

Borough of Beaver, PA
Council Meeting
April 14, 2015
Minutes

- A regular scheduled meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and called to order on April 14, 2015 at 7:00PM by President Michael Deelo.
- Mr. Andres requested a moment of silence for Mrs. Betty Hamilton
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Lauson Cashdollar, Dan Deceder, Michael Deelo, Ron Embaugh, Walter McDermott (via phone conference), James Perini, Pat Sims, Jarrod Thomas. Borough officials in attendance: Borough Manager – Adam Rathbun, Director of Operations – Chuck Copeland, Mayor Tom Hamilton, Chief Dan Madgar and Solicitor - John Petrush(7:00 – 8:50PM)
- Visitors in attendance (signed in): Midge Sefton, Charles Casbourne, Bart Farzati, Shawn Kissick, Rick Sprecker, Cheryl Hansen, Marilyn Vogel, Dan Martone

Approval of minutes

Motion by Mr. Thomas to accept the March 10, 2015 Council Meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr.Andres. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- March 2015 end of month reports and balances reviewed. Reports will be filed for annual audit.

Review invoice and authorization to pay bills

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

Public Participation – Shawn Kissick, 455 Third Street – Requests permission to plant a community organic garden at Roosevelt Park on 5th Street, with the help of Penn State Master Gardeners. The garden will be 30 x 30 consisting of bales of hay. Everything will be composted at the end of the season. A small fence will surround the garden. Nothing will be sold from the garden.

- Mr. Copeland stated he spoke with surrounding neighbors, no one had any objections. The borough will not take any responsibility for any loss or damages. The volunteers will be responsible for monitoring and patrolling the area.
- Mr. Cashdollar stated the garden could not be placed where it would interfere with sled riding.
- Mr. Deelo stated the borough has safeguards and liability concerns to make sure everything is carried out properly. In all volunteer projects, the volunteers take responsibility.

- Chief Madgar stated even though this is a great idea, he is concerned with the possibility of a fire, etc. with the location of the garden. The woods are heavily traveled with kids walking to and from Brighton Township.
- ***Motion by Mr. Cashdollar that council approve the proposal of an organic garden at Roosevelt Park, subject to the administrative oversight and requirements of the Borough Manager. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

Reports – Commissions

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

Reviewed the March 26, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Business District Authority –

February 2015 and March 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Civil Service Commission – Reported by Midge Sefton

- 2015 Police/Fire Civil Service Procedures Training sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) will be conducted on May 6th and 7th.
- The email with sign up information will be forwarded to Debbie Hindman. Debbie is requested to forward to council, Chief Madgar and Mayor Hamilton.

Zoning Hearing Board –

Copy of the Legal Notice regarding the Zoning Hearing Board of April 15, 2015 enclosed in council packet. Request for variance to erect a free-standing sign at 394 College Avenue.

Planning Commission –

No meeting in March

Tree Commission –

February 23, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Code Enforcement Officer Report – Reported by Richard Sprecker

March 2015 report enclosed in council packet

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

February 26, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Council Committee Reports

Public Safety – Reported by Mr. Thomas

- March 23, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
- Chief Madgar – At the next Public Safety meeting, dates will be discussed regarding suspending ticketing during winter months. The decision will be brought to the next council meeting.
- Mr. Thomas stated enforcement of the dump permit issue will be discussed at the next Public Safety meeting. The decision will be brought to the next council meeting.

- Mr. Thomas stated part of the union contract states a safety program is to be established.
 - Mr. Rathbun stated he needs the union presidents input who is currently unavailable until early June.

Finance – Reported by Mr. Perini

Reviewed the March 18, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Highway – Reported by Mr. McDermott

- April 2, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
- Columbia Gas should be completed with installing new gas lines on the 5th Street Project by the end of May.
 - South Side – main lines; North Side – laterals
 - Paving bids will be advertised next week
- Mr. Andres asked when the public meeting will be held
 - Mr. Rathbun stated now that all dates have been set, a public meeting can now be scheduled.
- Bart Farzati, 300 4th Street – Wants to replace his sidewalks. Questioned if Columbia Gas will be replacing any other lines in the near future.
 - Mr. Cashdollar stated by the end of the year, the Highway Committee will have a paving plan for 2016 and 2017 completed. They will then discuss the matter with the Water & Sewer Committee and Columbia Gas. He suggests Mr. Copeland contact Columbia Gas to see if they are aware of any current plans that we may be unaware of.

General Government – Reported by Mr. Andres

- Reviewed the March 24, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet
- Weekend of April 25th is a 5K race, Arbor Day and Cleanup Day.

Code Enforcement – Reported by Mr. Cashdollar

Reviewed the March 23, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Recreation – Reported by Mr. Embaugh

Reviewed the April 7, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Water & Sewer – Reported by Mr. Sims

March 20, 2015 meeting minutes enclosed in council packet

Reports

Manager’s Report – Reported by Mr. Rathbun

Reviewed the March 11 - April 9, 2015 report enclosed in council packet

Director of Operations Report – Reported by Mr. Copeland

- Reviewed the April 14, 2015 report enclosed in council packet

- Mr. Cashdollar asked if the storm drain behind the Jefferson Trace Apartments on Market Street has been cleaned out.
 - Mr. Copeland and Mr. Rathbun stated a long term solution needs to be discussed with Mr. Martone.
- Mr. Thomas stated the sand at the volleyball courts is low and asked if picnic tables could be placed in the parks with playgrounds.
 - Mr. Copeland stated the sand at the volleyball courts was raked and evened out last year. He will check it to see if sand should be ordered. Also, some of the picnic tables need to be fixed, however, can be placed in the parks.
- Mr. Cashdollar questioned who owns Galey Boulevard Extension. The sharp bend is a problem area for cars pulling off for litter and drug paraphernalia.
 - Mr. Copeland stated Beaver Borough owns to where the asphalt begins.
 - Chief Madgar stated this is a known problem area and is being monitored. Four arrests have been made at that location in the last 30 days.

President's Report – Reported by Mr. Deelo

Copy of a letter from Vanport Township dated March 2, 2015 is enclosed in the council packet along with Mr. Deelo's response letter on behalf of council dated March 16, 2015.

Mayor Hamilton – No report

Police Chief Madgar –

- An article in the Beaver County Times regarding heroin statics - in the past 32 days, 14 arrests.
 - Encourage residents to report any suspicious activity.
 - Encourage residents to inform the police department if they are going away for an extended period of time.
 - Our School Resource Officer is extremely important to have in our school district.

Fire Department – Reported by Mr. Perini

March 2015 report enclosed in council packet

Emergency Management Coordinator –

March 2015 monthly report enclosed in council packet

Engineer –

March 2015 monthly report enclosed in council packet

Solicitor Petrush – No report

Executive Session –

Personnel matter – Performance review for Adam Rathbun, Chuck Copeland and Debbie Hindman

Entered Executive Session at 8:48PM - Performance reviews for Adam Rathbun, Chuck Copeland and Debbie Hindman. Motions are expected after Executive Session.

Executive Session ended – 9:50PM

Mr. Andes requested the minutes show that council is in violation of its own policy to limit Executive Sessions to 45 minutes when residents are waiting.

Old Business

Motion – Authorizing and directing the Borough Manager to write to the Department of Community and Economic Development requesting Peer to Peer assistance with Beaver’s efforts to improve its code enforcement practices and to establish a code enforcement office or department.

Motion by Mr. Cashdollar that the Borough Manager be and is authorized and directed to write to the Department of Community and Economic Development requesting Peer to Peer Program Assistance with our efforts to improve the Borough’s code enforcement program and to establish a formal code enforcement office or department. Seconded by Mr. Embaugh. Voice vote passed unanimously.

New Business

Motion – Authorizing and directing the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to work with the Borough Engineer to finalize any and all agreements and documents to procure the repaving of a portion of Corporation Street under arrangement whereby the Borough will pay 1/3 of that cost and Columbia Gas and its contractor will pay 2/3 of that cost, Beaver’s cost to fall in the range of close to \$10,500.

Motion by Mr. Cashdollar that the Borough Manager, Solicitor and Engineer be directed and authorized to finalize any and all agreements and/or documents necessary to obtain the rebuilding and repaving of sub-base and surface of the 900 block of Corporation Street under a 1/3, 1/3 and 1/3 cost sharing arrangement between Beaver Borough, Columbia Gas, and Columbia’s contractor with Beaver’s cost will be approximately \$10,500. Seconded by Mr. McDermott. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Motion – Beaver Area Heritage Foundation – Property Tax

Motion by Mr. Cashdollar that the Borough of Beaver exonerate the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation from Municipality Property Tax on the Beaver Station property located at 250 East End Avenue, tax parcel 14-001-1004-002. Seconded by Mr. Deceder.

- After discussion, the motion was withdrawn by Mr. Cashdollar and Mr. Deceder.

Motion – Exonerating the 2015 Borough of Beaver real property tax on Beaver County Tax Parcel No. 14-001-1004-002 currently owned by the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation

Motion by Mr. Cashdollar that the 2015 Beaver Borough real property tax on Beaver County Tax Parcel No. 14-001-1004-002 owned by the Beaver area Heritage Foundation be and is hereby exonerated and the Borough Secretary is directed to notify the tax collector of this limited exoneration. I move further that the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation be requested to seek to have the assessment on this property changed to tax exempt if this property, its ownership, and its use

permits that change (as contemplated by the agreement of sale between the Borough and the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation.) Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Voice vote passed unanimously.

- Mr. McDermott abstained from vote as the President of the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation.

Motion – Transfer funds into appropriate investments

Motion by Mr. Perini that authorization is given for the Borough Manager to transfer \$250,000 from the Municipal Fund and \$250,000 from the General Fund into appropriate investments in accordance with state regulations. Seconded by Mr. Sims. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Motion – 401A Defined Contribution Retirement Plan

Motion by Mr. Perini that the solicitor be directed to prepare and advertise an ordinance activating a 401A defined contribution retirement plan for Beaver Borough employees. The program will be administered by ICMA-RC. Seconded by Mr. Sims. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Cashdollar that council grant a 4% pay increase to the Borough Manager effective April 16, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Perini. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Cashdollar that council grant a 3% raise to the Director of Operations effective April 16, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Perini. Voice vote passed 8-1, Mr. Embaugh – No.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:17PM to enter into Executive Session regarding the purchase, sale or lease of real estate. No motions will be taken after Executive Session.

Executive Session ended – 11:30PM

Submitted by Debbie Hindman