

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 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 May 5, 2025 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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*
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member*
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Don Holderman, Interim Borough Manager
Mr. Bill Witmer, Police Chief
Ms. Julie Brooks, Assistant Superintendent Public Works

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with Act 65 of 2021, If a matter is not on the Agenda, Council cannot take official action on it with some exceptions. The Council can act on matters relating to potential or real emergencies. Council may add a matter of agency business to its agenda through a majority vote. The Council should state the reason why the action item is being added to the agenda. Council may vote to add an action item(s) to the agenda.

NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Oral)

Borough Council 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 amendments by council members. If amendments are proposed to the original motion, the public will then only comment on the amendment(s) before final votes are taken. You must be a Bellefonte resident, non-profit representative, business owner, or an official representative of another governmental agency. Speakers shall identify themselves by name and

street, municipality, if outside of the Borough of Bellefonte. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

NONE

VI. COMMUNICATIONS (written)

Columbia Gas will be starting the East Linn Street gas main and service line replacements from Armor Street to Shugert Lane starting Monday, May 5, 2025. For some frequently asked questions about Columbia Gas pipeline projects please visit:

<https://www.columbiagaspa.com/services/work-in-your-neighborhood/pipeline-replacement-projects>. No Council action required.

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority April 2025 Quarterly Newsletter. No Council action required.

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

All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes April 21, 2025.
2. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice March 2025

Call for a motion to approve the above Consent Agenda. Tosti-Vasey motioned, Brachbill seconded. No further discussion, roll call vote, and 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		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Proclamation of Centre Gives day, May 14-15, 2025. “Centre Gives” was established in 2012 as a 36-hour online donation event in order to bring attention to our non-profits and raise money for these organizations. Since 2012, the event has raised over \$19,700,000 for our various non-profit organizations. 220+ organizations will be participating this year. All community members are welcomed to visit centregives.org beginning at 8AM on May 14 to donate to whichever nonprofits are meaningful to them.

Proclamation of Mount Nittany Health Week May 11-17, 2025. This week is also recognized as National Hospital Week. Mount Nittany Health has been providing Centre County with excellent healthcare for more than 120 years. Mount Nittany Health was originally established in Bellefonte on S Spring Street on July 8th, 1902.

Junior Council Member Report (Mr. Larson)

The Senior Trip took place April 24-26. Students visited Washington DC and partook in an amusement park, dinner cruise, and baseball game. A reminder for students as well as other drivers to remain vigilant while driving during this prom season. Prom was on May 3, Senior Ball will be May 17. All Night Party to take place May 31. Awards Night will be June 3, Graduation will take place June 7. MINI-THON announced that Bellefonte raised 12,000 this year, which is an improvement from the last few years, and we ranked first among competing schools for the third year in a row. This is Mr. Larson's final report, Ms. Meckley will be taking over the following school year.

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

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

Approval of the Subdivision and Land Development (SALDO) plans including 1)

Preliminary/Final Plan for Mach-1 Slalom Clubhouse and 2) Preliminary/Final Plan for Lot Addition from Lands of Cuz Holdings, LLC to Lands of Mount Nittany Medical Center. Call for a motion to approve these Preliminary/Final Plans.

Brachbill motioned, Bernier seconded. Further discussion included: Whether or not the second item being approved would result in Mount Nittany bringing new healthcare services to Bellefonte - Chief Facilities Manager from Mount Nittany assured that this will be the case. Imaging and Express Care facilities will be among the new services coming to Bellefonte. Roll call vote, and 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 Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:30PM

The HARB meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2025, at 5:30PM is cancelled.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Friends of Talleyrand Stage Project. Public comment was held on this action item The first speaker was Ricky Jacobs, a member of the Friends of Talleyrand; he presented the history of the Talleyrand Stage Project.. Kevin Lloyd, the owner of Big Spring Spirits was the second speaker; he feels that this project could be a major asset for Bellefonte. Tom Wilson, the former Mayor, was the third speaker; he shared his vision for having regular community band events at the stage should the project go through. There were two emails which Ms. Dann received regarding this item as well, which she read aloud. The first was an email from Fritz Smith, the President and CEO of Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, and he voiced his support for the idea on all fronts. The second email was from Representative Kerry Benninghoff; he also voiced his excitement and support for this plan.

Call for a motion to approve moving forward with the stage conditionally based on the Cooperative Agreement being drafted by the Borough Solicitor.

Purnell motioned, Brachbill Seconded. Further discussion included above, roll call vote, and 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		

Council Chambers - potential room reconfigurations to enhance meeting experiences and acoustics. This will be an ongoing project over the next few months to find the best solution. Mayor Johnson commented further on the details of the project, which is set to start in June. It is the goal of the project to not only improve meeting acoustics, but to create a nicer-looking and friendlier environment as well. No Council action required.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Talleyrand Park Suspension Bridge Project Agreements 2022, 2023 and 2024. Call for a motion to approve the 2022, 2023, and 2024 CDBG Agreements for the Talleyrand Park Suspension Bridge Project.

Cleeton motioned, Brachbill seconded. No further discussion, roll call vote, and 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		

Nick Schaefer, Trans Associates, provided an estimate of approximately \$300,000 for the traffic light construction at the intersection of Zion Road and Parkview Blvd. No Council action required.

CATA Services 2025-2026. Call for a motion to remove Bellefonte Borough from CATA Services, effective July 1, 2025.

Brachbill motioned, Cleeton seconded. Further discussion included: Public comment from Sharon Weisser. She offered thanks to several Council and community members for listening to the communities needs regarding public transportation. She also voiced her support for removing Bellefonte from CATA services and urged council to vote “yes” on this action item. Roll call vote and 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		

Centre County Transportation. Call for a motion to establish public transportation through Centre County Transportation services, beginning July 1, 2025.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, McKean seconded.

Further discussion included: Public Comment from Rachel and Daniel Self. The shared their concern over high prices and confusion surrounding this new public transportation system. Tosti-Vasey took a moment to thank several Community and Council members for all of their support and effort that went into building this new plan for public transportation in Bellefonte Borough. She also ensured that this new program will provide people within the Borough who need access to public transportation a more reliable and affordable way to access this service. More updates to come at a later date. Ms. Cleeton wanted to mention that other municipalities are invited to monitor this new program and work with the Centre County Transportation Office to implement something similar if successful. Roll call vote, and 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		

Loading and Unloading on Spring Street Memo. Call for a motion to approve the recommendations from LTAP Mark Hood for South Spring Street.

Johnson motioned, Brachbill seconded. Further discussion included: question regarding next steps, which will include painting and signage, as well as a loading/unloading timeframe, which will be 5-8 am. Tosti-Vasey wanted to ensure that no parking spaces are going to be removed, which they will not be. She also was curious as to whether or not the Handicap parking spaces were being moved, and whether or not there would be new replacement spaces in safer areas, both of which were correct. Dann shared further concern about the time restrictions for loading and unloading being problematic for certain businesses on Spring Street; it was settled that businesses should be responsible for ensuring that they are able to meet these loading/unloading requirements. The Ordinance ADHOC Committee may need to discuss this matter further, but this item needs to be approved in order for this to happen. Roll call vote, and 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		

X. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA

This Public Comment period is for oral comments regarding items not listed on this meeting agenda. Speakers shall identify themselves by name and street, municipality, if outside of the Borough of Bellefonte. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes maximum.

NONE

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

Please try to limit all comments/rebuttals to three minutes maximum.

Purnell: Community service announcement: there is a wayward recycling bin which ended up at the BASD Central Office building after blowing in from a storm. It is labeled “apartment 2” and if this recycling bin belongs to anyone, they are invited to contact Mrs. Purnell so that it can be returned. Additionally, Mrs. Purnell was curious as to when patch work would be finished on East Beaver street. There was no clear answer on this matter.

Tosti-Vasey: concern over the retaining walls that line the walkable portion of the Big Spring Waterfront through Downtown Bellefonte. Urges council to address this matter with haste as to avoid further damage or personal injury. The Borough is actively doing work on this wall, and Holderman ensured that he would check to make sure that this damage is included in the repairs, and to address the issue if it is not already being addressed.

Dann: Wanted to share that Representative Benninghoff was very thankful for all of the services that our road crews are providing, he had 3 trees go down, and their response was rapid.

Brachbill: Misti and Matt Millar held annual state conference for CDBG - happy to hear that the pedestrian walkways through Talleyrand Park were highlight projects during this conference - also wanted to extend a thank you to Mr. Larson for his service to the Council, and wanted to wish him the best in his graduation and future.

Bernier: Also wanted to share thanks for the Borough road crews, as well as the fire department. Also wanted to thank Mr. Larson.

Cleeton: Used book sale is going to be taking place during Mother’s Day weekend.

Mr. Larson: wanted to thank everyone for their kind words.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Tosti-Vasey motioned to adjourn the meeting, Brachbill seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.