

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2025 - 7:30 p.m.

301 N. Spring Street, 1st Floor, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

www.bellefonte.net

*VIEW RECORDING OF WORK SESSIONS and BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS:
Recordings can be viewed on CNET, Comcast's Government Education Channel 7, or at*

www.cnet1.org

ATTEND IN PERSON: The meeting room is open with normal occupancy limits.

I. CALL TO ORDER (Council President Barbara Dann) The September 15, 2025 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. *Council met in Executive Session before tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kent Bernier- EXCUSED
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
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member*- EXCUSED
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Witmer, Police Chief
Gina Thompson, Zoning, Planning, HARB Administrator
David Pribulka, Interim Borough Manager
Alyssa Doherty, Assistant to the Borough Manager

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)

The Bellefonte Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) request for 2026 Budget. This information has also been provided to the Borough Finance Director for the upcoming budget. No council action is needed.

Bellefonte Waterfront Project Update from Gina Thompson. No council action is requested. Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Municipal Newsletter July 2025. No council action is requested.

The Stage at Talleyrand presents Set the Stage on Sunday, October 5th 2025 3:00 pm-4:00 pm in Talleyrand Park Extended Area. No council action is requested.

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	Barton & Loguidice Engineering Services for Talleyrand Park Suspension Bridge ADA Ramps Invoice August 2025
2. Finance	Budget V. Actual August 2025
3. Finance	Budget v. Actual Summary August 2025
4. Finance	Campbell Durrant Legal Invoice September 2025
5. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes September 8th, 2025
6. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Legal Invoice August 2025
7. Finance	Treasurer Report August 2025
8. Finance	Voucher Summary August 2025

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. No discussion. Roll call vote. No further discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	ABSENT	Ms. Shawna McKean	ABSENT
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 and COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

2 reminders – As of June, PA is now a “Hands Free State” – reminder to put cell phones down when driving.

Also, please be aware and cautious in the mornings when driving in and near school zones. Children are walking or riding bikes to school and boarding school busses. Please slow down and stay safe.

Police (Chief Witmer)

Reports from July and August 2025

Parking

Reports from July and August 2025

Office of Community Affairs (OCA)/Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB) *(Ms. Thompson)*

1. Recommended for approval:

Call for a motion/2nd for approval/issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- 347 East Linn (Stewart) – Addition of garage and breezeway in rear of house.

D Johnson motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the projects listed above. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	AB	Ms. Shawna McKean	AB
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		

3. Items of interest:

HARB will meet on Tuesday, September 23rd at 8:30 am

The Planning Commission will meet on October 13th at 5:00 pm

(Interim) Borough Manager (Mr. Pribulka)

Introduction – Mr. Pribulka has been interim manager for 2 weeks and is getting acquainted with the Borough staff and our community.

Environmental & Parks Committee (Tosti-Vasey)

August 2025 Report

Finance & Administration Committee (Cleeton)

August 2025 Report

Infrastructure & Public Works Committee (Brachbill)

August 2025 Report

Ordinance ad hoc Committee (Tosti-Vasey)

August 2025 Report

Streets Committee (Johnson)

August 2025 Report

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

August 2025 Report

IX. LIASON REPORTS

Reports were submitted and discussed.

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

The 2025 PSAB Fall Leadership Conference will be held at the Penn Stater October 3rd-5th, 2025. If you would like to be registered for the Conference, please contact Alyssa Doherty. No council action is needed.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Gage Baumgardner, Police Officer, resignation Letter effective September 3rd, 2025.

Brachbill motioned and Johnson seconded to approve Gage Baumgardner's resignation. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	AB	Ms. Shawna McKean	AB
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		

Chief Witmer's request to establish a new Eligibility List for the Bellefonte Borough Police Department.

Johnson motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve Chief Witmer's request for a new Eligibility List for the Bellefonte Borough Police Department. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	AB	Ms. Shawna McKean	AB
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		

Minimum Municipal Obligations for Pensions, 2026 Budget. Minimum Municipal Obligations for Borough pension programs must be acted on before the end of September for the upcoming budget year. Council must also re-adopt the Resolution related to the Police Pension program each year. Resolution No. 09152025-01

Police - \$47,637.00
N1 - \$0.00
N2 - \$153,769.00

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligations as stated. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	AB	Ms. Shawna McKean	AB
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		

Nittany Communications Group LLC proposal to use the Purdue Mountain Tower site to support the deployment of Project 25 (P25) radio infrastructure.

This item was tabled, however, a representative from the company, David Mason – Director of Technical Services/CEO, was in attendance to discuss the project.

Mr. Mason discussed that the system will be:

- 2-way radio system
- Experimental for the time being until the system is checked and working appropriately
- A backup communication system for emergency services
- Will not be in connection with 911 services

Johnson motioned and Brachbill seconded to form a written agreement with Nittany Communications Group LLC.

Cleeton motioned to table this item to the next meeting. Tosti-Vasey seconded. Discussion included comments that there is not enough information included about this project and the information is not dated. Johnson commented that there is no need to delay the project as the tower is there and ready to use and tabling will only delay the project. Roll call vote. Motion to table carried with a vote of 4 yes and 3 no votes.

Mr. Kent Bernier	AB	Ms. Shawna McKean	AB
Mr. Randy Brachbill	no	Ms. Rita Purnell	yes
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yes	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	no
Ms. Barbara Dann	yes	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yes
Mr. Doug Johnson	no		

XII. 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

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

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

Ms. Cleeton welcomed Mr. Pribulka to Council and thanked him for his service the past 2 weeks. She also reminds the community that the Art in the Open project is on display on the fence at the Little House on Howard Street by the Art Museum.

Ms. Sedgwick reminded the community that the Bellefonte Homecoming Parade will be held on Thursday, September 25. She reminded the community to be aware of street closures, to attend and enjoy the parade and to please clean up any candy mess left after the parade.

Mr. Johnson reminds the community that leaf pickup is scheduled to begin October 1. Please rake your leaves to the curb but not on the road. Also, grass pickup will no longer occur after November 19th.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.