

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 21, 2025 - 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 Barbara Dann)

The January 21, 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  
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  
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *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**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Jennifer Pettina, Centre County Tax Claims and Collections Director

- Announcement: Centre County Real Estate Tax Bill is changing its look. Now will be on a perforated, self-sealed mailer. She presented a slideshow that showed the new format.

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS (written)**

2025 Junior Council Person Application—Jalyn Meckley. Jalyn's application is included.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned to approve Jalyn Meckley as Jr. Borough Council Member. There was no second announced. No discussion. Roll Call vote. Motion 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 Mayor lead Ms. Meckley in responding to the Junior Council Person Pledge.

Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Winter Report. No council action is requested.

Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Annual Appointment. SEO Proposal from Centre Region Code. Currently, the position is vacant. Council may take action on this Proposal.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and McKean seconded to approve the proposal. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion 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		

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

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. Finance	Financial Reports will be in the February 3rd, 2025 packet.
2. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes January 6th, 2024
3. General	Solicitor Stover Invoice

*There was no announcement of motion or second for approval of the consent agenda. Roll call vote. Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1 and 3 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		

*Roll call vote to approve item 2 in the Consent Agenda. Discussion included changing wording from "Absent" to "Excused". Roll Call vote. Names for the motion and second were not announced. 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		

## **VIII. REPORTS**

### **Mayor Johnson**

Mayor Johnson encouraged Borough residents to be mindful of the cold and to make sure to check on friends, family and neighbors. Also be aware of leaving pets outside.

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

December 2024

### **Parking**

December 2024

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

- No HARB meeting for January 28<sup>th</sup>
- The next HARB meeting is February 11 at 8:30 a.m.
- The next Planning Commission meeting is on February 10 at 5:00 p.m.
- NVJPC meeting minutes from November 21, 2024, included
- NVJPC meeting summary for January 16, 2025, included in the OCA report

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

### **Nuisance Codes**

November & December 2024

### **Borough Manager**

December 2024 Report

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

The Authority is exploring the placement of wells in the expanded area of Talleyrand Park.

- At the Authority Meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>, consultants identified where the water is flowing underground. More work is needed to determine the depth of bedrock. The Authority is continuing to explore the wells option which, if successful, would mean the uncovering of the Big Spring.
- The PowerPoint Diagram is included.
- No council action is requested at this time.
- Grant funds are being used to fund this project.
- The project is currently running under budget.
- There was a brief discussion regarding how this project will impact the proposed bandshell/stage project.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

The Memo regarding the Community Yard Sale, Riff Raff, Halloween, and Holiday Parking in the Borough. Proposed Dates are as follows:

- Yard Sale Dates – (Fri. & Sat.) May 16 & 17, 2025

- Bulk Waste /Riff Raff Pick Up – (Mon. – Fri.) May 19-23, 2025
- Halloween Trick-or-Treating Hours, 6 – 8 PM, Friday, October 31, 2025\*
  - \*Subject to change based on school/football schedules
  - Halloween parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2025
- 2-Hour Courtesy Parking Program, Thursday, November 27, 2025-Thursday, January 1, 2026

*Johnson motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the dates provided for the Community Yard Sale, Riff Raff, Halloween, and Holiday Parking in Bellefonte Borough. Discussion including asking to clarify on the website that the 3 holidays included in this timeframe, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day would be a full day of free parking, not just 2 hours. It will be clarified on the website that parking on those 3 days will not be enforced. 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		

Draft Resolution No. 01212025-01 Amending the Council Meeting Public Comment Policy. Council may discuss the draft and make additional amendments. Council may take action on the Resolution.

*Cleeton motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve Draft Resolution No. 01212025-01 Amending the Council Meeting Public Comment Policy. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey proposing wording changes and various council members discussing the comments policy. The amendments were agreed upon and there was a roll call vote to approve the amended resolution. The amended motion said “On a trial basis, Borough intends to take public comment related to the motion that is on the floor after it has been duly made and seconded. The order of comment will be public comment and then council comment including proposed amendment by council members. If amendments are proposed to the ordinal motion, the public will only be allowed to comment on the amendment(s) before final votes are taken.” Motion to approve the amended motion carried with 2 no and 7 yes votes.*

Mr. Kent Bernier	no	Ms. Shawna McKean	yes
Mr. Randy Brachbill	no	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		

Fee Schedule Approval. The Borough’s Fee Schedule was changed/updated.

*Cleeton motioned and Johnson seconded to approve the updated Fee Schedule as presented. Discussion included clarifications of changes. Roll call vote. Motion 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		

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA**  
NONE

**XII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Deb Cleeton announced that on Wednesday, 1/22/25, CATA will hold a community input meeting from 5 pm-7 pm in the Community Room at Schlow Library. More information is on the Borough Website including the link to the video meeting.

Mr. Stewart mentioned the newsletter deadline of January 31, 2025. He encouraged council members to make sure to submit any items for the newsletter by the deadline to get the newsletter out on time.

Mr. Johnson welcomed Jalyn to Council and thanked her for being willing to volunteer her time for community service.

Ms. Sedgwick thanked Borough crews for their hard work keeping up with winter weather this year. She also urged Borough residents to keep their sidewalks cleared.

Ms. Meckley thanked Council for their warm welcome and stated she is very excited to work with Council.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Johnson motioned to adjourn. There was no second. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. An executive session was held after the meeting to discuss legal issues.*