



HISTORIC
Bellefonte™
Est. 1795

Bellefonte Borough Council Business Meeting
7:30 PM, Monday, December 2nd, 2024
In-Person, Council Chambers/Large Meeting Room
301 N. Spring St, 1st Floor

VIEW RECORDING OF WORK SESSIONS and BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS
 Recordings can be viewed on CNET, Comcast’s Government Education Channel 7, or at www.cnet1.org **ATTEND IN PERSON.** The meeting room is open with normal occupancy limits.

AGENDA

- I. 7:30 PM CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Bernier, <i>President, North Ward</i>	Ms. Purnell, <i>North Ward</i>	
Mr. Brachbill, <i>South Ward</i>	Ms. Sedgwick, <i>West Ward</i>	
Ms. Cleeton, <i>South Ward</i>	Ms. Tosti-Vasey, <i>West Ward</i>	
Ms. Dann, <i>Vice-President, South Ward</i>	Mr. Larson, <i>Junior Council Member</i>	
Mr. Johnson, <i>North Ward</i>	Mayor Johnson, <i>At Large</i>	
Ms. McKean, <i>West Ward</i>		

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE COUNCIL MEETING 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.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (Oral)

This Public Comment period is for oral comments regarding action items listed on this meeting agenda. You must be a Bellefonte resident, non-profit representative, business owner, or an official representative of another governmental agency. Speakers shall identify themselves by name and street, municipality, if outside of the Borough of Bellefonte. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS (written)

DCED Survey on Land Use & Growth Management. FYI, no council action is requested.
Letter response to CBD 1st floor residential presentation. FYI, no council action is requested.
Ribbon Cutting for the Terrapin Bellefonte Store located at 205 Park Place will be held on Thursday, December 19 th at 11:00 AM. FYI, no council action is requested.
Spring Creek Water Resources Monitoring Project Request for \$2859 for 2025. Council Action requested to include this amount in the tentative budget for 2025. Motion/2nd to include \$2859 in the Tentative Budget for 2025 for the purpose stated.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered 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.

Finance	Budget V. Actual October 2024
Finance	Budget V. Actual Summary October 2024
General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes November 18, 2024
Finance	Treasurers Report October 2024
Finance	Voucher Summary October 2024

Call for a motion/2nd to approve the Consent Agenda.

IX. REPORTS

Please limit all reports/rebuttals/deliberations to three minutes maximum.

DEPARTMENT	OFFICIAL/ STAFF	REPORT
Mayor	Mayor Johnson	Verbal
Jr. Council Member ➤ November 2024 Report	Mr. Larson	Submitted
OCA Memo ➤ The Bellefonte Planning Commission will meet on Monday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. ➤ HARB will meet on Tuesday, December 10 at 8:30 a.m. in the Large Meeting Room	Ms. Thompson	Submitted

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Chief of Police Position. Council Action Requested. Motion/2nd to formally appoint the current Acting Chief of Police, Mr. William Witmer, to the position of Chief of Police of the Bellefonte Borough Police Department.
Swearing-in of Police Chief William Witmer by Mayor Johnson
Chief of Police Employment Terms. Council Action is Requested. Motion/2nd to formally approve the terms and conditions of employment for the Chief of Police position for the period of December 2nd, 2024 through December 31, 2025, as outlined in the November 18, 2024 offer letter and the related Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough, Mr. Witmer, and the Bellefonte Borough Police Association, executed November 20th, 2024
Spring Creek Watershed Commission Annual Dues. Council action is requested. Motion/2nd to approve the payment of \$915.75 as part of the 2025 budget.
The Draft Budget was presented to council with staff-recommended increases in the Streetlighting Fund and the Fire Department Fund. The increases below were suggested during the budget work sessions. Staff recommends council action to include each in the Tentative and Final Budget.
Parks Funding for 2025. At a council work session where the Parks Fund was reviewed, a request was made to provide winter maintenance to the Waterfront walkway. Adding the winter season maintenance to the Parks Fund will increase the real estate tax by .20 Mills. Council Action Requested. Motion/2nd to approve listing the .20 increase in the Tentative Budget.
Public Transit (formally CATA) Funding for 2025. At a council work session where the General Fund was reviewed, a request was made to increase line item 447.000 (formally CATA Expense) Public Transit Funding by \$35,000 for 2025 and to state this in the tentative budget. This increase may result in an increase in the real estate tax of approximately .35 mills. Council Action is requested. Motion/2nd to approve an additional \$35,000 of borough funds to be added to line item 447.000 of the General Fund for the Tentative Budget.
Bellefonte EMS Request for funding of ½ Mill. Bellefonte EMS is currently funded by Bellefonte Borough at .30 Mills. Council action requested. Council may consider increasing EMS funding by increasing the millage rate. Motion/2nd to increase the EMS Real Estate millage rate to .35 mills. Council may modify this motion.
Consider approval of the tentative 2025 Budget and to make the tentative budget available for public inspection on or before December 6th, 2024. Council action is required. Motion/2nd to approve the tentative 2025 Budget with or without modifications.
Budget Process. The Tentative Budget will be made available in the borough office during business hours and posted on the borough website no later than Friday, December 6th. A public hearing on the Tentative Budget will be held during the December 16th, 2024 Council Meeting. A Tax Ordinance adoption and the 2025 Budget approval will be considered at the same meeting on December 16th, 2024. FYI, no council action is requested.
Courtesy Parking. At the Bellefonte Borough Council meeting held on January 16, 2024, Council approved courtesy parking for the 2024 Holiday Season. The first time the parking enforcement officer observes your car with no time on the meter, he will give you a complimentary pass of two hours. On his second pass-through on that same day, with no time on the meter and two hours having passed, a ticket will be issued. Courtesy parking began on November 29, 2024 (Thanksgiving Day) through January 1, 2025 (New Year's Day). We encourage you to use this opportunity to do some holiday shopping in beautiful downtown Bellefonte. FYI, no council action is requested.
Bellefonte Borough Open House. An Open House for 301 North Spring Street is being planned for Thursday, December 5th, from 6 to 8 pm. This is an open invitation to the community to come out and tour the building, and meet borough elected officials and staff. Food donations for the event will be pursued. FYI, no council action is requested.
Items for Sale. Large wooden Cherry Desks that have not sold have been re-listed on Municibid (Municibid.com) to be sold. There is no reserve. If the desks do not sell, efforts will be made to donate them to surrounding municipalities. Online bidding will end on December 16th. FYI, no council action is requested.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

2025 Council Meeting Schedule – proposed. The council will review and make recommendations for changes to the proposed meeting schedule. Council action will be scheduled for the December 16th meeting. FYI, no council action is requested.
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XII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

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This Public Comment period is for oral comments regarding items not listed on this meeting agenda. Speakers shall identify themselves by name and street, municipality, if outside of the Borough of Bellefonte. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes maximum.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The council meeting will be adjourned at or as close as possible to 9:00 PM.

The Council Code of Conduct and the 2024 List of Goals/action items will be included with each Agenda.