

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 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 October 7, 2024 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL/MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kent Bernier <i>President, North Ward</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean <i>West Ward</i>
Mr. Randy Brachbill (via zoom) <i>South Ward</i>	Ms. Rita Purnell <i>North Ward</i>
Ms. Deb Cleeton <i>South Ward</i>	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick <i>West Ward</i>
Ms. Barbara Dann <i>Vice-President, South Ward</i>	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey (EXCUSED) <i>West Ward</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson <i>North Ward</i>	Mr. Christian Larson <i>Junior Council Member</i>
Mayor Buddy Johnson <i>At Large</i>	

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. William Witmer, Acting Police Chief
 Ms. Julie Brooks, Assistant Superintendent, Public Works
 Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Ms. Dann requested to add an item to New Business regarding the personnel committee. There was a discussion regarding the request. These items will be considered for a work session.

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

- Deb Berger spoke regarding the estimate from GSS for the software for data processing. She is present this evening to answer any questions council may have.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

- CNET, on behalf of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission, Requesting Sponsorship Coverage of two meetings in 2025.

Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded for Bellefonte Borough to sponsor two Spring Creek Watershed Commission meetings in 2025. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

- Centre County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – workshops for local officials / stakeholders and open house for public / community. October 15th and 16th. No council action required.
- Centre County MPO Active Transportation Plan Open House, 3-4:30pm, 6-7:30pm, October 9th, COG Building, Gateway Drive, State College. No action is requested.
- Bellefonte Emergency Medical Services Formal Request for Funding of 1/2 mill, 2025 Budget. Council will consider this request as part of their work on the 2025 budget at a later date. No action is requested at this time.
- Spring Creek Watershed Commission Request for 2025 Membership Dues of \$915.75. Council will consider this request as part of their work on the 2025 budget at a later date. No action is requested at this time.
- Article on Tamaqua Revitalization Forwarded to the Borough. No action requested.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	Council Meeting Minutes September 16, 2024
2. General	Borough Solicitor Invoice
3. Finance	Budget vs Actual Summary August 2024
4. Finance	Budget vs Actual August 2024

5. Finance	Treasurer’s Report, August 2024
6. Finance	Vouchers Summary, August 2024

Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-6. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-6 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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

- Oath of Office for Police Officer Noah Bollman

Junior Council Member Report

- Mr. Larson presented the September 2024 Bellefonte High School report.
 - Homecoming week – Bellefonte won the football game
 - Student Store – helps give students retail experience
 - Day of Caring – students did community service projects throughout the borough
 - Mini Thon – at 40% of their goal
 - Sports report

Police (Acting Chief Witmer)

- NONE

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

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

- NONE

2. Administrative Approvals:

- NONE

3. Items of interest:

- The next Planning Commission meeting is Monday, October 14 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting may be canceled as there are currently no SALDO projects for review.
- The next HARB meeting is Tuesday, October 22 at 8:30 a.m.

4. Zoning:

- NONE

Liaison Reports (Reports were submitted)

Comments/Additions:

- Mr. Brachbill commented that the Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting will be held Wednesday September 18, 2024 at 7pm in College Township.
- Centre Region Code had a meeting to discuss public safety but the report was not included in tonight’s packet.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

- Bellefonte Borough Authority Request for Permission to have Hydrogeological-related Studies Conducted on the Talleyrand Park Expanded Area. The Authority is exploring a concept of using wells to draw the spring water from the ground instead of the Big Spring pond. If ultimately successful, the cover over the Big Spring pond would not be needed.

Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Bellefonte Borough Authority conducting Hydrogeological-related tests on the Talleyrand Park Expanded Area Property. Discussion included details regarding the tests and fees. 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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

- Real Estate Tax Collector Software Vendor Change at Centre County Government. A conference call with a county representative was held on September 25th. Based on the information given, having the borough go with the County’s new vendor, GSS, may be the least confusing for the taxpayer. It is recommended to go with the county’s vendor, GSS.

Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Borough choosing GSS, the same software vendor used by the Centre County Government and to notify the County of this decision. Discussion included various members discussing that the current vendor is local and the new vendor is not local. 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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

- Open Bids for Police Department 1st floor renovations.

Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to have bids turned over to architect, awarded in consultation with borough staff. 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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

3 bids: General Contractor, Mechanical/Plumbing, Electrical

General Contractor:

Mid State Construction	\$123,835
TMG Builders, Bellefonte	\$128,875
JC Orr & Son	\$135,235
SF Construction	\$211,362

Mechanical/Plumbing:

K&K Plumbing, Johnstown	\$101,642
PBCI Allen	\$82,600
Silvertip Inc, Lewisburg	\$82,900

Electrical:

Stelco Inc, Altoona	\$41,455
Strauss Electric	\$22,235
TMG Builders	\$64,845
Westmoreland Electrical	\$25,400

- Centre County Liquid Fuel Grant Application. This application is due October 18th. Projects of approximately \$25,000 were reviewed including the purchase of materials for the Streetlighting renovation work and continuation of the stamped crosswalk project. Council may modify this motion.

Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to submit an application for \$25,000 to be put toward the Streetlighting renovation work. 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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

- Water Service Line Inventory. The water service line inventory is to be received by PA DEP on or before October 16th. The Borough will comply with this due date. The Bellefonte Borough Authority is mandated to send out letters to customers who have unknown or

lead service lines. The letters must be sent within 30 days of the inventory due date. No council action is requested.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment of Right to Know/Open Records Officer. Don Holderman served as the Borough’s Right to Know/Open Records Officer. With his retirement, a new person needs to be appointed. The borough manager has recommended Julie Brooks to serve in this position.

Johnson motioned and Brachbill seconded to appoint Julie Brooks as the Right to Know/Open Records Officer. 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	no	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

- Penn DoT 357sqft of Park Property Donation Request related to bridge replacement project over Millrace. Council may consider action on this request or modify the motion.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the donation request as described. 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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

- Bellefonte Borough Contributing to an Air Service Incentive Fund to help attract airlines to State College Regional Airport. A contribution was pledged in the past by Bellefonte Borough. Regional stakeholders are interested in creating a standing fund for this purpose. Council may take action to add this topic to a future work session.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

- NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Brachbill motioned and Johnson seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.