

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2025 - 7:30 p.m.

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

www.bellefonte.net

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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 November 17, 2025 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. *Council met for an executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Witmer, Police Chief
David Pribulka, Interim Borough Manager
Alyssa Doherty, Assistant to the Borough Manager
Lori McGowan, Finance Director

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)

Invitation – America250PA “Bells Across PA” Unveiling. An invitation was received for the America250PA Bells Across PA Unveiling in Centre County. The event will be held on Friday, December 19, 2025, at 5:15 PM at the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society, 320 W High Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823. This event will be posted on the Borough website. 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	Budget v. Actual October 2025
2. Finance	Budget v. Actual Summary October 2025
3. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes November 17, 2025
4. Finance	Treasurers Report October 2025
5. Finance	Voucher Summary October 2025

Dann requested to remove the minutes from the Consent Agenda.

McKean motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1, 2, 4 and 5. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

Johnson motioned to have the minutes amended from the November 17th meeting, to reflect comments from all those who made public comments for the demolition of the Beaver Farm House. Cleeton seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	EXCUSED	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	EXCUSED
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson: Proclamation-Small Business Saturday November 29, 2025.

- Small business Saturday was established in 2010

Police (Chief Witmer)

October 2025 report

The department was able to purchase a new police vehicle.

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

(Ms. Thompson)

HARB will meet Tuesday December 9th at 8:30am.

A member commented that it is important for all Council members to complete/participate in the online survey for the Nittany Valley Joint Planning.

LEGAL NOTICE: Bellefonte Borough Zoning Hearing Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday December 9th, 2025 at 5pm in the large meeting room, 301 N. Spring Street, Bellefonte, PA. The public is invited to attend. The following will be considered: A variance from the provisions of the zoning ordinance 575-125 – signs in the residential zones.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Consider approval of the tentative 2026 Budget and to make the tentative budget available for public inspection on or before December 5th, 2025.

Cleeton motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the tentative 2026 Budget with or without modifications. Discussion included comments by Borough Manager Mr. Pribulka regarding the budget. Mr. Pribulka commented that the budget is available both online and in person at the Borough office for public review. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>EXCUSED</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>EXCUSED</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>yes</i>		

Budget Process. The Tentative Budget will be made available in the borough office during business hours and posted on the borough website no later than Friday, December 5th. A public hearing on the Tentative Budget will be held during the December 15th, 2025 Council Meeting. A Tax Ordinance adoption and the 2026 Budget approval will be considered at the same meeting on December 15th, 2025. No council action is requested.

Nittany Communications Group LLC's update on use of the Purdue Mountain Tower site to support the deployment of Project 25 (P25) radio infrastructure. No council action is requested. The group is planning to wait until warmer weather to start this project.

Bellefonte EMS 3rd quarter Municipal Update provided by Executive Director Scott Rhoat. No council action is requested. Mr. Rhoat was present to discuss various highlights in his report.

- Total responses as of this report (up to September 30, 2025) were 1,535 emergency responses for the year which represents about a 10% increase – which is a very marked increase.
- In the first ¾ of the year, the EMS staffed 22,490 hours of paid career staff, and 1,000 of volunteer personnel.
- The EMS will need to replace one of their vans, Van 26-1, which is a 2014 Ford Econoline. This is an unexpected expense. The plan was to replace this vehicle in 2027, but the department has the opportunity to purchase 2 vehicles from Centre Lifelink. Hopefully both newer vehicles will be in service by the first of the new year.

An update on parking issues that were referred to the Police Chief and Parking Enforcement following the October 6, 2025 Council Meeting. No council action is requested.

Council action is requested to select two Police Officer candidates from Bellefonte’s Eligibility List. The Civil Service Commission and Chief Witmer recommend the selection of Thomas Snyder and Amanda Barnes.

Cleaton motioned and McKean seconded to appoint Thomas Snyder and Amanda Barnes from the Eligibility List and extend formal offers of employment to both candidates. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>EXCUSED</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Randy Brachbill	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Rita Purnell	<i>yes</i>
Ms. Deb Cleaton	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	<i>yes</i>
Ms. Barbara Dann	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	<i>EXCUSED</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>yes</i>		

X. NEW BUSINESS

2026 Council Meeting Schedule – proposed. The council will review and make recommendations for changes to the proposed meeting schedule. Council action will be scheduled for the December 15th meeting. No council action is requested.

Resolution No. 12012025-01 Mill Race ROW Conveyance Resolution.

Cleaton motioned and Johnson seconded to approve Resolution No. 12012025-01. Discussion included Mr. Pribulka clarifying that the motion is to approve the conveyance (ie donation) of 357 sq. ft. of right of way and temporary construction easement to allow for PennDOT to proceed with the project of the Millrace Bridge and box culvert replacement project. The project will be bid in 2026 with the intention of beginning construction in spring, 2027. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kent Bernier	<i>EXCUSED</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Randy Brachbill	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Rita Purnell	<i>yes</i>
Ms. Deb Cleaton	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	<i>yes</i>

Ms. Barbara Dann	yes	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	<i>EXCUSED</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	yes		

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

Lisa Ford presented regarding a re-zoning proposal in Marion township to rezone 278 acres near the local interchange of interstate 80. Ms. Ford expressed concern about this rezoning as Marion Township does not have the infrastructure to support a large commercial development. She expressed concern regarding stormwater runoff, as local residents do not have public water but rely on wells and septic systems. She is requesting that the Bellefonte Borough representative to the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission ask questions regarding this proposal and to consider carefully all views and concerns.

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

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

Several council members made comments on various issues.

There was a brief discussion regarding notifying residents when work is being done around properties and neighborhoods so residents are aware. There was also a discussion regarding information kiosks around town.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM.