

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.
301 N. Spring Street, Suite 200, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER (Council President Kent Bernier)

The August 5, 2024 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. 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-EXCUSED*
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Bill Witmer, Police Chief
Ms. Julie Brooks, Borough staff member

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.

- NONE

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Penn Highlands Community College

Steve Nunez, President of the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, presented an Introduction and Announcement regarding the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday August 16, 2024 at 10:30am at the Match Factory in Bellefonte. The public is invited to attend.

Proclamation presented by Mayor Johnson.

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

Resolution No. 08052024-01 Public Participation.

Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Resolution 08052024-01. Discussion included various council members expressing their opinions about the Resolution. Roll call vote. Motion carried with 5 yes votes and 4 no votes.

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

Tony White spoke regarding the Genocide order, which is not on the agenda for tonight’s meeting.

Julia Kasdorf spoke to Council regarding Resolution 08052024-01.

John Holst spoke to Council regarding Resolution 08052024-01.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority July 2024 Newsletter. No council action is needed.

Climate Action Plan Webinar is scheduled for August 8, 2024. No council action is needed.

Act 49 of 2024 - Municipal Police Pension Buyback. No council action is needed.

Bellefonte EMS Municipal Joint Meeting July 30, 2024 Summary. No council action is needed.

PSAB Fall Leadership Conference October 11-13, 2024 in Lancaster. No council action is needed.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	Council Meeting Minutes July 15, 2024
2. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice July 2024

Dann motioned and Johnson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. Tosti-Vasey requested to remove the July 15 Council Minutes. The issue with the minutes was resolved by Council agreeing to change one word of the minutes. Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1 and 2 listed above carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	yes
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yes	Ms. Rita Purnell	yes
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yes	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yes

Ms. Barbara Dann	yes	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yes
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

IX. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

- Mayor Johnson publicly thanked all the community volunteers for their help with the summer events – Music in the Park, Bellefonte Cruise, Children’s Fair, Arts n Crafts Fair, etc.

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

1. Recommended for approval (Specific motions are stated in the OCA memo):

- Call for a Motion/2nd to approve the HARB project as presented with the modification to Hardy Horizontal Plank as opposed to the T111 Siding and windows to match in style and material to the carriage house. (No address provided)

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve the above listed project. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve the project carried.

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

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Revised Art along walkway and in Talleyrand Park – Legal Opinion. The Borough Solicitor is essentially saying that the Borough, if interested in allowing art in these locations, should have policies in place that specify size, location, time frame, etc. but not content. The Borough currently has no policies for art along the waterfront walkway, the Veterans Bridge or Talleyrand Park. Council may consider no action on the request to place art in these locations or consider requesting staff and the planning commission to develop a draft policy for the placement of art in these areas.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to request staff and the Planning Commission develop a draft policy for the placement of art in public areas with the review by the Borough Solicitor. Cleeton seconded. Roll call vote. Motion to approve developing a draft policy carried.

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

Authority Vacancy. The Bellefonte Borough Authority is recommending to Council that Dan DeLotto be appointed to the Authority to fill the remainder of the vacancy term.

Dann motioned and Johnson seconded to approve the appointment as stated. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

XI. NEW BUSINESS

John Claar Excavating Certificate for Payment No. 6 Final of \$13,074.75 for the Parkview Heights Stormwater Management Project.

Dann motioned and Brachbill seconded to remit payment to John Claar Excavating for the Parkview Heights Stormwater Management Project Application No. 6 Final of \$13,074.75. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

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

Letter - Sunnyside Paddling Park Organizers requested permitting assistance. This is a regional facility. Council may consider and up or down vote.

- Mr. Kurtz was present to discuss this project. He presented that the Sunnyside Paddling Park created a water slalom course in 1965 that consists of several gates hung from wire over the water. The course is designed to help paddlers learn boating skills. The course is not permitted due to the course being built prior to permitting laws. The permit will not change the course in any way. The permit, if sought privately, can cost \$1750-2000. If the Borough requests the permit, it would be free. DEP has stated that if no permit is awarded, the course will be shut down.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Johnson seconded to approve the request with modifications. Roll call vote. Motion to approve carried.

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

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Brachbill motioned to relax the new rules and regulations of Resolution 08052024-01. Sedgwick seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve carried with 6 yes votes and 3 no votes.

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>no</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Randy Brachbill	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Rita Purnell	<i>no</i>
Ms. Deb Cleeton	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	<i>yes</i>
Ms. Barbara Dann	<i>no</i>	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>yes</i>		

Tamir Sorek spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

Claudia Wilson spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

Ayla Hall spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

Mandissa Hoarboff spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

Joanne Kasdorf spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

Stacey Hall spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

John Holtz spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

Mohammad Almezbul spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

Jonathan Eburne spoke regarding the Cease Fire resolution.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Dann motioned and Johnson seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.