

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 20, 2024 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, *President*
Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Deborah Cleeton
Ms. Barbara Dann, *Vice President*
Mr. Douglas Johnson, *Pro Tempore*
Ms. Shawna McKean-EXCUSED
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

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

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

Joseph Griffin, President of the Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association spoke regarding their organization, their impact on the community, and their vision for the future. The BHCA would like to hold several outdoor events over the next few months, including a Sidewalk Easter parade on Easter Sunday. He is requesting permission to have approximately 75ft of Cherry Lane blocked off for about a half hour at 2:00 pm on Easter Sunday to facilitate this event. He submitted their application and some information for Council members to review.

Jon Guizar, BASD School Board President, spoke regarding the Land Development Plan for the proposed elementary school project, slated to be completed in 2025, for occupancy for the 2026-2027 school year. He encouraged council to approve the proposed Land Development Plan to help keep the project on schedule.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Governors Park Baseball Field Hourly rate request.

D. Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to change the Ballfields rates. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey offering her ideas on this motion. She presented three possibilities for consideration. Stewart indicated that rates would be set at the next meeting. The three possibilities Tosti-Vasey presented were:

- *\$500 for each day of a tournament plus \$63/hour for practices (based on \$500/8 hours)*
- *Suggest creating a daily hourly fair based on the typical length of a tournament play so that the tournament fee remains the same as in the first option. For example: if a tournament lasts four hours, make the tournament fee \$125/hour and the practice fee \$63/hour.*
- *Split the difference in the second option and make the fee \$94/hour for both tournaments and practice.*

Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	---
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		

Stoney Batter and Pine Street (SR 144) Speed Study results. No council action is 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:

1. General	Council Meeting Minutes February 5th, 2024
2. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice February 2024

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. No discussion.

Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson read a Proclamation regarding the School Resource Officer Appreciation Day.

Police – Chief Weaver

December 2023 & January 2024 Report

Parking Enforcement and Animal Control January 2024 Report

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

Public Meeting for the Bellefonte Historic Design Guidelines, to be held February 27, 2024, from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at Bellefonte Springboard, located at 221 W. High Street, Suite 1300. (Enter from the Spring Street side, across from Pizza Mia.)

See the memo for information on the Fire Department review of the Bellefonte Elementary Land Development Plan.

Liaison Reports (Reports were submitted)

Tosti-Vasey noted that the \$200,000 grant given to the Bellefonte Area Industrial Authority was returned to the borough and asked which budget it was returned to and if it could be used to partially close the gap we have for CATA transportation. Holderman indicated that it was put back into the Bulk Water fund and could be used as we see fit, including reducing the debt on the Waterfront property.

Borough Manager (Submitted)

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

The CATA Fee Increase and Affects to Services. A work session is scheduled for 6:30 PM on Monday, March 18th, with area federal, state, and local officials to seek solutions. No council action is requested.

Approval of Ordinance No. 02202024-01 Amendments to Chapter 35 - Fire Department.

Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve Ordinance No. 02202024-01 Amendments to Chapter 35: Fire Department. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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		

Stoney Batter and Pine Street (SR 144) Speed Study results. No council action is requested.

Grant Application for Traffic Signal Installation at Parkview Blvd. and Zion Road. The grant application was not successful. A meeting with our traffic signal engineer is scheduled to review options. No council action is requested.

CDBG Grant Funding for Suspension Bridge Project.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to proceed with the Suspension Bridge project as a 3-year project instead of a 2-year project. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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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		

EV Parking Meter update from Assistant Borough Manager. EV Charging Station fine to be set to \$25.00.

Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to set the EV Charging Station fine to \$25.00. Discussions included Tosti-Vasey noted that the proposed fees result in a higher relative parking fee than any other type of fine that is called out for differing parking violations. Holderman clarified how Borough Staff came up with the fee.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to amend the motion to set the fee at \$15 per violation as are all of the other called-out parking violation fines. Her motion did not receive a second.

Roll Call Vote on the original motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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		

Proposed Performance/Conditional Approval Agreement to Bellefonte Borough from Bellefonte Area School District in reference to the elementary school project. This proposed Agreement was reviewed by the Borough Solicitor. Borough Council may take action to conditionally approve the BASD's Land Development Plan for the elementary school along Airport Road. The proposed agreement, with any changes recommended by the borough solicitor, is to be accepted by the applicant. All unfinished components are to be submitted to the borough prior to final approval.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to conditionally approve the elementary school land development plan with the conditions stated in the conditions outlined by Walt Schneider, Executive Director of the Centre Region Codes Enforcement Office. There was no second to her motion.

Purnell motioned and Dann seconded the motion: to conditionally approve the elementary school land development plan with the conditions stated in the proposed contract. Tosti-Vasey pointed out that the conditions outlined by Schneider were for fire safety and that Schneider indicated in his letter that this needed to be included in the land development plan rather than as part of a building permit. Borough and School district staff clarified that there are experts in place who review all components of construction projects and these experts will address all issues and requirements of the project in order to ensure that the project will be completed according to all building codes and requirements, and also according to Tosti-Vasey's extensive, comprehensive comments. Bernier commented that at some point, Council will have to agree to trust the professionals who are in place for this project and that they will act in the best interest of all involved parties. Bernier does not want himself to be responsible for holding

up or delaying this project. Roll Call Vote on the original motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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		

Historic District. Proposal to institute a building permit requirement for roof replacements in the Historic District. Council may take action on this proposal.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to advertise an amendment to the Historic District Ordinance. Roll Call Vote. No discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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		

X. NEW BUSINESS

Memo from the Assistant Borough Manager on various projects and updates within the Borough. No council action is requested.

The projected Central Booking Local Participant Charges for 2024. No council action is requested.

The Solicitor has reviewed the Police Department's Use of Authorized Less Lethal Weapons Policy.

Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the proposed Use of Authorized Less Lethal Weapons Policy. Roll Call Vote. No discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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		

Centred Outdoors is requesting a waiver on parking meter fees adjacent to Talleyrand Park for participants during our evening events on Wednesday, June 12th (6:00 PM-8:00 PM) and Thursday, June 13th (6:00 PM-8:00 PM).

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the request to waive parking meter fees to Talleyrand Park on Wednesday, June 12th (6:00 PM-8:00 PM) and Thursday, June 13th (6:00 PM-8:00 PM). Roll Call Vote. Discussion included a question regarding which spaces would be free. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	--
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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. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Stewart announced that there was an executive session before the meeting to discuss personnel issues.