

Borough of Beaver, PA
Work Session Meeting
April 28, 2020
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19 Stay at Home Statewide Order. Meeting was called to order on April 28, 2020 at 7:00PM by President, Sean Snowden.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Frank Bovalino, Michael Deelo, Chris King, Margaret McKean, Jim Perini (7:00-7:12PM and 7:47PM till adjournment), Adam Rathbun, Alex Sebastian, Sean Snowden. Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Tom Hamilton, Chief Dan Madgar, Borough Engineer Dan Martone, Borough Solicitor Garen Fedeles and Borough Secretary Debbie Hindman.

Public Participation –

- No questions or comments were received via email or phone

Reports

President's Report –

- The Beaver Pool Facility-Site Observation Conditions Report dated April 2020 will be posted to our Borough website.
- Mr. Martone discussed multiple issues with pool.
 - Three phases going forward with the pool:
 - Inspection and inform residents
 - Feasibility Study
 - Funding
- Ms. McKean suggested the Planning Commission assist with compiling information and making decisions regarding the pool. Encouraged public engagement.
- Discussed necessary ADA compliant adjustments.
- Mr. Andres has a copy of the bid from 8-10 years ago for pool, will pass along copy for cost reference.
- Mr. Snowden asked Mr. Rathbun to be representative from council and continue contact with Mr. Martone during this process with the pool.
- Ms. McKean wants feasibility study to have a variety of different options and designs.
 - Mr. Rathbun - after feasibility study, multiple options will be given and sessions will be held with the public for input.
 - Mr. Madgar – council needs to initiate process to begin study and look at a variety of different options to then present to the public for input.
- Mr. Deelo suggested having a few members of the Planning Commission take part in discussions regarding the pool rather than giving the commission the entire project.
- Council gave permission for Mr. Martone to contact AJ Schwartz, EPD, approving the Feasibility Study. Mr. Martone will request multiple design options and a range of pricing.

- Mr. Snowden thanked Mr. Madgar for suggesting that Mr. Martone be present during inspection of the pool.
- Code Enforcement Department complaints
 - Complaint on social media wasn't entirely accurate, however the Borough Manager discussed the incident with the Code Officer.
 - Mr. Deelo spoke with resident regarding a different complaint.
 - Mr. Snowden and Mr. Deelo thanked Code Enforcement Officers for their work in the community and working with residents.
 - Ms. McKean suggested discussing protocol response on apps/social media for future complaints.
 - Mr. Snowden – wants the Borough to be cautious as to what they put on social media but the issue can be discussed at a later date.
- Signs in yards for construction being completed on homes.
 - A request was submitted to display construction signs one week prior to work, during, and one week after work is completed. Will be put on the agenda to discuss at a future Council Meeting.
 - Mr. Deelo suggested that the Borough does not take a position on the matter, and leave incidences up to the Code Enforcement Officers.

Manager's Report – Reported by Chief Madgar

- Ms. Hindman has been in consistent communication with our Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Linkimer and Fire Department. Around \$2,500 in materials have been spent on cleaning supplies and equipment required for COVID-19 safety. Borough has received 40 disposable masks and two sets of goggles from FEMA. All other equipment is the responsibility of the Borough. All costs will be recorded for reimbursement.
- A company from Pittsburgh disinfected and treated the Borough building and police cars free of charge.
 - Will go over treatment options and pricing for future use.
- Basketball courts
 - Backboards and posts will be installed before paint and seal is applied. Expected to be completed in the next 30 days.
- Received Liquid Fuels - \$145,000
- Finance report is looking good. Recycling Grant is in process, should receive reimbursement in 4-6 weeks.
- Borough Office remains closed from public but still business as usual – no complaints from public
- Ms. Hindman – Website is constantly being updated and kept up to date with information regarding events and COVID-19. Also keeping in consistent contact with Beaver County Chamber of Commerce and Beaver Chamber of Commerce. Beaver Chamber of Commerce has not stated any concerns with businesses possibly closing, they are being creative with curb pickup and on-line orders.
- Residents are being very supportive, Borough and Police Department have had many donations of gift cards, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Beaver County COG COVID-19 database - Mr. Andres will forward link to Ms. Hindman to add to website.
- Mr. Snowden approved the Engineer Report regarding the pool be added to the Borough website.

- Mr. Perini asked about water supply regarding the Bridgewater property, on Fair Avenue.
 - Mr. Snowden – water would be used through the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority, as they provide services to Bridgewater. However, we have been informed that the current sale of the property will not be going forward.

Mayor Hamilton

- Thanked Mr. Madgar, Ms. Hindman and all Borough employees for keeping the Borough running and following guidelines during this crisis.

Police Chief Madgar – No report

Fire Department – Reported by Mr. Perini

- Answering all calls, keeping minimum amount of people in building and wearing masks.

Emergency Management Coordinator – No report

Engineer

- Discussed Engineer Report included in packet

Solicitor

- Borough has ordinance that addresses construction signs and lists that signs cannot be lighted, size restrictions, and must be removed from the property within six months or whenever the building is first occupied.
- Mr. Fedeles will work with Mr. Martone to look at our current zoning ordinance to address smaller construction signs.
- PA Governor has issued guidelines as to where each county should be before reopening – new COVID-19 cases versus population. Currently, Beaver County does not fit guidelines to allow reopening. This is being discussed at a county and state level.
 - Government operations are considered essential businesses and it is up to each government to determine how they want to function and what guidelines they want to set at this time. Council should start to think about what guidelines they would like to set for the Borough building once reopened to the public.
 - Mr. Madgar will work with Mr. Fedeles to put together guidelines for the next council meeting.

Council Committee Reports

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – Reported by Mr. Sebastian

- A written complaint was received from a property owner on 2nd Street, Mr. Sebastian will discuss further with Mr. Martone.

Finance – Reported by Mr. Perini

- E-mail was sent out to council from Mr. Kennedy that summarized a conversation Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Perini had regarding impacts of unemployment rates on the budget.
- Most property taxes are being paid.

- Unemployment rates will affect income tax revenue.
- Expecting to see decline in revenue from business privilege taxes.
- Predicting a loss of approximately \$300,000 in revenue this quarter. Borough will need to discuss where cuts can be made within budget.
 - Police expenses discussed.
 - Other areas will be reviewed that may be able to cut funding.
- Mr. Snowden asked if summer help will be hired this year.
 - Mr. Madgar – yes, but with reduced hours.

Highway –

- Items discussed in Engineer’s Report
 - Columbia Gas project has started on 4th Street.
 - Paving is expected to start this fall.
 - Bid to be ready in approximately a month.
 - Possibility of Columbia Gas covering some of paving costs is still being discussed.
- Mr. Bovalino asked if council would be able to vote during a virtual meeting.
 - Mr. Fedeles stated that the PA Governor signed a bill that formalized electronic meetings as legitimate meetings. If next month’s meeting needs to be held virtually, a voting session will be allowed.
- Mr. Madgar would like Council to consider and discuss in the future being able to vote during Work Sessions during special circumstances.

General Government – No report

Recreation –

- Mr. Andres asked if a message could be posted on social media or a sign posted that reminds residents that dogs must be kept on a leash.
- Mr. Andres discussed different ways the Borough could pay tribute to Beaver Area High School graduates.
 - Mr. Madgar stated that something has already been planned by the High School Education Foundation.
- Mr. Snowden clarified that events in town such as Garrison Day, etc., are not being canceled or postponed by Council. Decisions are being made for each event by the event organizer.

Adjourned at 8:30PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips