

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 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 18, 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
Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Brachbill requested to move the executive session scheduled for after tonight's meeting to the next scheduled meeting.

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to take the Executive session scheduled for after this meeting off the agenda. Roll call vote. Motion to move the meeting to March 3, 2025 carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Oral)

NONE

VI. COMMUNICATIONS (written)

Centre County Transportation Update, February 2025. No council action is requested.
Mill Race Bridge Replacement Onsite Meeting Minutes. Project is scheduled for 2026. No council action is requested.

Email - Consider a pesticide/herbicide spray ban for absentee landlords in Bellefonte Borough. This item was turned over to Council's Environmental Committee for review and recommendation.

Email -Thank you from Mark Stitzer for the Work Session to discuss the lighting issue in Masullo Park. No council action is requested.

Letter - BASD School Directors changed compensation rates for elected Real Estate Tax Collectors whose term begins in 2026. No council action is requested.

Email – Community Groups planning to meet to discuss common issues. The meeting will be held at 6:30PM on Wednesday, March 5th in the Oak Room, 1st Floor, 301 North Spring Street. Elected officials are welcome to attend. No council action is requested.

Letter - Spring Township is concerned with the Big Spring Well Drilling Project.

Letter – Response to Spring Township from Bellefonte Borough Authority on Exploring the Placement of Wells in the expanded area of Talleyrand Park.

Letter-Stage information received on February 14, 2025.

Email Exchange– Borough Authority and Stage at Talleyrand Committee re: Big Spring wells project, asking to be put on an agenda, and to have a definitive timeline. Council may take action or consider scheduling discussion/action at another time.

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 January 2025
2. Finance	Budget v. Actual Summary January 2025
3. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes February 3
4. General	Solicitor Stover Invoice
5. Finance	Treasurer's Report January 2025
6. Finance	Voucher Summary January 2025

McKean motioned to approve the consent agenda. Brachbill seconded. Roll call vote. Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-6 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 presented a Proclamation - School Resource Officer Awareness Day February 15, 2025

Mayor Johnson also offered a short report about the Community Action Meeting. He said the meeting was a wonderful collaboration of community leaders. He is looking forward to future meetings.

Police (Chief Witmer)

January 2025 Report

Paul Miller's Law (Hands Free Law)

Parking

January 2025 report

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

NONE

Borough Manager

January 2025 Report

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Shade Tree Commission Volunteer Application. A legal opinion has been requested. No council action is requested at this time.

Light at Masullo Park Update. Staff contacted West Penn Power (WPP) about taking out the light. WPP said to pull the photo cell. Our staff did that and the light is out. Staff is researching LED options. No council action is requested at this time.

RACP Funding for the Waterfront Project. The owners have a Cooperation Agreement with the Borough. The owners are submitting new forms to the PA DCED and need Council approval and official signing.

Brachbill motioned and Sedgwick seconded for approval of the forms to be submitted to PA DCED and to be signed, contingent upon all Cooperation Agreements being reviewed and updated where needed. It is further motioned that Council strongly encourages the owners to break ground on this long-anticipated economic development project as soon as possible. Discussion included details regarding the project and funding for the project. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	no
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	
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X.NEW BUSINESS

2025 Paving Bid opening.

BIDS:

1. Glenn O Hawbaker \$207,878.50
2. HRI, INC \$300,732.55
3. Wyde \$189,160.85
4. Big Rock Paving \$187,512.60

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to allow staff to review, make deletions to fit the budget, approve the lowest responsible bid. 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		

Letter from Chief Witmer requesting Ordinance amendment Chapter 108 Police.

Brachbill motioned and McKean seconded to approve advertising Ordinance amendment for Council vote on March 3rd, 2025. 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. 02182025-01 Adopting the Police Department's updated Policies.

McKean motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve Resolution No. 02182025-01 Adopting the Police Department's updated Policies. 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		

Consider Approval of issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Grant Writing Services.

Purnell motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the motion as stated. Discussion included clarification of the motion. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6:3.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	no
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Mr. Randy Brachbill	<i>no</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>no</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>yes</i>		

Cooperation Agreement Approval. Owners of the former Sutton Engineering property (also known as Bellefonte Works) on South Potter Street, received a RACP Grant several years ago that is passing through the Borough. Owners are interested in making improvements to the property. Owners must have the Borough's Assistance with this Grant. The Agreement states the obligations of the owners.

Brachbill motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the Borough assisting with this Grant contingent upon the owners entering into a Cooperation Agreement with the Borough. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion 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>		

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 8:32pm.