

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**April 6, 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** The April 6, 2026 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by President Doug Johnson at 7:30 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Johnson asked council members to please be sure to pull their microphones close to their mouths when speaking and to speak loudly and clearly in order to ensure good sound quality on the recordings.

**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*—EXCUSED  
Mayor Buddy Johnson

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

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**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)**

2026 Centre County Spring Job Fair, Thursday, April 23, 2026, held at C3 Sports, 200 Ellis Place, State College. Informational item only; no Council action is requested.

Reminder the first Brush and Grass Collection of the season will begin on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. Residents who have not yet paid for the Brush and Grass service are still able to submit payment to be included in the collection program. 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	Barton & Loguidice Engineering Services for Talleyrand Park Suspension Bridge ADA Ramps Invoice September 2025. <i>*All other outstanding invoices listed on the September 2025 invoice have been paid*</i>
2. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve Consent Agenda item 1. Voice vote. Motion to approve item 1 carried unanimously.*

*Wilson motioned and Dann seconded to approve Consent Agenda item 2. Voice vote. Motion to approve item 2 carried unanimously.*

**VIII. REPORTS**

**Mayor Johnson**

Proclamation-PA 811 Safe Digging Month April 2026

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

Planning Commission will meet on Monday, April 13th at 5:00pm

HARB will meet on Tuesday, April 14th at 8:30am

Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Tuesday, April 14th at 5:00pm to hear a variance request for relief from the sign ordinance.

**IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS**

Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 04062026-01

Public Hearing to receive public comment on proposed Ordinance No.04062026-01, titled “Chapter No. 88 Officers and Employees.”

*Mr. Johnson called for a motion to recess the regular meeting for the purpose of opening the Public Hearing to receive public comment on proposed Ordinance No.04062026-01, titled “Chapter No. 88 Officers and Employees.”*

*Tosti-Vasey motioned to recess the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing. Dann seconded. Voice vote. Motion to recess the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Eaton commented that the proposed ordinance was modified to specify that a Borough Manager will have to reside within a 15-mile radius of the Borough office. There was also a bond requirement and gender-neutral language added.*

*There were comments from several other council members.*

*There was a question from a community member regarding why the ordinance was revised to state that the Borough Manager does not need to reside within the Borough. She did not agree with that decision. It was clarified that the Ad-Hoc committee worked on the amendments for this ordinance.*

*There were no additional comments from the public. Mr. Johnson closed the public hearing and re-commenced the regular council meeting.*

Approval of Ordinance No. 04062026-01 amendment to Article 1, Manager in Chapter No. 88 Officers and Employees. Call for a motion/2nd to approve Ordinance No. 04062026-01 amendment to Article 1, Manager in Chapter No. 88 Officers and Employees.

*Dann motioned and Wilson seconded to approve Ordinance No. 04062026-01 amendment to Article 1, Manager in Chapter No. 88 Officers and Employees. Tosti-Vasey commented that she found one instance out of 27 gender neutral language statements that was not gender neutral in section 88-2. Him should be changed to “them”. No additional comments. Roll call vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.*

Ordinance amendment to Chapter 180 Air Pollution. Call for a motion/2nd to authorize the advertisement of the amendment to Chapter 180, Air Pollution.

*Dann motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded to authorize the advertisement of the amendment to Chapter 180, Air Pollution. Roll call vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously. Tosti-Vasey clarified various details regarding the amendments. No additional comments. Roll call vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.*

The Streets, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee recommends Council award the 2026 paving bid to HRI, Inc. in the amount of \$81,989, and remove East Lamb Street, Locust Lane, and the East Lamb Street/Wilson Street intersection from the paving schedule due to stormwater projects that must be completed prior to paving. Call for a motion/2nd to award the 2026 paving bid to HRI, Inc. in the amount of \$81,989, and remove East Lamb Street, Locust Lane, and the East Lamb Street/Wilson Street intersection from the paving schedule.

*Eaton motioned and Brachbill seconded to award the 2026 paving bid to HRI, Inc. in the amount of \$81,989, and remove East Lamb Street, Locust Lane, and the East Lamb Street/Wilson Street intersection from the paving schedule. There was a question regarding the paving schedule. Mr. Pribulka commented but much of his comments were unintelligible due to sound issues with the zoom. No additional comments. Roll call vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously. No additional comments. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.*

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

Centre Consideration of a lease agreement with C&L Lingle Real Estate, LLC for a small tract of Borough-owned land located adjacent to My Café Buzz on West High Street. The agreement would authorize C&L Lingle Real Estate, LLC to lease and utilize the parcel under the terms outlined in the proposed lease. Call for a motion/2<sup>nd</sup> to authorize the Borough to enter into a lease agreement with C&L Lingle Real Estate, LLC for the small tract of land located adjacent to My Café Buzz on West High Street, subject to the terms of the proposed agreement.

*Eaton motioned and Brachbill seconded to authorize the Borough to enter into a lease agreement with C&L Lingle Real Estate, LLC for the small tract of land located adjacent to My Café Buzz on West High Street, subject to the terms of the proposed agreement.*

*Tosti-Vasey motioned to amend the motion lease agreement to add an additional clause to review the lease every 4 years. McKean seconded. No additional comments. Voice vote. Motion to amend the motion carried unanimously.*

*Voice vote to approve the amended motion. No further discussion. Motion to approve the amended motion carried unanimously.*

Consideration of a lease agreement with Revival Room, LLC for Suite 130 located in the Bellefonte Borough Administration Building. The agreement would authorize Revival Room, LLC to lease and utilize Office Suite 130 under the terms outlined in the proposed lease. Call

for a motion/2nd to authorize the Borough to enter into a lease agreement with Revival Room, LLC for Suite 130 in the Bellefonte Borough Administration Building, subject to the terms of the proposed agreement.

*Dann motioned and Brachbill seconded to authorize the Borough to enter into a lease agreement with Revival Room, LLC for Suite 130 in the Bellefonte Borough Administration Building, subject to the terms of the proposed agreement. Discussion included clarification of the room that will be used. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.*

Council discussion and determination on whether the property located at 167 S. Potter Street should be returned to the jurisdiction of Centre Region Code Administration for continued code enforcement and compliance with applicable property maintenance and zoning regulations. *Council action requested.*

*Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to return 167 S. Potter Street to the jurisdiction of Centre Region Code Administration for continued code enforcement and compliance with applicable property maintenance and zoning regulations. Discussion regarding details of the situation. Roll call vote. Motion 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.*

Laura Rush, a Borough resident, spoke regarding parking issues on S. Spring Street. Many of her comments were unintelligible due to sound issues.

Barry Spicer, a Borough resident and a former council member, spoke regarding council member Zach Kelly and his comments at the last council meeting regarding the ICE protest. He did not agree with Mr. Kelly's comments and feels that council members bringing their own personal agendas and politics into public meetings is inappropriate. He asked Mr. Kelly to step down from his elected position on Council.

Chip Aikens, a Borough resident and a former council member, also spoke regarding council member Zach Kelly and his comments at the last council meeting regarding the ICE protest. Mr. Aikens expressed concern that the protest Mr. Kelly encouraged residents to attend could put local police officers, the public, and local properties at risk for injury and damage. Mr. Aikens also asked Mr. Kelly to resign from his elected position, citing concerns for public safety. He also asked Council to fix the fence/wall at Tallyrand Park by the bridge.

Tom Dann, a Borough resident, spoke regarding council member Zach Kelly's comments about the ICE protest. He spoke in support of Mr. Kelly, but he did comment that he felt Mr. Kelly's statement was merely a lapse in judgement and that he feels the comments were inappropriate at the time.

John Purnell, a Borough resident, spoke regarding council member Zach Kelly's comments about the ICE protest. He felt the comments were inappropriate and he was disappointed that an elected official would advertise a politically motivated event that supports a violent individual being apprehended and charged while acting as an elected official being paid by taxpayer dollars. He asked Mr. Kelly to resign from his elected position.

Rita Purnell, a Borough resident and a former council member, spoke regarding council member Zach Kelly's comments at the March 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting about the ICE protest held on March 18<sup>th</sup>. She commented that the promotion of an event like the ICE protest during a public meeting is a highly inappropriate misuse of an elected officials position and taxpayer funds. She also commented that the protesters held up signs with foul language, they did not follow police orders, and they left refuse and litter on public property which borough staff had to remove. She presented a petition signed by Borough residents calling for the resignation of council member Kelly. She also encouraged Council to create a Code of Conduct to outline and clarify appropriate council member actions with regard to partisan politics.

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

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

Ms. McKean reminded residents that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Ms. Wilson announced several cultural/heritage events in State College.

Ms. Dann read a statement regarding Council member Zach Kelly's political statements at the last meeting in March. She felt the comments were irresponsible and inappropriate and she called for Council to create a formal code of conduct for council members and that the code of conduct be attached to all council meeting agendas. She requested that if no code of conduct exists, that Council leadership create and present one by the meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Cleeton thanked the streets department for their prompt response to a sinkhole that opened up near the Dollar General. She also invited all Council members to attend an informal "Meet n Greet" at the Centre County Historical Museum and Library on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Museum to introduce the new Executive Director.

Mr. Brachbill spoke regarding Mr. Kelly's comments regarding the ICE protest. He stated that it is not the Council's duty to announce about politically motivated protests at a public meeting. He also announced that there will be a Spring Creek Watershed Cleanup on April 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. If residents wish to attend and help with the cleanup please feel free to contact Mr. Brachbill for more details.

Mr. Kelly thanked the public and fellow Council members for sharing their time and comments. He feels that everyone is on the same page with this situation and he appreciated everyone's comments.

Mr. Johnson reminded residents to look for the Borough newsletter that was mailed out to residents last week and is also posted on the Borough website. He reminded residents that Bulk Waste Collection, formerly known as “Riff Raff Day” will be May 18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Tosti-Vasey motioned to adjourn and Brachbill seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:48PM.*