

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 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 December 15, 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--EXCUSED*
Mayor Buddy Johnson

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. PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

This Public Comment period is for oral comments regarding action items on this meeting agenda. 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

VII. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

Swearing-In Ceremony for County Elected Officials on Friday, January 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM, in Courtroom 1. The program will include a listing for “Bellefonte Borough Councilmembers”; however, individual names will not be listed. If you wish to be sworn in by a Common Pleas Judge at this ceremony, please contact Kendra Miknis at kjmiknis@centrecountypa.gov. If a decision is made close to or on the day of the ceremony, you can still be included. No council action is requested.

VIII. 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 November 2025
2. Finance	Budget V. Actual Summary November 2025
3. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025
4. Finance	Treasurers Report November 2025
5. Finance	Voucher Summary November 2025

Brachbill motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-5. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Police Officers and Borough Employee Recognition

- A certificate was awarded to several officers for their exceptional service.

Police (Chief Witmer)

November 2025 report

Oath of Office for Police Officers Amanda Barnes and Thomas Snyder

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

(Ms. Thompson)

Recommended for approval:

Call for a motion/2nd: To approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following project:

203 North Spring Street (Presbyterian Church) – Installation of gabion basket bank stabilization retaining wall at rear of church parcel, above TMG Builders building.

Cleeton motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the above project as presented. Discussion included Ms. Thompson offering some details regarding the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning:

Update for the public: The Bellefonte Borough Zoning Hearing Board held a public hearing on Tuesday December 9th, 2025 to discuss a variance from the provisions of the zoning ordinance 575-125 – signs in the residential zones – specifically, signage at 502 E. Howard Street – the new Centre County Community Services building, and 420 Holmes Street – the main offices for Centre County Government. Both variances were granted and the new signage was approved, but Council can appeal the decision.

Short-Term Rentals (STRs) – renewal applications and notices went out today. If you are a STR – please make sure to get your paperwork turned in. There are 22 or 23 STRs in the Bellefonte Borough.

Items of interest:

The HARB meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 12/23 is cancelled as there are no projects for review.

Interim Borough Manager (Mr. Pribulka)

November 2025 report. Mr. Pribulka offered some additional comments and details regarding his report.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Elected Official Committee Reports)

Environmental & Parks Committee/ Ordinance ad hoc Committee (Tosti-Vasey)

November 2025 Report

Finance & Administration Committee (Cleeton)

November 2025 Report

Infrastructure & Public Works Committee (Brachbill)

November 2025 Report

Streets Committee (Johnson)

November 2025 Report

Public Transport Task Force Committee (Cleeton/Tosti-Vasey) November 2025 Report

XI. LIASON REPORTS

Reports were submitted and discussed.

- Bellefonte Borough Workplace Safety Committee
- Bellefonte Water Authority
- Airport Authority
- Centre County Library Board
- Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority
- Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission
- Spring Creek Watershed Commission

XII. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

2026 Council Meeting Schedule – proposed. Council is only considering the dates of their meetings. Authorities, Boards and Commissions will be doing the same. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the 2026 Council Meeting schedule with any modifications.

Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule as presented with no modifications. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion to approve the proposed schedule carried unanimously.

Tax Ordinance No. 12152025-01. Call for a motion/2nd to approve Tax Ordinance 12152025-01 with any modifications.

Cleeton motioned and Purnell seconded to approve the above listed Tax Ordinance. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 Borough Budget. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the 2026 Budget for Bellefonte Borough with any modifications.

Brachbill motioned and Bernier seconded to approve the 2026 Budget. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the 2026 Bellefonte Borough Fee Schedule with any modifications.

Cleeton motioned and Sedgwick seconded to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule. Discussion included some clarification regarding fee requirements. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

April Ressler and Barbara Smith of the Teeter Group will formally present the 2025 Encova Safety Recognition Award to the Bellefonte Borough Workplace Safety Committee. No council action is requested.

Young Oakes Brown and Company PC engagement letter to retain for Auditing Services for Bellefonte Borough. Call for a motion/2nd to accept the engagement letter from Young Oakes Brown and Company PC to retain for Auditing Services for Bellefonte Borough.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Cleeton seconded to accept the letter listed above. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Nittany Office Equipment Quote for Council Tables, Modesty Panels and Full Motion Dividers for Council Chambers.

This item was removed from tonight's agenda.

Authorities, Boards and Commissions Vacancies. Appointments/Reappointments will be made at the January 5th, 2025 Council Meeting. No council action is requested.

Borough Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

There will be no Refuse collection on Wednesday or Thursday. Refuse will be collected on Tuesday, December 23rd for Wednesday's Route and Friday, December 26 for Thursday's Route. No council action is requested.

Borough Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1st, 2026 for New Year's Day. Refuse will not be collected on Thursday. Refuse will be collected on Wednesday, December 31st, 2025. No council action is requested.

XIV. 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

XV. 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.

Mrs. Purnell thanked the community and council for their support during her term on Council. She wishes everyone a happy holiday.

Ms. Cleeton thanked everyone involved in Victorian Christmas for another successful event.

Ms. Dann thanked Council for their support during her term as Council President.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.