

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026 - 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 (President Doug Johnson) The January 20, 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--EXCUSED
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey, *Pro Tempore*
Ms. Claudia Wilson
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member*
Mayor Buddy Johnson--EXCUSED

STAFF PRESENT

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

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.

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)

Centre County Kick-Off America250 Celebration, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 at the Centre County Courthouse, 102 S. Allegheny St, Bellefonte. To RSVP please visit <https://form.jotform.com/253344756467164> Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Women rise to lead Bellefonte- Centre County Gazette news article. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Verbal update from Deb Burger regarding the 2026 Hometown Hero Banner program, including a general update and any relevant information for Council awareness.

- HBI (Historic Bellefonte INC) will have their 6th opportunity to honor our hometown heroes with banners that are displayed around town. This year, the banners will be dedicated at Talleyrand Park on Friday, July 3rd after the America 250 Parade. There will also be a free concert presented by the combined Bellefonte Community and State College Community Bands.
- There are changed to the application process. Applications can be picked up at the train station, but must be dropped off at the Borough Building or at Kerry Benninghoff's office on High Street. Please visit the Borough website for more information or the Hometown Heroes Facebook Page.

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 December 2025
2. Finance	Budget V. Actual Summary December 2025
3. Finance	Campbell Durrant PC Legal Invoice December 2025
4. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025
5. Finance	Lamb McErlane PC Legal Invoice December 2025
6. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Legal Invoice December 2025
7. Finance	Treasurers Report December 2025
8. Finance	Voucher Summary December 2025

Brachbill motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-8. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

Police (Chief Witmer)

December 2025 Report

- Officer evaluations were completed last month

Parking

December 2025 Report

- There was a question regarding parking fees. Borough staff will look into this and provide feedback.

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

(Ms. Thompson)

Recommended for approval:

Call for a motion/2nd: To approve the Subdivision and Land Development Plans as recommended by the Planning Commission:

Preliminary/Final Subdivision of Lands of Edward S. & Kristine K. Ranio

Recommended for approval as presented

Cleeton motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Land Development plan as presented. No discussion. Motion to approve carried.

Preliminary/Final Land Development of Cedar Cliff Properties, LLC at 821 East Bishop Street
(No vote for this tonight. This item is not ready for approval at this point.)

The next Planning Commission meeting is Monday, February 9th at 5:00 PM.

The next HARB meeting Tuesday, January 27 at 8:30 AM. This meeting will be canceled if no applications are received by Monday January 19th by 8:00 AM.

Interim Borough Manager (Mr. Pribulka)

December 2025 Report

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Elected Official Committee Reports)

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

NO REPORT as the Committee did not meet in December

Finance & Administration Committee (Cleeton)

December 2025 Report

Streets, Infrastructure & Public Works Committee (Johnson)

December 2025 Report

X. LIASON REPORTS

Reports were submitted and discussed.

XI. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

NONE

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Memo regarding Community Yard Sale, Riff Raff, Halloween, and Holiday Parking in the Borough. Proposed Dates are as follows:

- Yard Sale Dates – (Fri. & Sat.) May 15th-16th, 2026
- Bulk Waste /Riff Raff Pick Up – (Mon. – Fri.) May 18th-22nd, 2026
- Halloween Trick-or-Treating Hours, 6 – 8 PM, Saturday, October 31, 2026
- 2-Hour Courtesy Parking Program, Thursday, November 26th, 2026-Friday, January 1st, 2027

Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded to approve the dates provided for the Community Yard Sale, Riff Raff, Halloween, and Holiday Parking in Bellefonte Borough. No discussion. Motion to approve carried.

Civil Service Rules and Regulation changes. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the proposed changes provided by Chief Witmer and recommended by the Civil Service Commission.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the proposed changes provided by Chief Witmer and recommended by the Civil Service Commission. Discussion included clarifications of the proposed changes. Motion to approve carried.

Franson Engineering and Surveying Engagement Letter to retain for civil engineering services. Call for a motion/2nd to accept the engagement letter from Franson Engineering and Survey to retain for civil engineering services for Bellefonte Borough.

Wilson motioned and Dann seconded to accept the engagement letter from Franson Engineering and Survey to retain for civil engineering services for Bellefonte Borough. No discussion. Motion to approve carried.

2026 Proposed Street Paving List. The street paving list will go out for bid in late January. The final selection of streets to be paved will depend on priority and cost. Council action is requested. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the proposed street paving list as presented.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the proposed street paving list as presented.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to send this list to the streets committee for further review. Dann seconded. Further discussion mentioned several other borough streets that need to be considered for paving. No further discussion. Substitute Motion carried.

Amendment to Ordinance No. 530 Vehicles and Traffic. Call for a motion/2nd to approve staff to advertised the proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 530 Vehicles and Traffic.

Brachbill recommended to send these proposed amendments to the streets committee for further review. There was no vote for this item. The streets committee will review and report back to Council with any further recommendations.

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.

Pat McCool, the President of Historic Bellefonte Incorporated, spoke to announce a new event being planned by HBI this year, “First Responder’s Weekend”, planned for May 15-16, 2026, where First Responder’s will be invited in to compete in teams of 4 for up to \$14,000 for their department. Mr. McCool spoke to clarify that the request for an open container alcohol permit was for this new event and to ask for approval for the event and street closures, as HBI needs to have confirmation that they will be able to hold the event in order to continue with plans for the event. It was clarified that more information will be prepared and presented at the next meeting to hopefully be approved.

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

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

Mr. Kelly Still learning but catching on.

Ms. Dann reminded the community to be safe in the cold weather, and to please not leave pets out in the cold.

Ms. Wilson reminded community members about various Martin Luther King events that are being held around the area.

Mr. Eaton reminded everyone that it is very cold outside.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.