

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 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 March 2, 2026 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by President Doug Johnson 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—ZOOM
Ms. Shawna McKean
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey, *Pro Tempore*
Ms. Claudia Wilson
Ms. Jalyn Meckley, *Jr. Council Member*—EXCUSED
Mayor Buddy Johnson

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.

No additions, but Ms. Dann made an announcement regarding the sound for the meetings. She reminded council members to please speak loudly and clearly into their microphones, keeping the microphone very close to you, in order to allow for good sound during the meeting.

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)

2026 Centre County Housing Summit scheduled for 5:30 pm-7:00 pm on March 4, 2026. This Housing Summit will be held at the Community Service Building, 502 E. Howard Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823. TO register please visit <https://business.cbicc.org/ap/Events/Register/NaFwe3juYCaCm> Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Alternative Fuels Workshop and Tour scheduled for 1:30 pm-3:30pm on March 11, 2026. This Workshop and Tour will be held at the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority, 253 Transfer Road, Gate #3, Bellefonte, PA 16823. To register please visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7kOxONUfGjBicBtADRROIFAkSldGge-ocyOZ4onBj_b9Hrw/viewform Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) Passenger Rail Service in Centre County Region Survey <https://tinyurl.com/CCRailSurvey> Deadline to complete the survey is March 13, 2026. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) Transportation Grant Workshop scheduled for March 30, 2026. This Workshop will be held in the CRCOG General Forum Room, 2643 Gateway Drive, State College, PA 16801. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Centre Regional Planning Agency 2026 Planning Commission Trainings. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Clearwater Conservatory Watershed Clean Up Day, Saturday, April 18th, 2026. 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. Finance	Budget V. Actual January 2026
2. Finance	Budget V. Actual Summary January 2026
3. Finance	Campbell Durrant Legal Invoice February 2026
4. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026

5. Finance	Treasurers Report January 2026
6. Finance	Voucher Summary January 2026

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Proclamation – Women’s History Month, March 2026

Special guests were introduced by Ms. Tosti-Vasey. Representatives from the following 3 agencies presented briefly to highlight their various organizations and how these organizations help to educate and organize activities and events in our community.

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- League of Women Voters of Centre County
- Ni-Ta-Nee NOW (National Organization of Women)

Junior Council Member Report (Ms. Meckley)

None

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

(Ms. Thompson)

1. Recommended for approval:

OCA Memo: See memo for report and updates

Call for a motion/2nd to approve 122 West Bishop Street façade project as presented, specifying a 4-inch reveal on the cedar boards, use of engineered Azek trim, and coordination with Gina Thompson and Amy Kelchner on final exterior color selection.

Dann motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to approve 122 West Bishop Street façade project as presented, specifying a 4-inch reveal on the cedar boards, use of engineered Azek trim, and coordination with Gina Thompson and Amy Kelchner on final exterior color selection. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board will meet to hear a variance request on March 3rd at 5:00pm

Planning Commission will meet on March 9th at 5:00pm

The HARB meeting for March 10th is canceled.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Resolutions to PA State Association of Boroughs (PSAB). Current PSAB legislative policy priority information is included in the council meeting materials. Council may discuss new policies that would be submitted to PSAB in the form of a Resolution for their legislative Priority process to take place at the annual conference in June. Council may approve Resolutions to be submitted to PSAB for consideration in their annual legislative priorities process. Call for a motion/2nd to submit any stated policy resolutions to PSAB.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to have the Interim Borough Manager and Borough Staff craft the 6 new proposed resolutions and by memo support the previously passed resolutions discussed during the work session for continuing support. They are then to bring them back for passage at the March 16th meeting. No further discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Columbia Gas Line Improvements & Roadway Paving Update. Columbia Gas has completed the gas line improvements along Linn Street and Spring Street. Ameron has been selected as the paving contractor. Asphalt plants are expected to reopen in April or May, with a projected paving schedule of June–July 2026. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Centre Region Building & Housing Code Board of Appeals appointments. Call for a motion/2nd to approve the recommendation to appoint Douglas Workman, J. Michael Leakey, and Jonathan Peno to the Centre Region Building & Housing Code Board of Appeals with terms expiring March 31, 2029.

Eaton motioned and Wilson seconded to approve the recommendation to appoint Douglas Workman, J. Michael Leakey, and Jonathan Peno to the Centre Region Building & Housing Code Board of Appeals with terms expiring March 31, 2029. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Authorization to sell leaf compost to Metzler Forest Products. Call for a motion/2nd to authorize the sale of approximately 300+ cubic yards of leaf compost to Metzler Forest Products at a rate of \$8.00 per cubic yard, with Metzler Forest Products responsible for all loading and hauling, and with the Borough retaining approximately 100 cubic yards for municipal use.

Brachbill motioned and Eaton seconded to authorize the sale of approximately 300+ cubic yards of leaf compost to Metzler Forest Products at a rate of \$8.00 per cubic yard, with Metzler Forest Products responsible for all loading and hauling, and with the Borough retaining approximately 100 cubic yards for municipal use. Discussion included details regarding mulch vs compost and revenue and proceeds. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Consideration of participation in FY27 Federal Budget Priority Coalition sign-on letters related to Appalachian and rural community funding priorities. Call for a motion/2nd to authorize the Borough to review and, if appropriate, participate in the FY27 Federal Budget Priority coalition sign-on letters supporting funding priorities for Appalachian and rural communities, and to designate the Borough Manager (or appropriate staff) to execute the sign-on on behalf of the Borough.

Brachbill motioned and Wilson seconded to authorize the Borough to review and, if appropriate, participate in the FY27 Federal Budget Priority coalition sign-on letters supporting funding priorities for Appalachian and rural communities, and to designate the Borough Manager (or appropriate staff) to execute the sign-on on behalf of the Borough.

Discussion included several council members asking for clarifications about this motion and the coalition and sign on letters. Cleeton commented that while there are several very notable organizations included in the letter, none of the organizations were local municipalities. Tosti-Vasey commented that the Coalition specifically reached out to her to ask if Bellefonte Borough Council would be willing to participate. She further clarified that participation would help the Coalition advocate for more federal budget appropriations. It was also mentioned that this sign-on letter is similar to a petition – it is simply offering support for the given issue. Roll call vote. Motion to approve failed with a vote of 5 no votes and 4 yes votes.

Mr. Randy Brachbill	<i>no</i>	Mr. Zach Kelly	<i>no</i>
Ms. Deb Cleeton	<i>no</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>yes</i>
Ms. Barbara Dann	<i>no</i>	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Jon Eaton	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Claudia Wilson	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>no</i>		

Special Event Fee Waiver Request- HBI America 250 Celebration Parade. Council may take action.

Brachbill motioned and seconded to waive the \$100 special event fee for the HBI America 250 Celebration Parade. Discussion included various considerations as to why the fee is charged to local organizations who hold special events. It was clarified that extra police presence, and borough staff time is required to approve and hold special events in the Borough. It was suggested that perhaps the \$30 application fee be waived, rather than the entire amount. Voice Vote.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to amend the motion to waive only the \$30 application fee. There was no second to the amended motion. It was then clarified by Borough Staff that the fee is a flat \$100 for this type of event and there was no separate application fee. Mr. Brachbill commented that he would personally cover the \$100 fee for HBI.

Roll call vote to approve the original motion of waiving the entire \$100 fee. Motion to approve waiving the entire fee carried with a vote of 2 no votes and 6 yes votes.

Mr. Randy Brachbill	<i>Yes</i>	Mr. Zach Kelly	<i>yes</i>
Ms. Deb Cleeton	<i>Yes</i>	Ms. Shawna McKean	<i>yes</i>
Ms. Barbara Dann	<i>No</i>	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	<i>no</i>
Mr. Jon Eaton	<i>yes</i>	Ms. Claudia Wilson	<i>yes</i>
Mr. Doug Johnson	<i>yes</i>		

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.

Travis O’Neal from South Spring Street commented that he has lived at the same residence in the Borough and he is concerned as he is no longer able to park in the same on street parking space that he has parked in for the past 6 years. He commented that there is no convenient space for him to park anymore and he is parking his car approximately .12 miles

away from his residence. It takes him approximately 12 minutes to walk back and forth to his car. He asked Council to reconsider the ordinance and how it's affecting the residents of that street.

Maura O'Neal from South Spring Street also expressed her concerns about the new parking ordinance.

- Mr. Johnson commented that Council will look into this and attempt to resolve the issue.

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

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

Mr. Johnson commented to Council that he would like to have a float for Council Members and Borough Staff in the July 3rd parade.

Mayor Johnson commented that he would like Council to consider repairing the damaged Bellefonte Borough sign that was damaged this winter.

Ms. Cleeton commented that tax bills came out last week.

Mr. Eaton commented that the Bellefonte Art Museum is holding a historical tour of the Titan Metal Site on March 19th led by Joe Leahy. For more information or to RSVP, please visit the Bellefonte Art Museum website. Mr. Eaton also commented that there is a very nice display at the Art Museum of "Industrial Art Work".

Ms. Wilson commented that there is a Town n Gown article regarding women in Emergency Responder positions and 2 Bellefonte female officers are featured in the article.

Ms. Dann commented that she had received questions regarding the rate increases for sewer and water. It was clarified that the Authority had a nearly \$800,000 deficit and the Authority had to find a way to cover that deficit. Mr. Johnson said that the Authority members will have more information to present regarding the deficit and the rate increases after their next meeting which will be held tomorrow evening.

Mr. Pribulka commented regarding the ADA improvements at the train station and the suspension bridge. He also commented that the funds from the compost sale will go into the refuse fund, not the general fund.

The PSAB conference is coming up. Council needs to decide who will be their voting member and their alternate.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.