

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 8, 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.cnetl.org

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The September 8, 2026 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by President Doug Johnson at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR GAY DUNNE

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Deborah Cleeton, *Vice President*
Via Zoom Ms.
Barbara Dann
Mr. Jon Eaton
Mr. Douglas Johnson, *President*
Mr. Zach Kelly
Ms. Mariah Kessler
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey, *Pro Tempore*
Dr. Tomalei Vess
Ms. Claudia Wilson
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

David Pribulka, 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.

Announcement – the Board held an executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss real estate.

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.

Mr. Johnson recognized Deb Barger for her work with the Hometown Heroes banners in the Borough. Ms. Berger also recognized the other members of the committee and Historic Bellefonte Inc for their efforts. The committee presented a check for \$2500 to the Logan Fire Company and a check for \$500 to the Bellefonte Fire Police and a check for \$1000 to the Bellefonte EMS Department. The committee also noted that a check for \$2000 was given to the Bellefonte Police Department for the purchase of an E-Bike; the purchased bike was shown to the public by the Police Department.

Proclamation-Honoring the community service and legacy of Gay D. Dunne – Mayor Johnson

VI. WEST WARD VACANCY

Each applicant for the West Ward Council Vacancy will be allotted five (5) minutes to address Borough Council and present their qualifications, interest in serving, and reasons for seeking appointment. Following all presentations, Council may ask questions before considering an appointment.

Suggested Motion: That Borough Council appoint [**Applicant Name**] to fill the West Ward Council vacancy following the applicant presentations and Council deliberation, for the remainder of the unexpired term ending **December 31, 2027**, contingent upon taking the required Oath of Office.

There were 2 applications received for this vacancy – Phyllis Austin and Mariah Kessler. Council decided to interview the 2 applicants in the order their applications were received. They also decided to interview each applicant separately. Rita Purnell, a borough resident, offered public comments endorsing Phyllis Austin. Council appointed Mariah Kessler.

*Tosti-Vasey motioned and Kelly seconded to appoint Mariah Kessler to fill the West Ward Council vacancy following the applicant presentations and Council deliberation, for the remainder of the unexpired term ending **December 31, 2027**, contingent upon taking the required Oath of Office.*

Dann motioned to appoint Phyllis Austin to fill the vacancy. There was no second to her motion.

Council then voted on the original motion to appoint Mariah Kessler. There was no discussion. Roll call vote. Motion to approve carried with 7 yes and 1 no votes. Ms. Dann voted no.

Ms. Kessler was sworn in as the Borough Council West Ward Representative.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS (Written)

Logan Fire Company – 9/11 Memorial Ceremony Council is invited to attend the 25th Anniversary 9/11 Memorial Ceremony hosted by Logan Fire Company on Friday, September

11, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the Logan Fire Station in Bellefonte. The ceremony will honor the lives lost, the heroes who served, and the strength of a united nation. First responders and the community are welcome to attend.

BHCA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Council is invited to attend the Bellefonte Historical & Cultural Association (BHCA) 50th Anniversary Celebration which will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2026, from 5:00–7:00 PM at Talleyrand Park (Gazebo Side). The community is welcome to attend.

PSAB Fall Leadership Conference – October 9–11, 2026

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Fall Leadership Conference will be held October 9–11, 2026, at Bayfront Landing in Erie. The conference offers sessions on municipal governance, employment law, stormwater management, zoning and land use, public safety, and legislative updates. Council Members interested in attending should contact Alyssa Doherty at adoherty@bellefontepa.gov to register before the September 14, 2026 deadline.

VIII. 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 July 2026
2. Finance	Budget v. Actual Summary June 2026
3. Finance	Budget v. Actual Summary July 2026
4. Finance	Campbell Durrant Legal Invoice August 2026
5. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes August 3, 2026
6. General	DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes August 17, 2026
7. Finance	Financial Report July 2026
8. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Legal Invoice August 2026
9. Finance	Treasurer Report July 2026
10. Finance	Voucher Summary July 2026

Tosti-Vasey requested to pull item 8 from the Consent Agenda. Wilson requested to pull item 9. Tosti-Vasey motioned and Eaton seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10. Voice vote. Motion to approve consent agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10 as listed carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding item 8 included Tosti-Vasey asking for clarification of the amount listed/owed. The amount was clarified and Tosti-Vasey moved and Kelly seconded to approve item 8. Voice vote. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding item 9 included Ms. Wilson asking for clarification of the amounts listed. The amounts were noted to have a discrepancy and Tosti-Vasey moved to table this item until the next meeting.

IX. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Proclamation-Honoring the community service and legacy of Gay D. Dunne

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

(Ms. Thompson)

Recommended for approval:

Recommend approval and the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following applications, as presented, unless otherwise noted:

- 137 West High Street – Replacement of three windows due to rotted frames, loose or failing panes, and inoperable locks, including the previously replaced rear windows and the proposed double-hung G2 window on the third floor.

Eaton motioned to approve the above listed project. Wilson seconded. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve the above listed project carried unanimously.

- The Planning Commission will meet on Monday, September 14 at 5:00pm
- The next HARB meeting is scheduled for September 22nd at 8:30am.

X. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

Talleyrand Park to Masullo Park Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study – Acceptance

Borough Manager David Pribulka will present the Talleyrand Park to Masullo Park Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study, prepared by Stahl Sheaffer Engineering. The Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed three trail concepts and recommends Concept 1A (fully off-road, single Spring Creek crossing) as the preferred, phased approach.

Tosti-Vasey moved, and Eaton motioned that Borough Council accept the Talleyrand Park to Masullo Park Rail-to-Trail Feasibility Study as prepared by Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, dated June 25, 2026. Discussion included clarifications of the study. It was clarified that this study will provide conceptual renderings of this potential project. No further discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

2027 Centre County Liquid Fuels and Fee for Local Use Program – Application Deadline

Centre County is accepting applications for the 2027 Liquid Fuels and Fee for Local Use Program. Completed applications must be received by the Centre County Planning &

Community Development Office no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, October 16, 2026; late submissions will not be considered. Staff is seeking Council's input on project(s) to submit for this funding round.

Eaton motioned and Dann seconded that Borough Council identify and direct staff to prepare a 2027 Liquid Fuels Program application for [project(s) to be determined] for submission to Centre County by the October 16, 2026 deadline. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Pay Application No. 1 – Stage at Talleyrand Project

Mid-State Construction, Inc. has submitted Application for Payment No. 1 (AIA Document G702/G703) for the Stage at Talleyrand project, covering the period ending August 31, 2026. The current payment due to the Contractor is \$93,565.16.

Dann motioned and Wilson seconded that Borough Council approve Pay Application No. 1 from Mid-State Construction, Inc. for the Stage at Talleyrand project in the amount of \$93,565.16, as certified by Hoffmann Leakey Architects, LLC, and to authorize payment accordingly. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Minimum Municipal Obligations for Pensions – 2027 Budget

The Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMOs) for the Borough's pension programs must be acted upon prior to the end of September for the upcoming 2027 budget year. Council must also re-adopt the resolution related to the Police Pension Program annually.

Resolution No. 09082026-01

- **Police Pension:** \$75,635.00
- **N1 Pension:** \$0.00
- **N2 Pension:** \$187,945.00

Eaton motioned and Dann seconded that Borough Council approve Resolution No. 09082026-01 and the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Borough's pension programs as follows: Police Pension in the amount of \$75,635.00, N1 Pension in the amount of \$0.00, and N2 Pension in the amount of \$187,945.00. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Engineering Services – ADA Curb Ramp Design and Replacement, High Street and Water Street

Consideration of a proposal from Trans Associates Engineering Consultants, Inc. to provide engineering services for the design of ADA compliant curb ramps at the northwest and southwest corners of the intersection of High Street and Water Street. The scope includes field survey and base mapping, design of up to four (4) curb ramps in accordance with PennDOT and ADA standards, preparation of PennDOT Technical Infeasibility Forms where applicable, work zone traffic control plans, and preparation of the Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) package for submission through PennDOT's EPS portal. The proposal excludes traffic signal modifications, structural/geotechnical work, drainage design, and

construction bid/consultation services. The fee for these services is a not-to-exceed amount of \$15,800.00.

Dann motioned and Tosti-Vasey seconded that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to execute the proposal from Trans Associates Engineering Consultants, Inc., dated September 4, 2026, for ADA curb ramp design and replacement services at the intersection of High Street and Water Street, in an amount not to exceed \$15,800.00. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Referral of DRAFT Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendments

Provided with the agenda are copies of two proposed ordinance amendments that have been reviewed by the Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee. They establish revised and expanded requirements for traffic impact studies and dedication of parkland (or fee-in-lieu thereof) for subdivision and land development plans.

Eaton motioned and Dann seconded that Borough Council refer the draft ordinances to the Bellefonte Borough Planning Commission and the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission for review and comment.

Tosti-Vasey motioned to amend the motion to include the Centre County Planning Commission. Dann seconded to amend the motion. Voice vote. Motion to approve the amended motion carried unanimously.

XII. 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.

A Borough resident commented about the traffic lights on Bishop Street and Allegheny and Water to High Streets. She asked Council to look into the traffic light timing.

The Assistant Chief of the Logan Fire Company spoke regarding the huge current needs of the fire company. He commented that the apparatus in the fire company is old and need to be replaced. He commented that the members of the Logan Fire Company are all volunteers.

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

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

Members and staff offered comments regarding events in the Borough.

Kelly pointed out that a sinkhole appears to be developing at the intersection of West Curtin Street and North Spring Street. Pribulka said he would have Mr. Auman, Public Works Supervisor, look at this situation.

Happy birthday to Council Member Claudia Wilson!

Several members welcomed Ms. Kessling to the council.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Eaton motioned and Wilson seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:42PM.