

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 5, 2023- 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The September 5, 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 (Excused)  
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

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**IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

NONE

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

NONE

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

PA Boroughs Association Fall Leadership Conference October 13-15, 2023 in Bayfront Landing, Erie. Council may register by contacting Alyssa Doherty. Deadline to register is September 18, 2023.

Reminder - Centre County Boroughs Association Fall Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Centre County Planning and Community Development Office Updates to the Revised Benner Township Zoning Ordinance.

2024 Police Department Central Booking Projected Revenues. Proposed rate increase. This will be considered in the budget process.

Centre County Liquid Fuels Program Application.

DBI Under the Lights Fundraiser Event Cancelled for October 2023.

The Bellefonte High School Class of 1966 would like to honor fellow classmate, Frank Sciabica, with a plaque for his work within Talleyrand Park. Council may consider approval.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned to hold a decision on a recommendation pending further information. Sedgwick seconded. Discussion included a council member mentioning that in the email it states the honoree may not have much time to live and the organizers would like to move forward with this project as quickly as possible. There was an extensive discussion in which several council members discussed the process involved in placing plaques in the park. The Talleyrand Park Committee will have something ready to present to Council for final approval by the next meeting. Roll call vote to hold action pending further information.*

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	excused	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Safer Routes to Parks August 2023 Report.

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

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

<i>I. General</i>	Council Meeting Minutes August 21, 2023
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*Brachbill motioned and Purnell seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items. 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	excused	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

**VIII. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson**

The mayor congratulated Caleb Vinnedge Troop 34, for achieving the honor of Eagle Scout.

**Police – Chief Weaver**

**NONE**

**Office of Community Affairs (OCA)/Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB)**  
Planning – Meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers

Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) - Meeting September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM on Zoom.

Next Zoning Hearing Board meeting TBD

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

Centre 2022 CDBG Award Letter- Wood Decking replacement.

Encroachments by property owner at 1201 Pine Circle. The property owner has been sent letters from borough and authority solicitors giving him notice to remove the encroachments within 60 days.

South Spring Street Streetscape Project- Pre-Construction Meeting Wednesday, September 6th, 2023 at 11:00 AM in Council Chambers.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Request Bid Opening for Parkview Heights Stormwater Project.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to allow staff to review, approve and select the lowest responsible bid. 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	excused	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

**BIDS SUBMITTED:**

- John Nastase Construction: \$155,350.00
  - Rock removal - \$127.00
- John Claar Excavating: \$261,495
  - Rock removal - \$625

**2024 Budget Development Process**

Staff is working to develop departmental needs for next year. Draft fund budgets will be presented at upcoming work sessions. Due to the cost of software and the need to maintain the Chart of Accounts used in municipal budgeting, we plan to use a trimmed-down version of Priority Budgeting.

2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Bellefonte Borough Pension Plans.  
Resolution No. 09052023-01

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the 2024 MMO's as presented for the Non-Uniform Pension and Police Pension. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking for clarification on both motions. Roll Call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Resolution No. 09052023-01. No discussion. Roll Call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

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

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

Mr. Bernier commented that he is pleased the property dispute in Parkview was resolved.

Ms. Sedgwick congratulated Abby Weiser for achieving her Girl Scout Gold Award and completing the playground project at St. John's Catholic School.

Ms. Cleeton offered a historical fact.

Ms. Purnell commented about several upcoming events in the Borough.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.