

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 16, 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 December 16, 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- EXCUSED  
Ms. Rita Purnell  
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick  
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey  
Mr. Christian Larson, *Jr. Council Member*  
Mayor Buddy Johnson

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

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**IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

NONE

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT/Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget**

NONE

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)**

PennDOT responses to questions, Mill Race, West High Street Bridge Project. No council action is requested.

Zoning Changes to 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Central Business District. 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	Budget V. Actual November 2024
2. Finance	Budget V. Actual Summary November 2024
3. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes December 2, 2024
4. Finance	Treasurers Report November 2024
5. Finance	Voucher Summary November 2024
6. General	Solicitor Stover Invoice

*Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. 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 and Chief Witmer recognized officer Shawn Lose for his part in helping to save the life of a local resident at the November 2, 2024 PSU football game.

**Junior Council Member Report**

November 2024 Report

**Police (Acting Chief Witmer)**

November 2024 Report

**Parking**

November 2024 Report

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

Items of interest:

Review and consider approval of the final draft of the Bellefonte Borough Historic District Design Guidelines (see under: New Business)

- Ms. Thompson publicly thanked Landmarks SGA, the consulting firm that worked on the review and Frank Grumbine from PHMC, and Bellefonte HARB for their work completing the guidelines.
- During the process it was noted that Bellefonte has one of the most well preserved Historic Districts in PA.

**Liaison Reports (Reports were submitted)**

**Borough Manager**

November 2024 Report

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

2025 Council Meeting Schedule – proposed. Council is only considering the dates of their meetings. Authorities, Boards and Commissions will be doing the same.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the 2025 Council Meeting schedule with any modifications. No discussion. Motion to approve 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		

Tax Ordinance No. 12162024-01.

*Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve Tax Ordinance 12162024-01 with any modifications. No discussion. Motion to approve 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		

2025 Borough Budget.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the 2025 Budget for Bellefonte Borough with any modifications.*

*D Johnson motioned to amend the budget to withdraw the additional \$35,000 proposed CATA funds. Dann seconded. Discussion included clarification of the purpose of the funds. With a vote of 5 yes votes and 4 no votes, the motion to amend the budget to remove the additional funds carried.*

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

*Vote to approve the amended 2025 proposed budget. No further discussion. Motion to approve 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	no
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

2025 Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule.

*Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the 2025 Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule with any modifications. Discussion included questions regarding the fee schedule. Roll call vote. Motion to approve 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		

Service Line Inventory Memo/Update. No council action is requested.

Authorities, Boards and Commissions Vacancies. Appointments/ Reappointments will be made at the January 6, 2025 Council Meeting. No council action is requested.

Borough Building Open House on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- Bellefonte Borough extends a thank you to Weis Markets and Giant Foods for donations to the Open House. No council action is requested.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Ratification/Approval of Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between Bellefonte Borough and AFSCME Council 83. The agreement is for the period of January 1, 2025 – December 31st, 2027.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve this Agreement. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve 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		

The final draft of the Bellefonte Borough Historic District Design Guidelines is submitted for review and approval by HARB.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the updated Bellefonte Borough Historic District Design Guidelines. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve 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		

Chief Witmer’s request to establish a new Eligibility List for the Bellefonte Borough Police Department for 2025. Council action requested.

*D Johnson motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Chief Witmer’s request for a new Eligibility List for the Bellefonte Borough Police Department for 2025. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve 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		

2025 Proposed Street Paving List. The street paving list will go out for bid in January. The final selection of streets to be paved will depend on priority and cost. Council action is requested.

*Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the proposed street paving list as presented. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve 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		

Borough Offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th for observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

- There will be no Refuse collection on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- Refuse will be collected on Thursday, December 26th, 2024 for Tuesday’s Route and Friday, December 27th, 2024 for Wednesday's Route.
- This information will be added to the Borough Website at [www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net) and automated calls will be made. No council action is requested.

Borough Offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st, 2025 for New Year's Day.

- Refuse will not be collected on Wednesday.
- Refuse will be collected on Thursday, January 2nd, 2025.

- This information will be added to the Borough Website at [www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net) and automated calls will be made. No council action is requested.

Borough Newsletter Deadline. Due to the need to obtain information about the tax bill/vendor changes at the county, we will have a firm deadline of January 31, 2025 for all newsletter information. No council action is requested.

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

Mr. Bechdel, a resident, commented regarding his free, die-cast museum. His museum has been open since 2013. He commented his museum is a unique, historic attraction and could be a tourist attraction and he encouraged council members to publicly promote and visit his museum.

Phil Breidenbaugh, a resident and a member of the Bellefonte Victorian Christmas Committee, thanked the Borough for their support of Bellefonte Victorian Christmas. He encouraged members of Council to offer any feedback regarding the event. There is a feedback tab on the website [www.bellefontevictorianchristmas.com](http://www.bellefontevictorianchristmas.com) for anyone who wishes to offer feedback.

Mrs. Purnell thanked Mr. Bernier for his service as President of the Council this past year.

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.*