

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 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 February 3, 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- ZOOM*
Ms. Shawna McKean
Ms. Rita Purnell
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mr. Christian Larson, *Jr. Council Member*
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member- EXCUSED*
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Bill Witmer, Police Chief
Ms. Julie Brooks, Staff

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Oral)

NONE

VI. COMMUNICATIONS (written)

Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Municipal Newsletter January 2025. No council action is requested.

Resident recommendation for Bellefonte Elementary School Property. No council action is requested.

Thank you letter to Matt Auman, Superintendent of Public Works, from Bellefonte Quaker Cemetery. No council action is requested.

PSAB Annual Conference June 1-4, 2025. 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. <i>Finance</i>	Budget V. Actual December 2024
2. <i>Finance</i>	Budget V. Actual Summary December 2024
3. <i>General</i>	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes January 21st, 2025
4. <i>Finance</i>	Treasurers Report December 2024
5. <i>Finance</i>	Voucher Summary December 2024

Tosti-Vasey motioned to approve the consent agenda with amendments to the minutes. There was no second. Roll call vote. Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-5 listed above carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>yes</i>
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>		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson reported that he and the new Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent, Roy Rakaszewski, will partner to hold a Community Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. The meeting is intended to bridge the gap between the district and the community. Mayor Johnson will have a report of the meeting at the next Council meeting.

Junior Council Member Report (Mr. Larson)

- The second quarter ended on January 22, 2025.
- The Challenge Program visited the High School. This is a new program with a goal to motivate high school students to develop good habits that are required to succeed in schools and careers. They award money for habits like good attendance, taking STEM courses, community service, etc.
- AP applications were submitted for next year.
- FBLA attended their regional leadership conference. 3 members received their Jackets.
- The Cheer team attended their PIAA States competition.
- Academic Decathlon attended their district competition.
- Student Council is looking to hold their first pickleball event.

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

- Planning Commission will meet on February 10 at 5:00 p.m.
- HARB will meet on February 11 at 8:30 a.m.

4. Zoning:

Motion to consider removing the §575, Article XXI: Signs from the Borough Zoning to its own chapter within the Borough Code. (see Memo for rationale). If the motion is approved, council would need to hold a public hearing and re-affirm the action prior to it taking effect, due to being a Zoning Ordinance Amendment.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to consider removing the §575, Article XXI: Signs from the Borough Zoning to its own chapter within the Borough Code. 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		

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Lighting issue at Masullo Park. Council may take action to change the lighting at Masullo Park. No council action was taken. Mr. Matt Auman will be providing more information on this issue at a later date.

Public Transit Task Force update. No council action is requested.

- CATA has agreed to come back to Council on February 18, 2025 with 3 or 4 options.
- Benner Township is having a meeting with CATA tonight.

Committees of Council. Committees and Chairs have been established by Council President Dann and sent out to council members. In addition, two Ad-hoc committees have been formed – Fire Department and Ordinance Review/Employee Handbook. No council action is requested.

Work Sessions and Presentations to Council. The schedule of work sessions and the placement of presentations will be changing as council moves to sub-committees. Presentations will likely be scheduled in the business meeting under oral communications.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was a request to move the Executive Session meeting from tonight's meeting to February 18, 2025.

The Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations Revisions. The Civil Service Commission has approved the Revisions.

McKean motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations Revisions. 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		

Approval of Ordinance No. 02032025-01 Amendments to Chapter 530: Vehicle and Traffic.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Ordinance No. 01212025-01 Amendments to Chapter 530: Vehicle and Traffic. 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		

Approval of Resolution No. 02032025-01 – Use of Force Policy.

McKean motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve Resolution No. 01212025-01 - Use of Force Policy. 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		

Shade Tree Commission Volunteer Application. Call for a motion to appoint Jason Ostroskie to the Shade Tree Commission.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to table this appointment pending solicitor review. Discussion included outlining the reasons for tabling and solicitor review, as Mr. Ostroskie is a Borough employee. Roll call vote. Motion to table 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

NONE

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Brachbill motioned to adjourn. McKean seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.