BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 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 November 2, 2026 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by President Doug Johnson at 7:30p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL/MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT
David Pribulka, 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
- Announcement: Council held an executive session before the public meeting tonight to discuss legal and personnel.

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 TOYS FOR TOTS FLIER**
  - A flier announcing the U.S. Marine Corps 2026 Toys for Tots drive is included with the agenda. Visit www.toysfortots.org for additional information. A 2025 "year-in-review" summary is also included with the packet. The final day to drop off contributions is December 9, 2026. More information will be posted on the Borough website.

- **TENTATIVE 2027 SPECIAL EVENT SCHEDULE**
  - Provided with the agenda is a tentative schedule of certain 2027 special events provided by HBI. These events still require approval and are subject to change. These included events sponsored by HBI, as well as other organizations.

- **NEW MEETING AGENDA SUNSHINE LAW REQUIREMENTS UNDER ACT 103-2026**
  - A copy of changes to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law governing additions to the agenda that occur after the 24-hour period prior to the meeting is included with the agenda. This legislation establishes new restrictions on the circumstances for which additional agenda items may be added after the required publishing timeframe. The new law is effective on December 21, 2026. This is for information only.

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. Requests to remove items need not be seconded and action on removed items will be deferred to a later point in the agenda.

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. *Finance*	Approval of Invoices – Parkview/Zion Traffic Signal
2. *Finance*	Legal Invoice – Campbell Durrant, P.C.
3. *Finance*	Pay Application – HRI, Inc. ($85,133.40)
4. *General*	Special Event Fee Waiver Request – Scouting For Food Collection Point
5. *General*	Special Event Fee Waiver Request – Community Christmas Tree Lighting
6. *General*	Special Event Fee Waiver Request – Race for Education
7. *General*	October 19, 2026 DRAFT Council Regular Meeting Minutes
8. *General*	Approval to Place Items on Municibid for Auction-Memo from Matt Auman and Randy Neff

Dann motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Cleeton seconded the motion to approve.

Tosti-Vasey requested to remove item 4 for a question and Wilson requested to remove item 1 from the Consent Agenda. Tosti-Vasey's question was regarding off season bathroom facilities for off season events in the Borough. Wilson requested removal of item 1 for a question regarding clarification of the two Parkview/Zion Traffic Signal invoice totals. Tosti-Vasey requested clarification on the set-aside amount indicated on item 3 for the HRI Pay Application. The totals were all clarified.

Voice vote for items 1, 3 and 4. Motion carried unanimously.

No further discussion. Voice vote for items 2, 5, 6, 7, 8. Motion to approve items 2 and 5-8 on the Consent Agenda carried unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

- Mayor Johnson thanked the community for another safe and successful Trick or Treat night.

Junior Council Member Report

- NONE

Police (Chief Witmer)

- Chief Witmer also thanked the community for a safe and fun Trick or Treat night.

Parking

- NONE

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

1. Recommended for approval:
   - NONE

2. Zoning:
   - NONE

3. Items of interest:
   - The Planning Commission will meet on Monday, November 9th at 5:00 p.m.
   - The next HARB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10th at 8:30 a.m.

Borough Manager (Mr. Pribulka)

- NONE

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED BOOK OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 455 SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL, ARTICLE II JOINT MUNICIPAL PRETREATMENT

President Johnson recessed the regular meeting to open the Public Hearing. There were no public comments or testimonies. President Johnson closed the Public Hearing and resumed the regular Council Business Meeting.

Narrative:

This evening, a public hearing has been advertised on amendments to the local limits for the Bellefonte Borough Authority Joint Municipal Pretreatment Program. These limits have been reviewed and approved by the EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and are a part of the regulatory compliance measures to enforce restrictions on certain kinds of pollutants from entering the wastewater treatment plant. President Johnson will recess the Regular Meeting; open the public hearing; receive any testimony from members of the public who wish to provide it; close

the public hearing; and reconvene the Regular Meeting to accept a motion on the ordinance.

Dann motioned and Wilson seconded that Borough Council adopt the ordinance establishing new and revised limits on pollutants discharged into the Bellefonte Wastewater Treatment Plant. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 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 48 months from execution of purchase order. Council referred this item to the Finance Committee, and a meeting was held with representatives of Benner and Spring Townships, as well as the fire companies. A verbal report will be provided by the Borough Manager on the status of that meeting and the commitments from the other municipalities.

Eaton motioned and Dann seconded that Borough Council approve the purchase order for the Pierce Enforcer 100' Aerial in an amount of $2,074,124.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey motioned to reconsider this action item pending additional information, with the understanding that delaying approval of this purchase will result in an increase in price. Eaton seconded this amended motion. Discussion included comments from a representative of the Fire Executive Committee explaining the huge need for this apparatus in the Borough. Mr. Pribulka also clarified that the downpayment is due December 15th, 2026. Other discussion included discussing timelines for getting responses from surrounding townships. It was stated that this is a high-risk purchase for the Borough without firm financial commitments from surrounding municipalities. It was suggested that grant monies could be used to fund this purchase.

RESTATED MOTION AMENDMENT: Tosti-Vasey motioned and Eaton seconded to reconsider the purchase of the Pierce Enforcer 100' Aerial in an amount of $2,074,124 – to postpone until there are financial commitments from the other participating communities. Roll call vote. Motion to postpone 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		

3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE BELLEFONTE BOROUGH SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Narrative:

Borough Council and the Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee have developed and reviewed draft amendments to the Borough's subdivision and development ordinance that include new and revised regulations to dedication of parkland and open space; and the conducting of traffic impact studies for local developments. The draft ordinances have been referred to the Borough's Planning Commission and the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission for review and comment, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. The comments and draft ordinances are included with the agenda material this evening. Staff is requesting that a public hearing be scheduled on the two ordinance amendments for Monday, December 7, 2026. This will allow advertisement of the amendments as required by the MPC.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded that Borough Council authorize advertisement of two public hearings on the proposed amendments to the subdivision and land development ordinance for Monday, December 7, 2026. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. AWARD OF FINAL DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND INSPECTION CONTRACT FOR THE DUNLOP STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Narrative:

The Streets Committee received proposal for design and engineering of Dunlop Street in accordance with the requirements of the HUD Community Projects Fund grant award from Congressman Thompson. Provided with the agenda is the scoring matrix agreed to by the committee.

Dann motioned and Wilson seconded that Borough Council award the contract for design, engineering, bidding, and construction management and inspection services for the Dunlop Street Construction Project to Stahl Sheaffer Engineering. Discussion included clarification about the scoring matrix. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

X!. 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.

- Members made comments regarding Borough issues and projects.
- Mr. Eaton and President Johnson reminded the public that leaf collection is ongoing.
- Ms. Kessler reminded the public to vote tomorrow and be careful as voters will be out and about at area polling places.
- Ms. Cleeton complimented all the participants at the fall festival and she reminds residents to check the batteries in their smoke detectors.
- Dr. Vess noted that Nittany Beagle Rescue is holding their bi-annual auction.
- Ms. Tosti-Vasey did not have any comments to offer tonight.
- President Johnson asked that Borough staff be mindful and responsible for emptying garbage after special events. He also reminded residents that brush collection ends Wednesday, November 18th.
- Mr. Pribulka announced that Union Cemetery Veteran's Day service will be held Sunday, November 8th at 3pm at the fountain in the cemetery.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Dann motioned and Wilson seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.