

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 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 June 16, 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
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member*
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Don Holderman, Interim Borough Manager
Mr. Bill Witmer, Chief of Police
Ms. Julie Brooks, Manager of Grants & Special Projects

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.

Ms. Dann commented that Council was in an executive session before the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS (written)

Bellefonte EMS 7th Annual Joint Meeting invitation for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 30th, 2025. The meeting will be held at Bellefonte EMS, 369 Phoenix Avenue, Bellefonte, PA. Please RSVP to Scott Rhoat at ssrhoat@bems.net by Monday, July 28th, 2025. No council action is needed.

Legal Description of the Lot Addition: Portion of Dunlop St. Owned by Borough of Bellefonte to be Transferred to Bellefonte Waterfront Associates #1 and #2, LLC, Bellefonte Waterfront. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the legal description as stated.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the legal description as stated. 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)

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. Finance	Financial Statements will be provided in the July 7th, 2025, Council Meeting Packet.
2. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes May 19th, 2025
3. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice May 2025

Brachbill motioned, and McKean seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

Mayor Johnson thanked the Bellefonte Cruise organizing committee for another wonderful community event.

Police (Acting Chief Witmer)

May 2025 Report was included in tonight's packet.

Parking

Report Submitted.

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

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

Mr. Tom Songer, project planner, was present at the meeting tonight to highlight various details and improvements of the project, including:

- 93 room national brand, boutique hotel, with a farm to table restaurant with a rooftop experience that can seat approximately 75 people inside and 75 people outside. The project will have 2 buildings with a brick paved promenade between the 2 buildings that will provide an outside area for visitors.
- There is no longer a large meeting room space, the space for that was converted to hotel rooms.
- There will be 90 surface parking spaces and 265 spaces in the garage – mostly on levels 2 and 3. The garage will have the latest technology for payment including paying online and a ticket kiosk.
- 43 custom designed, 2-3 bedroom condominium units on floors 4, 5, 6.

Motion/2nd to conditionally approve the Preliminary / Final Bellefonte

Waterfront Land Development Plan, contingent on:

- 1) Borough Council approval of the legal agreement to vacate Dunlop Street
- 2) A completed Transportation Impact Study and Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT, or written confirmation from PennDOT, indicating that neither is required for this project
- 3) The finalized recorded covenant/easement of four of the eight acres on a parcel adjacent to the east side of the Bellefonte Wastewater Treatment Plant, to be used as a riparian zone offset set aside for the Waterfront Project (as described to the Authority board at the March 2025 and April 2025 meetings.)
- 4) The approved NPDES permit

Bernier motioned, and Brachbill seconded to approve these final plans. Discussion included the project developer speaking to Council to highlight various details regarding the project. 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		

Ms. Thompson will be on vacation from July 4th and will return to work on July 28th.

Julie Brooks will step in to handle any urgent OCA matters in her absence.

(Interim) Borough Manager

For the record, Council signed the bid documents for the traffic light at Zion Road and Parkview Blvd. The bid opening will be August 4th.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental & Parks Committee (Tosti-Vasey)

The Parks Committee held a walkthrough of Talleyrand Park on May 21, 2025, and a walkthrough of Governors Park on June 12, 2025. They made lists of improvements and repairs that need to be completed at both parks.

Finance and Administration Committee (Cleeton)

The committee met to discuss the search for a new Borough Manager. The committee will meet again tomorrow evening at 5:30 pm in the Oak Room.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee (Brachbill)

The meeting for June is cancelled and the committee will meet the last Thursday in July.

Ordinance ad hoc Committee (Tosti-Vasey)

The committee met on Thursday June 12 to discuss various ordinances.

Streets Committee (Johnson)

The Committee meets every second Tuesday of every month, the public is invited to attend. Mr. Johnson offered various details regarding street repairs completed and recommended. The next meeting is Tuesday July 8, 2025 at 4pm in the Oak Room.

Public Transport Task Force Committee (Cleeton/Tosti-Vasey)

June 2025 report

Report on the PSAB Conference and Transit for All PA Lobby Day

X. LIAISON REPORTS.

Reports were submitted and reviewed.

XI. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

2025 CDBG Project Selection.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Brachbill seconded to approve the Stamped Crosswalks at the intersection of High Street and Water Street for the 2025 CDBG Project. 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	
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Brachbill motioned, and McKean seconded to approve Centre County, on behalf of Bellefonte Borough, to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for FFY 2025 Community Development Block Grant Entitlement funding for the Stamped Crosswalk Project. 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		

Centre County Airport Authority Volunteer Application.

Johnson motioned and Bernier seconded to approve Kerry Uhler's volunteer application for the Centre County Airport Authority. 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		

Centre County Airport Authority Memo to Appointing Entities.

Bernier motioned and Johnson seconded to allow Centre County Airport Authority to review all applications and submit a recommendation to Council for future appointments. 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		

Update on the Suspension Bridge Project. No council action is needed.

Governor's Park Batting Cage.

Tosti-Vasey motioned, and Bernier seconded to approve the Batting Cage as proposed. 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		

Friends of Talleyrand Lease Agreement. Council feedback due to Mr. Holderman by Wednesday, June 18th, 2025.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Conference Recap and 2025 Resolutions Adopted by PSAB Voting Delegates. No council action is needed.

- 13/14 Resolutions were approved.
- Ms. Julie Brooks was awarded the Certified Boroughs Award.

9th Annual Dylan Crunick Memorial Charity Baseball Tournament request for fee waiver.

Bernier motioned, and Brachbill seconded to approve the fee waiver for use of Governor's Park Baseball Field for the 9th Annual Dylan Crunick Memorial Charity Baseball Tournament scheduled for August 9th & 10th, 2025. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey commenting that this non-profit is located outside of the Bellefonte Borough, and Mayor Johnson encouraging Council to waive the fee, as the Crunick family is still an integral part of our community, and 100% of the proceeds from this tournament go towards childhood cancer research. Roll call vote. Motion to waive the fee carried with 7 yes and 2 no votes.

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	no	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	no
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

Loading of compost memo for August, September, and October 2025.

Cleeton motioned and Johnson seconded to approve loading of compost into vehicles three Saturdays in 2025 at the Musser Lane Compost Facility. Discussion included Mr. Johnson requesting the fee be changed from \$20 to \$15.

Mr. Johnson motioned to amend the fee from \$20 per scoop to \$15 per truckload. Purnell seconded. Friendly motion/amendment. Roll call vote. Motion to approve the amended 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 Public Transit Services Task Force proposed calculated rates for Bellefonte Borough residents' use of Centre County Transportation Services.

Bernier motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the proposed calculated rates for Bellefonte Borough Residents' use of Centre County Transportation Services. Discussion regarded various clarifications of these rates and services. Mr. Lomison was invited to speak to Council to clarify the rates and services. 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. 06162025-01 Adopting the Police Department's updated Policies.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve Resolution No. 06162025-01 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		

Civil Service Commission Promotions for Sergeant and Corporal. Police Chief Witmer is recommending the selection of Officer Macy Neideigh for Sergeant and Officer Robert Holt for Corporal. Chief Witmer is recommending the selection of Officer Lisa Larkin for Detective.

Brachbill motioned and Bernier seconded to select Officer Macy Neideigh as Sergeant, Officer Robert Holt as Corporal, and Officer Lisa Larkin as Detective for the Bellefonte Borough Police Department. 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 above-listed officers were appointed to and sworn into their promotions. Chief Witmer noted that Officer Larkin has been nominated for and selected as a finalist for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, which will be announced next month.

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

NONE

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

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

Several members congratulated the Officers on their promotions and thanked them for their service.

Ms. Cleeton thanked Council for approving the Centre County Transportation Services. She stated she has been using the new service and is very pleased with it, and is happy to answer any questions the public or council members may have.

Ms. Purnell mentioned that Christian Larson, former Junior Council Member, was selected as the Elks' "Teen of the Month" for April.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Brachbill motioned to adjourn the meeting, Tosti-Vasey seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.