

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 21, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** (Council President Kent Bernier)

The 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 <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 <i>West Ward</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson <i>North Ward</i>	Mr. Christian Larson (EXCUSED) <i>Junior Council Member</i>
Mayor Buddy Johnson <i>At Large</i>	

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- NONE

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

- NONE

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)**

- Fee Waiver Request, Governors Baseball Club use of Governors Park John Montgomery Ward Field for tournament.

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to reduce the field rental fee. Discussion included clarification of the waiver request. The motion to reduce the rental fee did not pass, with all voting members voting no unanimously.*

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

- Gas compressor Upgrade Open House for Project Information. Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024, 5:30-7:30PM, Lambert Hall. No council action is requested.
- Request to Discuss Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan, Work Session on November 18th. This topic will be scheduled for a 20 minute time allotment. 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:

<i>1. Finance</i>	Budget V. Actual September 2024
<i>2. Finance</i>	Budget V. Actual Summary September 2024
<i>3. General</i>	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes October 7th, 2024
<i>4. General</i>	Solicitor Stover Invoice
<i>5. General</i>	Labor Counsel Invoice
<i>6. Finance</i>	Treasurer’s Report September 2024 will be in the next packet
<i>7. Finance</i>	Voucher summary September 2024 will be in the next packet

*Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-7. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-7 listed above carried.*

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

## **VIII. REPORTS**

### **Mayor Johnson**

- Halloween is just around the corner. The mayor is excited to hand out treats to the community. The mayor got a generous donation from Giant. He urges residents to be cautious during trick or treat on Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 6-8pm.

### **Junior Council Member Report**

- NONE

### **Police (Acting Chief Witmer)**

- September 2024 Report
  - Officer Neidigh is now a field training officer
  - Chief Witmer highlighted several other events and activities from the month of September.

### **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 Planning Commission meeting is Monday, November 11 at 5:00 p.m.
- HARB meeting is Tuesday, November 12 at 8:30 a.m.
- See memo for email regarding business permitting program.

#### 4. Zoning:

- NONE

### **Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

## **IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

- Bellefonte An Executive Session for Personnel and Legal Matters was held at the conclusion of the October 7th, 2024 Council Meeting. No council action is requested.
- Update on the Waterfront Development Project. Development may start in 2025. No council action is requested.

- Lease Agreement with Bellefonte Area School District re: Governors Park Ballfield. At the council agenda planning meeting, it was recommended that a copy of the lease be provided to council. No council action is requested.
- Bandshell Group/Stage at Talleyrand Request for Big Spring wells information from Borough Authority. The information was forwarded and included here for your review. No council action is requested.
- Large Wooden Desks at 301 North Spring Street. The desks have been posted on Muncibid.com. This information is on the borough website as well. The closing for bids is November 18<sup>th</sup>. No council action is requested.
- Water Service Line Inventory Submitted. The Authority is under a mandate from PA DEP/US EPA to complete a water service line Inventory by October 16, 2024. The Authority has complied with this mandate. Letters must be sent to water system customers within 30 days that have “unknown” or unverified water service line materials. No council action is requested.
- Centre Count Liquid Fuels Grant Application. Council approved an application to fund streetlighting materials. Staff conversed with the Penn Dot Municipal Services representative regarding the project. Since our streetlighting is separately taxed, it was recommended that we choose a different project. Staff submitted an application for \$25,000 for stamped crosswalks on Spring from High to Bishop. No council action is requested.
- Centre County Economic Development Plan. This plan was unveiled on October 9th. The entire plan can be reviewed at <https://centrecountyforward.com/> . No council action is requested.

#### **X. NEW BUSINESS**

- Bellefonte Fire Department Use of Space, Ground Floor of 301 North Spring Street. On Monday, October 14th, Fire Department reps looked at the space and indicated their interest in establishing an office and small meeting room. Borough staff will clean out the space and get it ready as time/labor permits. No council action is requested.

#### **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA**

*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.*

- NONE

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.*

*Council held an executive session to discuss a personnel matter immediately following tonight's meeting.*