

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 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 November 18, 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*
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

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

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

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

NONE

VI. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

Memo. Comments received related to Bicycle/pedestrian movements near the Mill Race/High Street Bridge Project planned for 2026. No council action is requested.

Memo. Comments received related to the Public Display of Plans for the Mill Race /High Street Bridge Project planned for 2026. No council action is requested.

CATA Notice. B-Line Hours of Operation Extended. No council action is requested.

Solar Co-op Update. No council action is requested.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (will be acted upon by a single motion unless otherwise noted)

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. Finance	October Financials will be provided at the next council meeting
2. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes November 4th, 2024
3. General	Solicitor Stover Invoice
4. General	Labor Counsel Invoice

Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda item 1. Roll call vote. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 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		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson had 3 discussion items in his report this evening.

- Mayor Johnson visited Governor’s Park over the weekend and it looks great. He thanked the public works department for their hard work to maintain the park and keep it beautiful.
- Mayor Johnson would also like to publicly thank Girl Scout Troop 40058. He was invited to speak to the troop to help them earn their badge for democracy.
- Mayor Johnson would also like to welcome Alyssa back to her position as Borough Assistant after her maternity leave.

Police (Chief Witmer)

October 2024 Report

Parking

October 2024 Report

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

- Memo is included in tonight’s packet
- The Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spring Township municipal building, 1309 Blanchard Street.
- The next Planning Commission meeting is Monday, December 9th.
- The next HARB meeting is December 12th, 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Liaison Reports (Reports were submitted)

Nuisance Codes

October 2024 Report

Borough Manager
 October 2024 Report

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Executive Session – Personnel Matters, held at the conclusion of the November 4th, 2024 Council Meeting. No council action requested.

Streaming Channel Franchise Fees. These fees have not been approved. Court cases provided by PSAB. No council action is requested.

Legal Opinion- Lease Agreement with BASD for Governors Park Ballfield. Council may set up an informal meeting to discuss issues/concerns. No formal council action is requested.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Appointment Resolution adopting new Police Department Internal Affairs Policy.

Dann motioned and McKean seconded to approve Resolution No. 11182024-01 as presented.

Tosti-Vasey moved to amend the motion. Second by McKean. She requested to amend Item 10B on page 3. She would like to add: “in order to prevent the co-mingling of these functions, neither the mayor nor members of the council may be designated as the investigator, even if otherwise qualified.” Roll call vote to approve the amendment listed. Motion to amend Resolution No 11182024-01 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		

Roll call vote to approve the amended Resolution listed above. Motion to approve Resolution No 11182024-01 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		

Resolution Supporting Fire Equipment Grant Application through the Statewide Local Share Assessment Funds of the Commonwealth Financing Agency.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve Resolution No. 11182024-02 as presented. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	yes
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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>		

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Johnson spoke regarding community concerns regarding the new Airport Road design and the fitness trail. The community members expressed concern about if the trail will remain after the project is completed and will be usable by the public both during the lengthy construction phase and in the future.

Elliot Killian, a resident, spoke regarding concerns about vacancies in the business district and allowing first floor residential use.

Council received shirts and they thanked Borough Staff for providing them.

Reminder – Bellefonte Borough Community Open House on Thursday, December 5th, 2024, 6pm-8pm.

The December 2nd Council meeting will consider approving a tentative budget for 2025. Council will vote to formally approve the 2025 Budget at their December 16th meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.