

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2025 - 7:30 p.m.
301 N. Spring Street, Suite 200, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER (Council President Barbara Dann)

The January 6, 2025 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 - EXCUSED
Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Deborah Cleeton, *Pro Tempore*
Ms. Barbara Dann, *President*
Mr. Douglas Johnson, *Vice President*
Ms. Shawna McKean
Ms. Rita Purnell
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mr. Christian Larson, *Jr. Council Member*- EXCUSED
Mayor Buddy Johnson- EXCUSED

STAFF PRESENT

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

IV. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

By agreement in early 2022, Borough Council agreed to rotate officers/re-organize annually. Mr. Bernier will step down as council president. Ms. Dann will move from Vice-President to President. Mr. Johnson will move from Pro Tempore to Vice-President.

Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the officers as noted. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve the new officers carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRO TEMPORE

Nominations do not require a second and are voted on in the order that nominations are made. Voting continues until one nominee attains a majority vote. Action will be taken to elect a Pro Tempore.

Johnson nominated Deb Cleeton to serve as Pro Tempore. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve Ms. Cleeton as Pro Tempore carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

V. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- NONE

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT/Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget

- NONE

VII. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

2025 Centre County Liquid Fuels Program unable to provide financial assistance to Borough Project. No council action is requested.

Masullo Park-Complaint about the new light in the park. Council may take action.

- Council agreed to add this item to a future work session for discussion.

Terrapin Bellefonte Grand Opening-Thursday, January 9th at 11:00 am. No council action is requested.

Thank you note from Scott Rhoat, Bellefonte EMS (BEMS). No council action is requested.

Letter to Council from Steve and Denise Snook BACF Resignation Letter. No council action is requested.

Junior Council Person Application—Jalyn Meckley. Jalyn's application is included.

- This item is being moved to the next meeting for review and approval.

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

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes December 16, 2024
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Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda item listed above carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

IX. REPORTS

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

Due to the holidays and vacation, there is no report for Council.

Planning Commission will meet on Monday, January 13th at 5pm.

HARB will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 8:30 a.m.

Reminder of vacancies:

- HARB has one vacancy
- Planning Commission has a vacancy for an alternate
- Zoning Hearing Board has one vacancy

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Penn DoT Traffic Signal Information. No council action is requested.

Penn DoT Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement Instructions. No council action is requested.

Application for Penn DoT Highway Occupancy Permit related to New Elementary School along Airport Road. Council action is requested.

Cleeton motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the application. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

Penn DoT Traffic Signal Application (TE-160) for Airport and Zion Roads. Council action is requested.

Johnson motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the application being signed and submitted to Penn DoT. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

Penn DoT Traffic Signal Application (TE-160) for Parkview Blvd and Zion Road. Council action is requested.

Tosti-Vasey made a conditional motion to approve the application being signed and submitted to Penn DoT. She stated that there is an error in the paperwork. Johnson seconded the conditional approval. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

Penn Dot Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement for signal at Airport and Zion Road. Council action is requested.

Sedgwick motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the Agreement. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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 No. 01062025-01 related to Penn DoT Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement Submission. Council action is requested.

Tosti-Vasey made a conditional motion to approve the Resolution. The condition is that all blanks be filled in. Brachbill seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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 No. 01062025-02 Authorizing Borough Officials to sign Penn DoT related Applications and Maintenance Agreements. Council Action is requested.

Cleeton motioned and Johnson seconded to approve the Resolution as presented. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

Description of Authorities, Boards and Commissions (ABCs). In an effort to get the word out about vacancies on some of the Borough's ABCs, a short description of each will be read. Some vacancies have residency requirements and some do not. Interested citizens can find out more information at the borough's website www.bellefonte.net. No council action is requested.

- Centre County Airport Authority
- BAIDA (Bellefonte Area Industrial Development Authority)
- Borough Authority (Water and Sewer Authority)
- Bellefonte Civil Service Commission (Police Officer Hirings/Appointments)
- HARB (Historical Architectural Review Board)
- Shade Tree Commission
- Planning Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board (Reviews Variances in Ordinances)
- Vacancy Board

The Airport Authority approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Ralph Stewart to the Centre County Airport Authority.

Johnson motioned and Brachbill seconded to reappoint Ralph Stewart to the Centre County Airport Authority. Discussion included Mr. Johnson thanking Mr. Stewart for his service to the Airport Authority. Mr. Stewart has been an exceptional member. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

The Bellefonte Borough Authority approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Joe Falcone and Frank Halderman to the Authority.

Cleeton motioned and Johnson seconded to reappoint Joe Falcone and Frank Halderman to the Bellefonte Borough Authority. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

The Civil Service Commission approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Randy Brachbill to the Civil Service Commission.

Johnson motioned and Cleeton seconded to reappoint Randy Brachbill to the Civil Service Commission. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to reappoint Mr. Brachbill carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

The Historic Architectural Review Board approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Walt Schneider to HARB.

McKean motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to reappoint Walt Schneider to HARB. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

The Planning Commission approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint James Mills to the Planning Commission.

Brachbill motioned and Johnson seconded to reappoint James Mills to the Planning Commission. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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		

XI. NEW BUSINESS

The local business-sponsored Ice rink is being set up again this year in Talleyrand Park. Ice skating on the rink is weather permitting and free. No council action is requested.

Christmas Tree Disposal. Christmas Trees can be set out at any time. Borough public works personnel will pick them up separately as they see them out. No council action is requested.

Reminder/Notice. Council will meet on Tuesday, January 21st instead of Monday, January 20th Martin Luther King Day. No council action is requested.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mark Stitzer, a resident, commented regarding the light issue at Masullo Park.

XIII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Please try to limit all comments/rebuttals to three minutes maximum.

Suggestion to form a Human Resources Committee.

Comments regarding safety policies for community/street events, fairs and festivals.
Suggestion to make a plan for increased safety at community events.

A presentation will be offered regarding the Junior Council Member position program.

Free parking is gone for the holiday season and kudos to the Authority for taking care of the water leak issue in Parkview so quickly.

Happy New Year to all!

Council will be re-forming some committees.

There is a free PSAB webinar on Parliamentary Procedures on January 15th, 2025 at 12-1:30pm. It's a zoom webinar.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Johnson motioned and Brachbill seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.