Borough of Beaver, PA

Council Meeting

March 8, 2016

Minutes

* A regular scheduled meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and called to order on March 8, 2016 at 7:00PM by President Michael Deelo.
* Pledge of Allegiance
* Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Dan Deceder, Michael Deelo, Ron Embaugh, Walter McDermott (via phone conference), James Perini, Alex Sebastian, Pat Sims, Sean Snowden. Borough officials in attendance: Director of Operations – Chuck Copeland, Mayor Tom Hamilton, Chief Dan Madgar and Solicitor - John Petrush.
* Visitors in attendance (signed in): George Kauffman, Mel Bundy, Ray Grosskopf, Betty Burk, Midge Sefton, Jeff Hamilton, Rick Sprecker, Cheryl Hansen, Marilyn Vogel, Jim Woolley, Charles Casbourne, Robert Rice

Approval of minutes

***Motion by Mr. Snowden to accept the February 9, 2016 Special meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Embaugh. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

***Motion by Mr. Perini to accept the February 9, 2016 Council meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Sebastian. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Chief Madgar stated the Overview Reports are not included in the council packet due to an error in QuickBooks tabulating an improper series of numbers. Cottrill and Arbutina Associates will be assisting in having the reports corrected. The corrected reports will be forwarded to council.
* February 2016 end of month reports and balances reviewed. Reports will be filed for annual audit.

**Review invoice and authorization to pay bills**

***Motion by Mr. Deceder to authorize and pay submitted invoices for the Borough. Seconded by Mr. McDermott. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

**Public Participation –**

* Ray Grosskopf, 1036 Turnpike Street – Heard a local business received a liquor license to sell microbrew beer. His understanding is that every ten years, the question for Beaver to be allowed to sell liquor is put on the ballot.
  + Mr. Petrush stated this particular instance involves the possibility of a loop hole in the law to allow separate storage for microbrews. Does not involve selling hard liquor or having a bar inside the business.
  + Betty Burke, 888 4th Street – Council needs to be vigilant in this matter. She would hate to see liquor being sold in the town.
  + Mr. McDermott states the borough has an ordinance stating it isn’t permissible to sell liquor.
* Mel Bundy, 1600 Corporation Street – Questioned the status of the access road
  + Chief Madgar stated Dan Martone sent out a document to council to review for bids. We have everything in place. Awaiting approval from the railroad to put equipment on the tracks in order to fix the road in a safe manner.
  + Mr. Bundy stated the gate in Bridgewater is still closed
    - Mr. Deelo stated that Bridgewater locked the gate during inclement weather. It should reopen soon.
* George Kauffman, 100 Oak Street –
  + Inquired if the residents could receive more frequent updates from Shell.
    - Mr. Deelo stated there are four ways the Borough maintains contact with Shell:
      * Monthly conference call with elected officials of municipalities adjacent to Potter Township. This includes Beaver
      * Shell initiated a Community Connections Committee for advice on community matters. Mark Peluso was invited by Shell to be a member of this committee and he participates on a regular basis. Mark is an appointed official on the Beaver Borough Planning Commission.
      * Meetings between Beaver Borough and Shell management to discuss specific topics of interest to Beaver have occurred twice, August 2015 and February 2016. Future meetings of this type will take place as needed.
      * Individual citizens may contact Shell directly through their coordinator, Shannon Debes.
  + Mr. Kauffman stated he would like Shell to submit an article in the newspaper and have more frequent town meetings.
  + Regarding the two motions on the agenda
    - Is the motion regarding “Outside Employment for Police” related to part-time and full-time police
      * Mr. Deelo stated this is only for full-time police officers
    - Regarding “Full time Borough Manager”, he supports Chief Medgar’s efforts to date and hopes council would to the same. He would like to see an approval vote of 9-0.
* Brian Fife, 260 Wayne Street – Questioned the outcome of the residents’ request of Permit Parking on Wayne Street which was made in January 2016. How can businesses take precedence over home owners? They would appreciate the same courtesy as the residents around the courthouse.
  + Mr. Deelo suggested he attend the next Highway Committee meeting to discuss.

**Reports – Commissions**

**Council of Governments (COG) –** Reported by Mr. Deceder

* January 28, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* Mr. Deelo stated the borough received a letter along with the annual dues invoice which explains what COG offers to their members. There are 2 or 3 services that should be considered.
* Chief Madgar stated Jim Degori, when available, will attend the monthly COG meetings along with Mr. Deceder since he will be applying for grant funding.

**Business District Authority –**

February 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

**Civil Service Commission –** No report

**Zoning Hearing Board –** No report

**Planning Commission –**

January 2016 meeting was cancelled

**Tree Commission –**

* January 25, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* Mr. McDermott questioned who will be in charge of watering the new trees
  + Chief Madgar stated we will be ordering Rain Towers which will be on a schedule of once a week for proper follow-up.

**Code Enforcement Officer Report –** Reported by Mr. Sprecker

* February 2016 report enclosed in council packet
* 540 Turnpike Street home has been vacated and is now being cleaned out. Someone is now looking into purchasing the home.
  + Mr. Deelo thanked the Code Enforcement Officers for making the intervention to salvage the home.
* College Avenue – there is a home that has a chicken coop which is only decorative. There are no live chickens living in the coop.
* Mr. Snowden questioned the 2 dead trees on 335 East End Avenue
  + Mr. Sprecker stated the home owner was served a violation and has 45 days to comply. If the homeowner does not comply, the borough will have the tree removed and place a lien on the property.

**Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) –** Reported by Mr. Rice

* February 25, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* HARB usually only meets when a demolition application is in question. Will start meeting on a monthly basis.
* Received a grant from Shell Appalachia which will provide funding for a new preservation plan for Beaver’s historical district. This will include historic residential as well as commercial properties within the borough.

**Council Committee Reports**

**Public Safety –** Reported by Mr. Snowden

* Reviewed the February 24, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* Read a letter from Roberta Good thanking council, Chief Madgar and Jeff Lloyd for their assistance in getting three trees planted along with plaques.

**Finance –** Reported by Mr. Perini

* Reviewed the February 17, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* Attended the yearly Beaver County Taxation meeting
  + Spoke to a representative of Berkheimer – they rely on us to give them the tax information. They do not enforce compliance.

**Highway –** Reported by Mr. McDermott

* Reviewed the February 25, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* 2016 Micro Paving Project – Bids will be opened on March 10, 2016
* 2016 Regular Paving Project (Wilson Avenue and Galey Boulevard) – Bids will be go out this week and will be opened April 14, 2016

**General Government –** Reported by Mr. Andres

* Reviewed the February 23, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* Will have a public meeting regarding the Animal Ordinance after the ordinance is presented to council, as a service to the citizens. A recommendation should be presented to Council at the April council meeting.

**Code Enforcement –** Reported by Mr. Sebastian

* February 22, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
* Mr. Copeland – Rental Registration meeting will be held Friday, March 11, 2016 at 9:00AM with the major landlords in town to discuss the draft of the Rental Registration Agreement and the boroughs expectations with the landlords.
  + Mr. Deelo stated there are two different programs:
    - Develop a database from the 1977 ordinance - listing of the rental properties along with the lessor, lessee and manager responsible for each property. This program is in progress.
    - License & Inspection Program. Council has to consider the ordinance and vote on it.
  + Mr. Copeland is currently working on the database. Should be able to use Muni-Link software.

**Recreation –** Reported by Mr. Embaugh

Reviewed the March 1, 2016 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

**Water & Sewer –** Reported by Mr. Sims

* February 17, 2016 meeting minutes and Water & Sewer Open Issues 2016 report enclosed in council packet. More have occurred in the last six months than in the last ten years.
* Mr. Deceder asked if the borough is moving ahead with implementing the Authority.
  + Mr. Sims stated he will be contacting John Rackley to discuss and hopes to bring a motion to council at the May council meeting.
  + Mr. Deelo stated the Authority is independent from council. The Authority was activated in 1957 then deactivated in 2003 and is now managed and operated as part of the Borough. The Charter expired in 2007 and was renewed. Compliance with regulations is becoming more complex, And, that requires an active Authority for hands-on management.

**Reports**

**Manager’s Report –** Reported by Chief Madgar

* Reviewed the February 2016 report enclosed in council packet
* 199 Commerce Street – An arborist identified a dead tree on the property. Property owner stated he approached the Tree Commission last year and was told he could not cut the tree down but needed to have it pruned. Chief Madgar recommends the borough pays to have the tree removed since it was dead.
  + ***Motion by Mr. Snowden to have the tree removed at the boroughs expense at 199 Commerce Street. Seconded by Mr. Sebastian. Voice vote passed unanimously.***
* Per Dan Martone - The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) highly recommended moving the dump site since it is on wet lands and pesticides from the debris of yard waste.
  + New site could be by the railroad tracks. If moved here, a chipper would need to be purchased in order to keep the area cleared.
  + Cost of a used chipper is approximately $20,000.

**Director of Operations Report –** Reported by Mr. Copeland

Reviewed the March 8, 2016 report enclosed in council packet

**President’s Report –** Reported by Mr. Deelo

* Update on Shell Appalachia Project:
  + Discussion with the Emergency Coordinator to develop an evacuation plan
  + Rail yard – should be completed later this year along with the re-vegetation
  + Rail yard – 200 to 300 railcars a day. Very little truck traffic.
  + Noise and light from the rail yard – Plans have not been detailed yet. Beaver Borough asks to be included on the decisions.
  + Plan to stay engaged with Shell on a regular basis. Have requested more frequent updates.
* Read the Certificate of Recognition to the Bridgewater and Beaver Police Departments on February 12, 2016.
* Read the thank you letter from John Linton dated January 26, 2016 regarding the professionalism of the Beaver Police Department.

**Mayor Hamilton –** No report

**Police Chief Madgar –** No report

**Fire Department –** Reported by Mr. Perini

Reviewed the February 2016 report enclosed in council packet

**Emergency Management Coordinator –** No report

**Borough Engineer and Water/Sewer Engineer -**

February 2016 monthly reports enclosed in council packet

**Solicitor Petrush –**

Worked on the following:

* Real-estate purchase – closed on 274 Wayne Street
* Animal Control Ordinance
* Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Police Pension Plan
* New lawsuit – From February 2014, someone fell on the ice exiting the Beaver Library
* Ticketing Ordinance
* Reviewed the draft document by the Planning Commission – Comprehensive Plan Review
  + Has to be reviewed by the County Planning Commission then the local school district and local communities.
  + Mr. Deelo referred the review to the General Government Committee and to then report back to council.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Motion – Outside Employment for Police**

***Motion by Mr. Snowden that solicitor John Petrush be directed to prepare and advertise an ordinance rescinding the restriction on outside employment for police employed by the Borough of Beaver. Seconded by Mr. McDermott. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

**Motion – Full time Borough Manager**

***Motion by Mr. Snowden that Dan Madgar be appointed Borough Manager for the year 2016 at the rate of $2,500 per month retroactive to January 1. Payment will be made on a quarterly basis in the first pay following the end of the calendar quarter. Borough Manager is an “at will” position with duties and responsibilities described in an existing ordinance. Payment to Mr. Madgar for Borough Manager is in addition to his regular salary for Police Chief and the two jobs shall be treated as separate positions. Seconded by Mr. Deceder.***

* Mr. Embaugh – Concerns from numerous residents in his ward regarding combining the two positions since there will be negotiations for the labor contract and the need to hire a financial employee.
* Mr. Anders – Heard concerns that the borough deserves a full time manager. However, we have a unique situation and has done a good job so far.
* Mr. Snowden – He has not heard any concerns. The entire work force for the borough is finally working as a cohesive unit.

***Roll call vote: Mr. Embaugh – No, Mr. Sims – Yes, Mr. Sebastian – Yes, Mr. McDermott – Yes, Mr. Deelo – Yes, Mr. Snowden – Yes, Mr. Andres – Yes, Mr. Deceder – Yes, Mr. Perini – Yes. Motion passed on the indicated roll call vote; 8-1.***

***Motion to adjourn by Mr. Andres, Seconded by Mr. Sims. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

Adjourned at 9:00PM

Submitted by Debbie Hindman