BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 19, 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 October 19, 2026 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by President Doug Johnson at 7:0 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL/MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Deb Cleeton - *Vice President* *South Ward*		Ms. Kessler *West Ward*	
Ms. Barbara Dann *South Ward*		Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey - *Pro Temp* *West Ward*	
Mr. Jon Eaton *North Ward*		Dr. Tomalei Vess *South Ward*	
Mr. Doug Johnson – *President* *North Ward*		Ms. Claudia Wilson *North Ward*	
Mr. Zach Kelly *West Ward*		VACANT *Junior Council Member*	
Mayor Buddy Johnson *At Large*	EXCUSED		

STAFF PRESENT
David Pribulka, Borough Manager
Melissa McCullough, Assistant to the Borough Manager
Lori McGowan, Finance Director
Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
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)

- **ONE HAND DENTAL FESTIVAL FLIER**
  - Provided with the agenda is a flier announcing the One Hand Dental Festival scheduled for October 24th from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Governor's Park. The event will feature free dental cleanings and other basic work from a mobile clinic. Registration is required.
  - Ms. Tosti-Vasey requested that this event flyer be updated with relevant information and posted with contact information on the Borough Website.

- **CLIMATE RESILIENCY TABLETOP EXERCISE**
  - Provided with the agenda is a flier announcing a Climate & Health Elective Virtual Tabletop Exercise sponsored by the Penn State College of Medicine on Tuesday, December 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A QR code is on the flier to register.
  - Ms. Cleeton clarified some details regarding this event.

- **PLANNING COMMISSION RESIGNATION – MARK EDWARDS**
  - Provided with the agenda is a resignation letter from Mark Edwards, who has served on the Bellefonte Borough Planning Commission for ten years. Mr. Edwards' term expires on December 31, 2026, so it is recommended that Council identify his successor to begin a term starting January 1, 2027. Mayor Johnson, Borough Council, and staff greatly appreciate the ten years of service that Mr. Edwards has provided to the Planning Commission.

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	Special Event Fee Waiver Request – BASD Raider Reindeer 4k
2. General	October 5, 2026 DRAFT Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Dann requested to remove item 1 and Tosti-Vasey requested to remove item 2 from the Consent Agenda.

Discussion regarding the Special Event Fee Waiver Request included Dann commenting that she does not think the Borough should honor the waiver request and the agency should pay the application fee. Tosti-Vasey commented that the organization is a Bellefonte based organization and all Bellefonte based organizations are permitted to request fee waivers.

Tosti-Vasey suggested that Item 1 of the Consent Agenda be discussed and voted on with the other Fee Waiver Request later in the meeting under "New Business". Council agreed to move this item to New Business.

Discussion on item 2, October 5 Meeting Minutes, included Tosti-Vasey commenting that the Council Member Comments for the Good of the Order section did not include comments. She added her own summary of the comments and requested that her comments be added to the minutes.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve item 2 of the Consent Agenda with the amendments added. No further discussion. Voice vote. Motion to approve item 2 on the Consent Agenda, with amendments, carried unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

- NONE

Junior Council Member Report

- NONE

Police (Chief Witmer)

- September 2026 Report

Parking

- September 2026 Report

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

1. Recommended for approval:
   - Recommend approval and the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following applications, as presented, unless otherwise noted:
     • 201 West High Street (Hoffman Leakey) – Approve the rooftop mechanical structure with a screen-printed mesh wrap designed to match the existing asphalt shingle.

     Dann motioned and Wilson seconded to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the above listed project. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Zoning:
   - NONE

3. Items of interest:
   - The Planning Commission will meet on Monday, November 9 at 5:00 p.m.
   - The next HARB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 at 8:30 a.m. This may be canceled if there are no projects for review.

Interim Borough Manager (Mr. Pribulka)

- September 2026 report

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS *(reports were submitted)*

Environmental & Parks Committee - Ms. Tosti-Vasey

- Environmental & Parks Committee September 2026 Meeting Summary
  - Ms. Tosti-Vasey commented on the wooden fence replacement behind the pergola at Talleyrand

Finance & Administration Committee - Mr. Eaton

- September 2026 Meeting Minutes
- October 2026 Special Meeting Summary (fire apparatus)
- Topics of the 2 recent meetings included:
  - Hiring an "Assistant to the Manager"
  - Hiring of Bryce Steiner, second ordinance officer
  - Scheduling of the budget elements for the upcoming year
    - Water and sewer budgets will be on the 27th and the 29th
  - Meeting regarding Fire Apparatus – the committee is waiting for feedback from the partner townships, Spring and Benner

Ordinance ad hoc Committee - Ms. Tosti-Vasey

- October 2026 Meeting Summary

Streets, Infrastructure & Public Works Committee – Ms. Cleeton

- September 2026 Report

X. LIASON REPORTS

Reports will be submitted in writing for inclusion in the council meeting materials. Reports may include draft meeting minutes, notes, memos, etc. No verbal report is to be given unless there is a question regarding the report. If council action is requested, please clearly indicate it, including the wording, so that it can be stated on the council meeting agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Stage at Talleyrand Project Committee - Pribulka
- Bellefonte Area Industrial Development Authority - Pribulka
- Bellefonte Emergency Medical Services - Rhoat
- Bellefonte Fire Department Executive Committee - Pribulka
- Bellefonte Alliance (BIACC & DBI) - Thompson (OCA)
- Bellefonte Police Pension Board - Pribulka
- Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority - Pribulka
- Penn State University Sustainability Projects - Pribulka
- Shade Tree Commission - Pribulka
- Union Cemetery Association - Pribulka
- Workplace Safety Committee - Pribulka

AUTHORITIES / COUNCIL APPOINTED

- Bellefonte Borough Authority- October 6, 2026 - D. Johnson
    - Mr. Johnson commented on the water tank replacement project
    - The Valentine Hill Water Line Replacement Project was completed on August 20th.
    - Big Spring, Talleyrand Park project is ongoing. The Authority has received RFP's and a recommendation will be made soon.
    - The Talleyrand stage project is ongoing.
- Centre County Airport Authority - D. Johnson
    - Minutes were provided

COMMISSIONS / COUNCIL APPOINTED

- Spring Creek Watershed Commission – Eaton
    - The Watershed Commission is moving to an every other month meeting schedule.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES / COUNCIL APPOINTED

- Centre County Library Board - Cleeton

- Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) Public Safety Committee - Cleeton
- Public Transit Task Force Committee - Tosti-Vasey

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS / APPOINTED

- Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission (NVJPC) - Tosti-Vasey
- Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) - Tosti-Vasey
- Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) Technical Comm.

XI. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION - AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE NEW PIERCE ENFORCER 100' AERIAL FOR UNDINE FIRE COMPANY

- *Narrative* - Provided with the agenda is a copy of a purchase order from Glick Fire Equipment Company, Inc. approving the acquisition of a new 100ft aerial ladder truck manufactured by Pierce to service the Undine Fire Company. The Bellefonte Fire Department provides fire service from the Logan and Undine Companies to Bellefonte Borough and the Townships of Spring, Benner, and Marion. The current apparatus is at the end of its useful life and a new truck is required to be manufactured. The lead time on manufacturing is estimated to be 24 months from execution of purchase order. This was referred to the Administration and Finance Committee for further discussion with Spring and Benner Townships. A meeting occurred with the municipalities on October 14, and a verbal report on the outcome of that meeting will be provided this evening. Staff is recommending this item be tabled until November 2, 2026.

  Recommended motion - that Borough Council table action on this item until November 2, 2026.

  Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded that Borough Council table action on this item until November 2, 2026. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2. AUTHORIZATION OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDNANCE ADOPTING REVISED LOCAL PRETREATMENT LIMITS FOR THE BELLEFONTE BOROUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- *Narrative* - Provided with the agenda is a memorandum from Frank Noll, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, describing the revised Local Limits accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Bellefonte Borough Authority. Council tabled the motion to authorize advertisement of a public hearing until a draft of the ordinance amendment was prepared. Provided with the agenda is a copy of the draft amendment revising local pretreatment limits for the Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is requested that the hearing and consideration of enactment be advertised for November 2, 2026.

Recommended motion: That Borough Council authorizes a public hearing and consideration of enactment of an ordinance accepting the revised Local Limits for the Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant for November 2, 2026.

Eaton motioned and Dann seconded that Borough Council authorizes a public hearing and consideration of enactment of an ordinance accepting the revised Local Limits for the Bellefonte Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant for November 2, 2026. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. REVIEW OF COUNCIL CHAMBER FURNITURE PROPOSAL – PAUL DOWNS CABINETMAKERS

- Narrative - Council requested a design proposal to replace the current dais with new tables and an improved layout for conducting meetings. Provided with the agenda is a proposal from Paul Downs Cabinetmakers, a COSTARS contractor, to replace the current Council tables with a custom "V-shape" design. The proposal does not include replacements of the podium or chairs. Staff is requesting this item be referred to the Streets, Infrastructure, and Public Works Committee for further review.

Recommended motion: That Borough Council refer the proposal to the Streets, Infrastructure, and Public Works Committee for review.

Dann motioned and Cleeton seconded that Borough Council refer the proposal to the Streets, Infrastructure, and Public Works Committee for review. Discussion included Cleeton expressing that she doesn't feel this expenditure is necessary. Mr. Johnson commented that the proposed amount is $50,000. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2. SPECIAL EVENT FEE WAIVER REQUEST – ONE HAND FOUNDATION DENTAL CLINIC

- *Narrative* - Council received a presentation from the One Hand Foundation on September 21 about hosting a proposed free children's mobile dental clinic in the Borough. The Borough Manager has approved the use of Governor's Park on October 24 for the clinic and other family-friendly activities. Details were provided on the flier in the agenda packet. While One Hand Foundation is not based in Bellefonte Borough, it is a nonprofit organization that will operate in the Borough, and Council is asked to consider waiving the $100 special event permit application fee that would typically apply. For additional clarity on the policy, Council is asked to refer the special events permitting process and associated fee structure to the Parks Committee to review.

Recommended motion: That Borough Council approve the special event fee waiver for the One Hand Foundation Dental Clinic and refer the special event permitting process and associated fee structure to the Parks Committee for review.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Vess seconded that Borough Council approve the special event fee waiver for the One Hand Foundation Dental Clinic and refer the special event permitting process and associated fee structure to the Parks Committee for review. Discussion included Dann asking if the waiver request vote can be split and each request voted on separately. Tosti-Vasey and Vess both agreed to vote on the items separately.

Vote 1 – Council should refer the special event permitting process and associated fee structure to the Parks Committee for review. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey clarifying that the policy regarding this permitting process and the reasoning behind the recommendation of the fee waiver. It was discussed that the permitting process needs further review and clarifications to avoid similar confusion for future requests. Roll call vote. The vote to approve Council referring this fee structure and policy to the Parks Committee carried unanimously.

Ms. Deb Cleeton	Y	Ms. Kessler	Y
Ms. Barbara Dann	Y	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	Y
Mr. Jon Eaton	Y	Dr. Tomalei Vess	Y
Mr. Doug Johnson	Y	Ms. Claudia Wilson	Y
Mr. Zach Kelly	Y		

Fee Waiver Requests 1 and 2 - approve the special event fee waiver for the One Hand Foundation Dental Clinic and approve the Special Event Fee Waiver Request – BASD Raider Reindeer 4k.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to approve both fee waiver requests. No further discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

- NONE

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

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

- Members made comments regarding Borough issues and projects.
- Kelly reminded the public that the deadline for voter registration is at 11:59 pm on October 19
- Tosti-Vasey announced that the lighting issues on North Allegheny Street would likely be repaired in 2027 and the lights in the Talleyrand Park Extension would not be working for the foreseeable future due to the Bandshell construction.

- Dann requested Council members to advocate NO on passage of a bill that would eliminate the ability to add last-minute items to the agenda that could be time-sensitive or be an emergent issue with limited time to respond.
- Wilson asked the public to let others know about the free dental work being offered by the One Hand Foundation that was announced under Written Communications.
- Eaton announced the date for the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Dann motioned and Wilson seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.