

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 4, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**301 N. Spring Street, Suite 200, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

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

The November 4, 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 (EXCUSED) <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 <i>Junior Council Member</i>
Mayor Buddy Johnson <i>At Large</i>	

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager  
 Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager  
 Harry Brooks, Code Enforcement Officer  
 Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator  
 Police Chief

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

*As advised by the Borough Solicitor, Resolution 08052024-01 passed at the August 5th, 2024 Council Meeting is null and void. For Public Comment, Borough Council will follow Resolution 20211220-01*

*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.*

- NONE

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)**

- Pension Distress Determination Score. A positive score for the particular pension program. No Council action is requested.
- Mount Nittany Health Community Needs Assessment Invitation for Community Leaders.
- Elected officials can register to attend and/or complete the survey. No council action is requested.
- PA LCB Approval Letter for Amplified Noise Exemption. Exemption expires 2:00am, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2029. No Council action is requested.
- Notice - Bellefonte Borough awarded \$200,000 in grant funds (no cash match required) related to Compost Recycling efforts – additional paving, structures to cover compost and equipment. Thank you to Julie Brooks for preparing and submitting the Grant Application. No council action is requested.
- Bellefonte EMS Notice of New Act (Act 141) to help with millage rate cap. No council action 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>I. General</i>	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024
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*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Consent Agenda item 1. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve Consent Agenda item 1 listed above carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	ABSENT
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		

**VIII. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson**

- Proclamation: Bellefonte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution - Wreaths Across America Day
  - The Bellefonte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will gather on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at noon at the flagpole to place wreaths on the graves of veterans buried in Union Cemetery. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of participation in this national remembrance event.
  - Becky Thomas was present for this Proclamation. Ms. Thomas reported that last year there were over 3 million wreaths placed in cemeteries across the nation for this event. The local chapter members placed approximately 125 wreaths at Union Cemetery. Union Cemetery is the only participating cemetery in all of Centre County.
  - Anyone who wishes to may sponsor a wreath for this program. Wreaths are \$17 each and more information on how to volunteer, sponsor or participate can be found on the Bellefonte Chapter “Wreaths Across America” website:

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/174378/Overview/?relatedId=174573>

This link is also available on the Borough website.

- Mayor Johnson also thanked the community and Giant Food Stores for another safe and successful Halloween night.

**Junior Council Member Report**

- October 2024 Report

- Last month was National Principals Month
- Group of seniors visited Congressman Glen Thompson as part of a government outreach program
- October 14-18 was Bullying Prevention Week
- 40+ Students are going to be working the polls for tomorrow's election
- The High School Boys Soccer team won the District 6 Championship
- The Football teams first post season competition was last Friday and they won!

**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:

- Memo is included in tonight's packet
- The proposed public meeting is Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

4. Zoning:

- NONE

**Liaison Reports** (Reports were submitted)

**Nuisance Codes** (NONE)

**Borough Manager** (NONE)

**Planning Commission** (NONE)

**Comments/Additions:**

- NONE

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

- Executive Session for Personnel Matters. A session was held after the adjournment of the last Council Business Meeting on October 21, 2024. No council action requested.
- The Committee appointed to negotiate a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFSCME has reached a Tentative Agreement. After the Tentative Agreement has been put in writing and received, it will be placed on a council agenda for consideration. No council action is requested at this time.

- Non-Uniform Pension Ordinance amendment related to the Defined Contribution Cash Balance Plan. This Ordinance Amendment has been recommended by the Plan Auditor. Council Action Requested.

*Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the Non-uniform Pension Ordinance Amendment as presented. Roll call vote. Motion carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	ABSENT
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		

- Lease Agreement with BASD Re: Governors Park Ballfield. Consider asking Borough Solicitor for Opinion on options. Council may take action.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve seeking a legal opinion from the Borough Solicitor on this matter. Roll call vote. Motion carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	ABSENT
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		

- Yard Waste Collection. No yard waste collection the week of November 11<sup>th</sup> due to Veterans Day holiday. Last Day for the season (yard waste collection) is November 20<sup>th</sup>. No council action requested.
- Curbside leaf collection is underway. Collection day is generally the same day as refuse pick up. Leaves can also be taken to the Musser Lane Compost Facility – Monday through Thursday 6am-2pm; Friday 5am-1pm; Saturdays 8am-11:45am until November 23<sup>rd</sup>; the Facility is closed on holidays. No council action requested.
- Appointments to Authorities, Boards, and Commissions (ABCs) expiring at the end of 2024. Staff will be contacting volunteers about their interest in being re-appointed. A list of new terms for ABCs will be placed on the Borough website. Appointments are expected to be made at the first meeting in January. No council action is requested.
- Reminder - Large wooden Cherry Desks are on Municibid (Municibid.com) to be sold. Online bidding will end on November 18<sup>th</sup>. No council action is requested.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

- Appointment Volunteer Painting of Pavilions and Brush Cutting at Governors Park. The US Airforce 193<sup>rd</sup> SOW Leadership Development Program Group volunteered to do this work. They are a military group that empowers individuals to enhance their leadership skills through hands-on activities, mentorship, and collaborative learning. They focus on fostering self-awareness, strategic thinking, and effective communication to build confident, capable leaders ready to inspire and drive positive change. They painted woodwork on pavilion 12 and several others as well as cleared brush. They were very organized and professional. They look for volunteer opportunities in the spring and fall and the borough staff would love to have them back anytime.

*Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to send a thank you letter to the group. Roll call vote. Motion carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	ABSENT
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		

- Four AED units have been installed in the building at 301 North Spring Street – 1 on each floor and 1 in the Council Chambers/Large Meeting Room. A demonstration on how to use an AED will be scheduled for an upcoming work session. No council action is requested.
- Name of Small Conference Room, 1st Floor, 301 North Spring Street. When the building was owned by Trinity Investments, the small conference room was called “The Oak Room”.

*Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to refer to the Small Conference Room as “The Oak Room”. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 301 North Spring Street. Roll call vote. Motion carried.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	ABSENT
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		

- Bellefonte Borough Open House. An Open House for 301 North Spring Street is being planned for Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm to 8pm. This is an open invitation to the community to come out and tour the building, meet borough elected officials and staff. Food donations for the event will be pursued. No council action is requested at this time.
- Work Session with Community Economic Development Organizations. Staff will be inviting representatives from the Bellefonte Chamber, Downtown Bellefonte Inc. and Historic Bellefonte Inc. to a work session, tentatively in January, to give a “State of Affairs” update. 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**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.*

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