

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 16, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The January 16, 2024 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**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

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**IV. 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.*

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT - Agenda and Non-Agenda/General Items and Comment**

Sharon Weiser, a resident of Pine Street spoke regarding CATA's plan to reduce or eliminate services in Spring and Benner Townships as well as in Bellefonte by requiring a 10-fold increase in municipality funding. She believes this decision would negatively impact foreign students, people with DUI records, people with disabilities, and retired people along with harming the environment.

Tosti-Vasey announced that the PA Human Relations Commission and the Centre County Advisory Council to the PHRC would be holding an educational training on the ADA in Public Accommodations on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

COMPLAINT: Speed Limit Signs on Pine Street and Stoney Batter. Council action will be taken later in this meeting.

CATA Budget request for their 2024/25 Budget for the Bellefonte Area. No Council action requested.

- It was also noted that there will be a public hearing to discuss the changes at the Armory on January 24, 2024.
- There was a discussion regarding public transportation in the Borough.

Invitation to attend the Bellefonte Emergency Medical Services Training Session for Elected Officials on Thursday, February 27th, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Training Session will be at Bellefonte EMS, 369 Phoenix Avenue, Bellefonte. No Council action requested.

**VII. 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>I. General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes January 2, 2024
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*Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. 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>		

**IX. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson**

Mayor Johnson thanked the Borough workers for their hard work and he reminded residents to keep walks clear in inclement weather.

**Police – Chief Weaver**

- December 2023 Report- Will be available for the February 20th meeting.
- Parking Enforcement and Animal Control December 2023 Report
- Chief Weaver also mentioned a CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training he attended.

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

The next HARB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

The Planning Commission will meet next on Monday, February 12th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Armory Building.

An OCA Memo will be available at the February 5th Meeting.

**Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

**Nuisance Codes** (NONE)

**Borough Manager** (Report submitted)

**X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is requiring an Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer be appointed for Bellefonte Borough for the year 2024. Stan Wallace and Jeff Kreger work together for other Municipalities as each other’s alternates. As an alternate, Jeff Kreger will follow the fee schedule provided by Stan Wallace at the January 2, 2024, Council Meeting.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to appoint Jeff Kreger as Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer for 2024. 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		

Volunteer Applications-David Lomison, Michael Schmidt, and Michael Scott submitted their volunteer applications after the last meeting and now have met the conditions for appointment to their respective Authorities, Boards, and Commissions. No Council action requested.

Closed Captioning Mandates/Notice to CNET regarding Terminating Coverage – Staff is discussing possible amendments to the Settlement Agreement with the DOJ administrator. Another conference call is planned. All implementation deadlines have been extended. No council action is requested at this time.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

Memo from Assistant Borough Manager updating Council on: (no Council action requested)

- CATA
- C-NET
- Bellefonte Area Industrial Development Authority
- Parkview Heights Stormwater Project
- TreePA
- S. Spring Street Streetscape Phase 2
- Logo on Borough Vehicles

- EV Charging Station update

Memo regarding Community Yard Sale, Riff Raff, Halloween, and Holiday Parking in the Borough. Proposed Dates are as follows:

- Yard Sale Dates – (Fri. & Sat.) May 10 & 11, 2024
- Bulk Waste /Riff Raff Pick Up – (Mon. – Fri.) May 13-17, 2024
- Halloween Trick-or-Treating Hours, 6 – 8 PM, Thursday, October 31, 2024
- 2-Hour Courtesy Parking Program, Friday, November 29, 2024-Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the dates provided for the Community Yard Sale, Riff Raff, Halloween, and Holiday Parking in Bellefonte Borough. 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		

Appointment of Don Townsend to Civil Service Commission (Dave Provan is stepping down). Don is currently the alternate.

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to appoint Don Townsend to the Civil Service Commission. Tosti-Vasey asked if Mr. Townsend’s volunteer application is on file. It is. 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		

John Claar Excavating Certificate for Payment No. 1 for Parkview Heights Stormwater Management Project.

*Dann motioned and Sedgwick seconded to remit payment to John Claar Excavating for the Parkview Heights Stormwater Management Project Application No. 1. 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		

Draft Ordinance Authorizing Logan Fire Company No. 1 and Undines Fire Company No. 2 to remit invoices to Insurance Carriers for Services Rendered.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to advertise the drafted ordinance Authorizing Logan Fire Company No. 1 and Undines Fire Company No. 2 to remit invoices to Insurance Carriers for Services Rendered. 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		

Elected Official Travel Training Policy – Council is planning to review the Draft in the Work Session before this Business Meeting. Council may take action on this policy.

*Johnson motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Elected Official Travel Training Policy as presented or with any amendments approved by Council. 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		

Masullo Park-Dog Park. Council may consider one of the following motions.

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to end plans/discussions related to establishing a dog park in Bellefonte Borough. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey said she would vote no on this motion since the petitioners are not being given a chance to answer the questions raised by McKean and others that might address the financial and safety concerns that were raised in the Work Session earlier in the evening. Roll call vote. Motion to discontinue plans and discussion carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	NO
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	NO
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Pine Street/Stoney Batter.

*Cleeton motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to convey to Penn DoT any SR 144 concerns/complaints. 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		

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to request an LTAP study of Stoney Batter related to signage improvements. 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		

*Brachbill returned to the earlier item on the Off-Leash Dog Park. He made a motion to remove the Off-Leash Dog Park from the Goals and Action Items to be worked on in 2024. Dann seconded the motion. 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	NO
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Brachbill. Second by Dann.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

There was an executive session following tonight's meeting for legal and personnel issues.

Bellefonte Borough Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 16th, 2024

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	
Peter Serefino	212 E. High St.	
Steph Peters	Chamber	
Anthony M. Cell	Bellefonte Cruise	
Sharon Welser	Bellefonte	
R Brock Prallo	393 Pine St	