

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

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Bill Witmer, Police Chief
Ms. Julie Brooks, Public Works
Ms. Gina Thompson, Zoning, Planning & HARB Adm.
Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Oral)

NONE

VI. COMMUNICATIONS (written)

Thank you letter from former resident John Brouse. No council action is requested.

Reminder – Community Group Summit, 6:30PM, Wednesday, March 5, Oak Room or (Council Chambers if needed), 301 North Spring Street, Bellefonte. No council action is requested.

FERC Notice, Gas line Compressor Work to take place in Centre County and other Counties. Public comment/participation is due by 5pm, March 6, 2025. Council may vote to comment on the scope of work related to this project.

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to discuss this project. Tosti-Vasey seconded. Discussion included details regarding this project. It was commented that the compressor in question is located in Spring Township at the top of Mt. Nittany, and it has been leaking.

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded for Bellefonte Borough Council to not react to this scope of work related to this project. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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		

Logan Fire Company Banquet Invitation to elected officials. April 12, 2025. RSVP to Bobbi Salvanish by March 31, 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:

<i>1. General</i>	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes February 18, 2025
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Tosti-Vasey motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Brachbill seconded. Roll call vote. Motion to approve Consent Agenda item 1 listed above carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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 offered a public service announcement to slow down and stay aware when driving now that the weather is nicer, as community members will be out walking, running and biking.

Junior Council Member Report (Mr. Larson)

February 2025 Report

- Mr. Larson reported that the district is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the school year and he left a copy of the student newspaper for council members.
- Students completed Apple Testing to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Map Testing also took place this month.
- First ever Pickleball Event for MINITHON was postponed to March 15, 2025.
- Winter sports are coming to an end and Spring sports are getting underway.

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

Recommended for approval (Specific motions are stated in the OCA memo):

- Bellefonte Waterfront Project – motion for approval of revised designs.
 - The initial design included 3 buildings, that has been changed to 2. Building 1 is a hotel, the second building is a combination of condominiums, parking garage and commercial space.

Brachbill motioned and Purnell seconded to approve the revised designs of Building 1 (hotel) and Building 2 (garage, condo, commercial) of the Bellefonte Waterfront Project. Roll call vote. Motion to approve the revised designs carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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		

Items of interest:

The HARB meeting for March 11 will be canceled. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 25 at 8:30 a.m.

The Planning Commission meeting for March 10 has been moved to Tuesday, March 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Follow Up from Traffic Signal Discussion at February 18th Work Session.

- Stamped Asphalt Crosswalks at Airport/Zion and Parkview Blvd/Zion Traffic Signals—PennDOT will permit, but the design for both intersections will need to be submitted under a separate Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) application and be in the Boroughs name. PennDOT will require a letter from the Borough stating that they understand that the Borough is responsible for paying for all future maintenance of the crosswalk asphalt material. Also, that they understand that when the Department repaves these intersections, these crosswalks will not be replaced in kind using PennDOT money. Those conditions will also be in the HOP when issued. The HOP engineering/design costs are not the scope of the borough's engineer (working on the Parkview Intersection) or the School's engineer (working on the Airport Road intersection) and would be additional fees.
- Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) pushbuttons will be installed at all locations.
- Leading Pedestrian Indicator (LPI) (gives pedestrians the opportunity to enter the crosswalk at an intersection 3-7 seconds before vehicles are given a green ...) will be installed at the Airport Road crossing. It can't be added to the Parkview crossing due to the advance left on S.R. 550. It will be part of the timings for the 550 crossing though.

- Crossing at Triangle Road – At the work session on February 18th, there was discussion about having a pathway on the Triangle Road Right-of-Way, in place of a sidewalk along the South side of Zion Road. PennDOT has given their ok for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) light here. Grant funds can be applied for however, there is no guarantee. If a grant is awarded, there will be a local match. Fees for the design work, the RRFB, the stamped crosswalk, and the pathway on Triangle Road need to be committed.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to have council's Streets Committee review these matters and to bring back recommendations. Motion carried

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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		

Street Paving Street Selection, Budgeted Funds.

Purnell motioned and Johnson seconded to have council's Street Committee review staff recommendations for the streets to include in this year's paving project and to bring back recommendations. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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		

Legal Opinion, borough staff member application for appointment to Shade Tree Commission. Borough Solicitor Jeff Stover's opinion, based on the position and facts, a conflict of interest does not exist. Council may vote to appoint Mr. Jason Ostroskie to the Shade Tree Commission to fill the current vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Brachbill motioned and Johnson seconded to appoint Mr. Jason Ostroskie to the Shade Tree Commission to fill the current vacancy for the remainder of the term. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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		

RFP for Grant Writing Services has been issued. Proposals are due on Friday, March 14, 2025. No council action is requested.

Signed agreement contract for Section 902 Municipal Recycle Program Development and Implementation Grant received by the Borough. Awarded amount \$200,000, purchase of equipment can begin. Please see Grants update memo. No council action requested.

Settlement Agreement between the US Department of Justice and Bellefonte Borough: All deadlines for implementation of services, ADA training and documentation have been met by the borough ADA Coordinator within timeframes and deadlines set forth in the settlement. The borough remains under the settlement until February 20, 2026. ADA training and improvements to borough services will be ongoing as outlined in Title II. No council action requested.

Approval of Ordinance No. 03032025-01 Amendment to Chapter 108: Police Department.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve Ordinance No. 03032025-01 Amendments to Chapter 108: Police Department. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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		

X. NEW BUSINESS

Bellefonte Waterfront Property National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Owners notified staff that they had inadvertently left their NPDES permit expire. Riparian zone regulations near waterways had changed after the permit was originally issued. Staff is working with their engineers and PA DEP on a new permit application that may involve Borough Authority property downstream of the waterfront property. No council action is requested.

Discussions regarding bike path/walkway to/from former Cerro complex in Spring Township to Talleyrand Park. Discussions are underway primarily through the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau and stakeholders. No council action is requested.

Approval of Resolution No. 03032025-01 Amending the Police Department's updated Policies Vehicle Pursuits 4.2.1, Objective Risk Factors in vehicle pursuits 4.2.1.1, Pursuit Decision-Making Matrix 4.2.1.2.

Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Resolution No. 03032025-01 Amending the Police Department's updated Policies as presented. Roll call vote. Motion to approve the resolution carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yes	Ms. Shawna McKean	excused
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

- Debra Berger, the Borough Tax Collector, spoke regarding the tax bills changes. She encouraged tax payers to make sure they are sending in correct amounts. She also mentioned escrow companies.

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

Ms. Dann commented that the PSAB Conference is coming up at the beginning of June. She mentioned that council members can access the website for more information.

Ms. Cleeton thanked Ms. Berger for coming in to address council.

Ms. Purnell commented that we are coming up on Primary season in Centre County and there are a number of county-wide precinct and municipality positions open. Anyone who is considering running for office should note that the deadline for petitions is March 11. Anyone interested in running should visit the elections office at the Willowbank Building to pick up a packet.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Purnell motioned to adjourn. Brachbill seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

An Executive Session was held after the meeting to discuss personnel matters.