

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026 - 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 The February 2, 2026 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Vice President Deborah Cleeton 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*—EXCUSED
Mr. Zach Kelly
Ms. Shawna McKean
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey, *Pro Tempore*
Ms. Claudia Wilson
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member*
Mayor Buddy Johnson—EXCUSED

STAFF PRESENT

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

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)

Newsletter items are due by Friday, February 6, 2026. Please submit any suggested content to Alyssa Doherty at adoherty@bellefontepa.gov. Newsletters will be mailed no later than March 2, 2026. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Snow & Inclement Weather Parking memo from Bellefonte Police Department. Informational item only; no Council action is requested. The information in this memo will be added to the Borough Website for public access.

The Public Works Assistant Superintendent would like to remind residents that large snow piles created by plowing are dangerous and should not be played on or around, particularly by children. 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 OR Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Informational item only; 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. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025
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Eaton motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

Junior Council Member Report (Ms. Meckley)

Ms. Meckley reported that the High School recently hosted the District Orchestra. One student made first chair trumpet and is moving on to the Regional Orchestra and will perform at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. The high school will also host a 5K for Mini-Thon at Bald Eagle State Park on Saturday, March 14.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

The Streets, Infrastructure & Public Works Committee recommends the 2026 Proposed Street Paving List for Council approval. The street paving list will go out for bid in February. The final selection of streets to be paved will depend on priority and cost. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the proposed street paving list as presented.

Dann motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve the proposed street paving list as presented. Discussion included several members asking for clarification of streets to be paved. Voice vote. Motion to approve the presented list carried unanimously.

The Streets, Infrastructure & Public Works Committee recommends the amendment to Ordinance No. 530 Vehicles and Traffic. Call for a motion/2nd to authorize advertisement of the amendment to parking prohibitions in Ordinance No. 530 Vehicles and Traffic.

Dann motioned and Wilson seconded to authorize advertisement of the amendment to parking prohibitions in Ordinance No. 530 Vehicles and Traffic. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Memo to Council providing update on Council Chambers Remodel – Sound System Improvements. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Clarification for Council regarding the New Temporary Residential Parking Permit. The permit is free and available to Borough residents and their guests. Although there is no cost, the permit only appears in parking report graphs when a permit is generated in the system. There are 5 permits permitted per household per month – for red spaces only. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Ordinance amendment to Chapter 249, Article II, permitting possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages during Borough-approved Special Events. Call for a motion/2nd to authorize the advertisement of the amendment to Chapter 249, Article II, of the Codified Ordinances regarding the consumption of alcoholic beverages on public ways, grounds, and in vehicles, including the addition of an exception for Borough-approved Special Events.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to authorize the advertisement of the amendment to Chapter 249, Article II, of the Codified Ordinances regarding the consumption of alcoholic beverages on public ways, grounds, and in vehicles, including the addition of an exception for Borough-approved Special Events. Discussion included clarification of details of this amendment. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

First Responders Weekend request for Open Containers response from Chief Witmer. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Certify Declaration of Snow Emergency effective January 24, 2026. Call for a motion/2nd to certify the Declaration of Snow Emergency, which was declared effective January 24, 2026.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to certify the Declaration of Snow Emergency, which was declared effective January 24, 2026. Discussion included clarification of when the declaration was removed. Tosti-Vasey further clarified that certification is required in order to qualify for any emergency assistance from PEMA or FEMA, and that certification of the Emergency has to be conducted at the next meeting after the Emergency was declared. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Environmental & Parks Committee recommendation to amend the Air Pollution Ordinance. Call for a motion/2nd to direct staff to prepare an amendment to the Air Pollution Ordinance.

Dann motioned and Wilson seconded to direct staff to prepare an amendment to the Air Pollution Ordinance. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

The Streets, Infrastructure, and Public Works Committee recommends engaging Paul Downs Cabinetmakers to evaluate and develop a functional room configuration for the Council Chambers, including an accessibility review and preliminary cost estimates, with any contract award subject to future Council approval and budget availability. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the recommendation of the Streets, Infrastructure, and Public Works Committee to engage Paul Downs Cabinetmakers to evaluate and develop a functional room configuration for the Council Chambers.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the recommendation of the Streets, Infrastructure, and Public Works Committee to engage Paul Downs Cabinetmakers to evaluate and develop a functional room configuration for the Council Chambers. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

E-Bike Trainings for Elected Officials, Staff, and Public. Call for a motion/2nd to approve holding one or two E-Bike trainings at the Bellefonte Elementary School.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve holding two separate meetings for E-Bike trainings at the Bellefonte Elementary School – one meeting for staff, Council, and police, and a separate meeting for the public. Discussion included several council members' suggestions for how to best handle these trainings. There was also a discussion regarding ordinances and code for bicycle use in the Borough. It was further suggested that bicycle ordinances and codes should be posted on the website. No further discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve holding the meetings/trainings carried with one no vote-Dann.

Written Directive from Police Chief Witmer to Update the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. Call for a motion/2nd to approve Written Directive No. 02022026-01 updating the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Dann motioned and McKean seconded to approve Written Directive No. 02022026-01 updating the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

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.

NONE

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.

Mr. Eaton commented that the handout on e-bikes from Sam Pearson is good and shows the complexity of this issue for the borough.

Ms. Wilson commended Borough Public Works department on handling the snow emergency.

Ms. Dann commented on the Boot Camp for Council Members that three members (Ms. Dann, Ms. Wilson, and Ms. Tosti-Vasey) attended. She commented that Act 511 taxes on mechanical and device taxes could be an option for generating revenue – up to \$30,000-40,000 per budget year (skills games, jukeboxes, etc) through the use of the fee schedule.

Ms. Cleeton commented that community members and business owners should dig out all fire hydrants and street access/entrances on Borough sidewalks and streets – especially at handicapped access entry points. Mr. Brachbill then commented that the public should watch out for falling icicles as the snow and ice melt. Ms. Wilson followed up by asking the public to also shovel the snow at intersections near their home to make sure people don't need to walk in the streets due to blocked sidewalks.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brachbill. There was no second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.