robinson, PSU Associate Teaching Professor, and Co-Director of the Local Climate Action Plan (LCAP) training program, to a future Work Session to discuss the new program run by the PSU Sustainability Institute. This request is based on last summer’s statement by several council members suggesting a “do-over” of our Climate Action Plan and Green House Inventory when the 2020 Bellefonte Borough CAP and Environmental Advisory Board were suspended. She noted that the next class starts in September 2024 and would be free once again.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

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

All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

<i>1. General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes December 18, 2023
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Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Consent Agenda item 1. 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>		

X. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

NONE

Police – Chief Weaver
 NONE

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

Items of interest:

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

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

PennDOT Resolution on the Policy for Procedure for Consultant Selection.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded the newly added agenda item to pass the PennDOT Resolution on the Policy for Procedure for Consultant Selection. 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		

The Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Doug Johnson to the CCMPO.

Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to reappoint Doug Johnson to the CCMPO. 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		

The Airport Authority approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Doug Johnson to the Airport Authority.

Dann motioned and Sedgwick seconded to reappoint Doug Johnson to the Airport Authority.

The Bellefonte Area Industrial Development Authority reappointment of Michael Scott and Matthew Hill.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to reappoint Matthew Hill to the BAIDA and reappoint Michael Scott to the BAIDA conditionally pending receipt of the Volunteer Application.

The Bellefonte Borough Authority approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Joe Beigle and Michael Schmidt to the Authority.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Johnson seconded to reappoint Joe Beigle to the Bellefonte Borough Authority and reappoint Michael Schmidt to the Bellefonte Borough Authority conditionally pending receipt of the Volunteer Application.

The Centre County Library & Historical Museum Board approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Deborah Cleeton to the CCLHM.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to reappoint Deborah Cleeton to the CCLHM.

The Historic Architectural Review Board approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Megan Tooker and Maria Day to HARB.

Cleeton motioned and Johnson seconded to reappoint Megan Tooker and Maria Day to HARB.

The Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Doug Johnson and David Lomison to the NVJPC.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to reappoint Doug Johnson to the NVJPC and reappoint David Lomison to the NVJPC conditionally pending receipt of the Volunteer Application.

The Planning Commission approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Robert Dannaker to the Planning Commission.

Johnson motioned and McKean seconded to reappoint Robert Dannaker to the Planning Commission.

The Zoning Hearing Board approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint William Luther to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Brachbill motioned and Johnson seconded to reappoint William Luther to the Zoning Hearing Board.

No discussion of any appointments. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve all above-listed appointments and re-appointments 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		

Brachbill asked when and if the conditional appointments would be reopened if any of these people conditionally appointed decided not to continue on their respective Authorities, Boards, and Commissions. Stewart said he'd let the council know by the next meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Interest to be Reappointed: Stan Wallace Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve Stan Wallace as Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO). 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		

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Brachbill. Second by Tosti-Vasey. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

