

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2023- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The November 20, 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. Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
Mr. Steve Barr, Nuisance Code Enforcement Officer
Ms. Julie Brooks, Assistant Superintendent 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

Christian Larson introduced himself. He is the Junior Council Member. Welcome, Christian!

Phil Breidenbaugh spoke regarding Bellefonte Victorian Christmas. The event is coming up December 8-10, 2023. This year there will be a few new events including a live Nativity at Trinity Church and The Christmas Cruise on the Creek. Also, the opening will be outside this year.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority Municipality Report for October & November 2023. No council action is requested.

Notice – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator at SEDA-COG leaving. No council action is requested.

Junior Council Person Application—Christian Larson. Bellefonte Borough joined this program associated with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs years ago. The Junior Council Person position has been vacant for many years . Information on the Junior Council Person program is included.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve Christian Larson as Jr. Borough Council Member. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey commenting that Mr. Larson is not a borough resident and asking if we have a resolution to allow non-borough residents to serve on the board. It was clarified that there is a resolution. Mr. Larson will take his seat in January. 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		

Invitation - In celebration of student-community work, the Sustainable Communities Collaborative is holding its semi-annual Campus and Community Sustainability EXPO on Dec. 7, 2023, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the State College Municipal Building, 243 S. Allen Street in State College. No council action is requested.

Notice - Response to Earth Disturbance Complaint for 1308 Summit Drive from Centre County Conservation District. No action requested.

Invitation - Solar United Neighbors Solar and EV Charger Co-op launching in March 2024. No action requested. Tosti-Vasey noted that Solar United Neighbor had asked if Bellefonte Borough would once again become a partner in 2024. As no action was listed on this evening’s agenda, this action item will be added to the December 4 meeting.

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

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	Council Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023
2. Finance	Budget V. Actual October 2023
3. Finance	Budget V. Actual Summary October 2023
4. Finance	Treasurer’s Report October 2023
5. Finance	Voucher Summary October 2023

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1 – 5. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve the 5 Consent Agenda items 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		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Proclamation: Small Business Saturday. Saturday, November 25 is Small Business Saturday. Please support local businesses in our Borough.

Police – Chief Weaver

October 2023 Report

Weaver recognized Dan Schlieden and CPI's Collision Course for their generous donation to the Police Department.

Parking Enforcement and Animal Control October 2023 Report

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

The next HARB meeting is Tuesday, November 28 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. (This meeting will be canceled if there are no projects to review.)

The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Wednesday, November 29 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers to hear a dimensional variance request.

The Planning Commission will meet on Monday, December 11 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers to review technical comments on the Bellefonte Elementary Building Land Development and Stormwater Management Plan.

Liaison Reports (Reports were submitted)

Nuisance Codes

Introduction of Steve Barr – new Nuisance Code/Zoning Officer for the Borough

Borough Manager (Report Submitted)

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Removal Question regarding the Budget v. Actual September 2023 Report. See the answer provided.

Sedgwick motioned and Dann seconded to remove the Budget v. Actual September 2023 from the table. 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 Dann seconded to approve the Budget v. Actual September 2023. 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		

Police Pension Fund Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2024. Staff received revised budget numbers from the Actuary.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to re-approve new MMO budget numbers for 2024 and re-approve Resolution No. 11202023-01. 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		

Parkview Heights Stormwater Management Project Pre-Construction Meeting Notes from November 2, 2023. No action requested.

Governors Park Baseball Field Committee recommends using approximately \$30,000 out of the Bulk Water Project Fund, along with the original ballfield grant funds, to do both the Batting Cage and restroom renovation projects.

Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Governors Park Baseball Field Committee's recommendation to use approximately \$30,000 from the Bulk Water Fund, along the original ballfield grant funds, for the Batting Cage and restroom renovation projects. Discussion included Mr. Holderman mentioning that Bellefonte Rotary Club is donating \$25,000 and the Bellefonte Baseball Booster Club is also donating approximately \$8,500. 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		

Borough Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving. No council action is requested.

Holiday Courtesy Parking Program. At the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting held on January 17, 2023, Council approved courtesy parking for the 2023 Holiday Season. The first time the parking enforcement officer observes a car with no time on the meter, the officer will give issue a complimentary pass of two hours. On the officer's second pass-through on that

same day, and with no time on the meter and the two hours have passed, a ticket will be issued. Courtesy parking begins on November 23, 2023 (Thanksgiving Day) and lasts through January 1, 2024 (New Year's Day). We encourage you to use this opportunity to do some holiday shopping in beautiful downtown Bellefonte...and have a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON! No action requested.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Request Centre Region Code Agreement Amendment No. 1- an extension of the current agreement terms.

Tosti Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Centre Region Code Amendment 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		

Duck Sampling in Talleyrand Park. (Checking for flu and other issues with the duck population).

McKean motioned and Dann seconded to approve Duck Sampling in Talleyrand Park. 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		

Joanne Tosti-Vasey’s request for reimbursement for attending the Pennsylvania Municipal League Conference in Gettysburg.

Sedgwick motioned and Bernier seconded to approve reimbursement of \$855.94 to Joanne Tosti-Vasey for attendance at the PA Municipal League (PML) Conference. Discussion included a question why this is being reimbursed as Council does not belong to the PA Municipal League Conference. Tosti-Vasey commented that Council members are entitled to attend a professional conference of their choice and be reimbursed for one conference a year.

McKean motioned and Purnell seconded to table this vote until stipend amounts can be verified. Roll call vote. Motion to table 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	ABSTAIN
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

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

Ms. Dann mentioned that November is Diabetes Awareness Month.

Ms. Cleeton commented the streetscape looks nice.

Mr. Johnson commented Happy Thanksgiving to all borough staff.

Mr. Holderman also wished the Borough a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Brachbill thanked the Bellefonte Fire Department for their assisting with Christmas decorating in Talleyrand Park and Downtown on November 18th, 2023.

Ms. Cleeton mentioned the tree lighting in the Borough.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Dann. Second by Brachbill. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.