

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**301 N. Spring Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823**

[www.bellefonte.net](http://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](http://www.cnet1.org)

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER** (Mayor Buddy Johnson) The January 5, 2026 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Randall Brachbill  
Ms. Deborah Cleeton, *Vice President*  
Ms. Barbara Dann  
Mr. Jon Eaton  
Mr. Douglas Johnson, *President*  
Mr. Zach Kelly  
Ms. Shawna McKean  
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey, *Pro Tempore*  
Ms. Claudia Wilson  
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member*  
Mayor Buddy Johnson

**STAFF PRESENT**

Bill Witmer, Police Chief  
David Pribulka, Interim Borough Manager  
Alyssa Doherty, Assistant to the Borough Manager

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**IV. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

By agreement in early 2022, Borough Council agreed to rotate officers/reorganize annually. Ms. Dann will step down as council president. Mr. Johnson will move from Vice-President to President. Ms. Cleeton will move from Pro Tempore to Vice-President. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the officers as noted.

*Dann moved and Brachbill seconded to approve the officers listed above. No discussion.  
Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRO TEMPORE**

Nominations do not require a second and are voted on in the order that nominations are made. Voting continues until one nominee attains a majority vote. Action will be taken to elect a Pro Temp.

*Eaton motioned to nominate Joanne Tosti-Vasey as Pro Tempore.*

*Cleeton motioned to nominate Randy Brachbill as Pro Tempore.*

*Council voted to elect Joanne Tosti-Vasey as Pro Tempore with a roll call vote of 6-3.*

Mr. Randy Brachbill	N	Mr. Zach Kelly	Y
Ms. Deb Cleeton	N	Ms. Shawna McKean	Y
Ms. Barbara Dann	N	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	Y
Mr. Jon Eaton	Y	Ms. Claudia Wilson	Y
Mr. Doug Johnson	Y		

## **VI. 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.*

*Brachbill motioned to add an item to “New Business” - approval of the meeting purpose for reorganization of the Civil Service Commission. Jim Viana will serve as Chair. Donald Townsend will serve as Vice Chair and Randy Brachbill will serve as Secretary. Tosti-Vasey seconded. No comments. Roll call vote. Motion to add this item to the agenda carried unanimously.*

*Dann motioned to approve the item listed above. Wilson seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **VII. 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

## **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)**

The 2026 Centre County Liquid Fuels Program is unable to provide financial assistance to the Parkview/ Zion Road Traffic Signal Project. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Invitation: Introduction to Emergency Medical Services; EMS in your community for Newly Elected Officials Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Letter of Support to allow Open Containers during events in Bellefonte Borough. Council may take action.

**IX. 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:

<i>1. Finance</i>	Barton & Loguidice Engineering Services for Talleyrand Park Suspension Bridge ADA Ramps Invoice November 2025
<i>2. General</i>	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes December 15th, 2025
<i>3. Finance</i>	Stover McGlaughlin Legal Invoice December 2025

*Eaton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-3. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey requesting to remove item 1 and Dann requesting to remove item 2.*

*Roll call vote to approve item 3. Motion to approve item 3 carried unanimously.*

*Discussion regarding item 1 included a question regarding the amount and invoices being paid. Ms. Doherty clarified that the amount being paid is \$2475. The other invoices have been sent to the grant for payment.*

*Discussing regarding item 2 – Draft Meeting Minutes. Ms. Dann asked to include comments by former Council member Rita Purnell regarding an election complaint that was filed against a Council Member. She asked if there is a code of conduct regarding this type of behavior. She requested to amend the minutes to reflect these comments.*

*Dann motioned to amend the minutes to include the comments regarding the election complaint. Brachbill seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to amend the minutes*

*Roll call vote to approve items 1 and 2 on the Consent Agenda. No further discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve items 1 and 2 carried unanimously.*

**X. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson**

Mayor Johnson wished everyone a happy new year.

**Junior Council Member Report (Ms. Meckley)**

Ms. Meckley reported on several festive events that happened throughout the district over the holiday season.

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

See memo for report and updates.

**XI. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

Bellefonte Borough Council Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2025, with additional Public Comment added under the Bellefonte Area School District Demo Permit Application. These minutes were approved at the December 1 Council meeting. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

The Bellefonte Borough Authority approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Greg Brown to the Authority.

*Eaton motioned and Brachbill seconded to reappoint Greg Brown to the Bellefonte Borough Authority. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Centre County Library Board approved a recommendation to Council to appoint Jennifer Cifelli to the Centre County Library Board.

*Dann motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to appoint Jennifer Cifelli to the Centre County Library Board. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Historic Architectural Review Board approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Phil Ruth to HARB.

*Wilson motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to reappoint Phil Ruth to HARB. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Planning Commission approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint David Lomison to the Planning Commission.

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to reappoint David Lomison to the Planning Commission. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Zoning Hearing Board approved a recommendation to Council to reappoint Lanny King to the Zoning Hearing Board.

*Eaton motioned and Brachbill seconded to reappoint Lanny King to the Zoning Hearing Board. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Vacancy on the Vacancy Board has received a Volunteer Application from Jean Gerber.

*Wilson motioned and Eaton seconded to appoint Jean Gerber to the Vacancy Board. Discussion included clarification of the Vacancy Boards roll in local governance. The Vacancy Board only meets if there is a vacancy and Council cannot reach a consensus on who to appoint. With this appointment, Ms. Gerber would serve as Chair of this Board. If*

*the Vacancy Board also cannot reach a consensus, the appointment would go to the Court of Common Pleas. There are 9 members of the Vacancy Board – the 8 remaining Council Members and the Chair. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Annual Appointment. SEO Proposal from Centre Region Code.

*Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve Centre Region Code as Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO). No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

Fee Schedule Approval. The Borough's Fee Schedule was changed/updated.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve the updated Fee Schedule as presented. Discussion included clarification that the fee updates are for water and sewer rates. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

RFP For Solicitor Services.

*Dann motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to direct staff to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Solicitor Services for Borough Council. Discussion included clarification of this proposal. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

Christmas Trees will be collected by the Bellefonte Borough Refuse Crew from January 2 through January 30, 2026. A separate truck will travel throughout Bellefonte Borough in the mornings to collect trees. There is no additional charge for Christmas tree pick-up. For questions or additional information, residents may contact the Borough Office at 814-355-1501. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Please note that Borough Council will meet on Tuesday, January 20, instead of Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Informational item only; 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.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey commented that a representative will present about the electric bicycle program at the next work session and council will need to hold a vote during the regular meeting to decide

if Council would like to participate in this program. She also commented on the tabling of the sale of furniture items – panels and partitions.

Mr. Brachbill congratulated the newly elected officials.

Both Mayor Johnson and Ms. Cleeton thanked Borough Emergency services for their service. Cleeton also welcomed the new council members.

Mr. Pribulka also welcomed new council members.

Ms. Dann also welcomed the new council members. She also commented about the reconfiguration of the meeting room and she would like to see this item put on the agenda in the near future. She also commented on snow removal in Parkview Heights. It was clarified that the reason for slower snow removal was due to several reasons that have been addressed.

Ms. Wilson feels very welcomed by the Council.

Ms. McKean would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and welcome new council members.

Mr. Eaton commented that he is glad to be back on council. He requested to move the meeting time to earlier in the day. Several members also spoke in support of moving the meeting time earlier.

Mr. Johnson commented that his duties as president are more involved than he anticipated, and since he is on 4 other local authorities, Nittany Valley Planning Commission, the Centre County Metropolitan Organization, the Bellefonte Authority and the Airport Authority. He is going to step down from the Nittany Valley Planning Commission and the Centre County Metropolitan Organization (CCMPO) in order to have more time to dedicate to Council. He is asking Council members to consider taking on these 2 roles in his place. He also mentioned some spouting issues on the kayak museum which is causing an issue with ice accumulation on the brick walkway. He also asked about issuing fines for lack of snow removal in front of downtown businesses. He specifically noted that Allegheny Street in front of the smoke shop and furniture store was untouched and it presents a hazard for people trying to shop or walk downtown. He asked council to inform the nuisance code officer. Finally, he prepared a list of Borough Council Committees that he is proposing. There are 3 committees. He asked council members to review the list and let him know which committees they would like to serve. He will also email the list in a PDF.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM.*