

Borough of Beaver, PA  
Work Session Meeting  
May 26, 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 May 27, 2020 at 7:01PM by President, Sean Snowden.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Frank Bovalino, Michael Deelo, Margaret McKean, Jim Perini, Adam Rathbun, Alex Sebastian (7:06PM), Sean Snowden. Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Tom Hamilton, Chief Dan Madgar, Borough Secretary Debbie Hindman and Finance Manager Andy Kennedy. Absent: Chris King
- Public in attendance: Leslie Hare, Don Hare, Kristen Porter, and Christie Ringer

**Public Participation –**

- Leslie Hare, 1098 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Attending to listen to discussion on the pool.

**Reports**

**President’s Report –**

- Next Council Meeting to be held via Zoom and will still be a voting session.
- Beaver Borough will have restrictions to adhere in the future once Beaver County enters into the Green Phase. Council will look into those restrictions and practices once in Green Phase.
- Recognized the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing flyover on Memorial Day
- Some businesses in Beaver opened over the past weekend while adhering to the CDC restrictions, wearing face masks etc. No issues were reported.
- Would like Council to discuss details regarding the pool.
  - Considering expenses, should Council consider going into debt to renovate/rebuild the pool and Borough building – keeping in mind that interest rates are now low.
  - 10 years ago, it was suggested by inspectors to consider rebuilding the pool – Council at that time declined.
  - Pool was originally not scheduled to open due to COVID-19 but after recent inspection it is now beyond repair and was not recommended to open this 2020 summer due to its condition.
  - Mr. Madgar -
    - When he started managing the Borough, the pool was in debt approximately \$60,000 so they decided to let another organization manage the concession stand to cut costs.
    - Each season, the pool requires a minimum of \$10,000 for paint, plus repairs, plus fulltime labor to open the pool.
    - Repairs were made each year to keep the pool running as long as possible.

- The Borough looked into having a liner installed, estimated at \$300,000, but was not recommended as a solution due to the concrete structure.
  - Delay was due to considering all options to repair the pool to be able to reopen.
  - After a study and multiple inspections by an outside engineer and Borough Engineer, it was determined that the pool was not safe to reopen this year.
  - A study on the pool done by AJ Schwartz was given to council. Mr. Schwartz would like to have a meeting with Council via Zoom to answer any questions.
  - Months of planning and financing will be required to have a pool for the future.
- Mr. Snowden – The public wants to know that Council is working on some kind of plan in order to make this happen, some kind of commitment.
- Ms. McKean – Asked if opening the baby pool was a possibility, and if it would be worth it financially. Encouraged communication with state representatives to receive federal funding. Questioned if multiple design options/costs/estimates would be given to consider for pool.
  - Mr. Snowden – It will cost the Borough approximately \$30,000 to receive design options/estimates. Mr. Schwartz wants a commitment from the Borough that they are going to move forward with the project before starting design options and estimates.
  - Ms. McKean – Thought that approximately \$10,000 was allocated to get estimates with design features such as a splash pad, etc. Then the public could be engaged and let the Borough know what they wanted. Suggested a type of survey be sent out to the community to receive feedback.
  - Mr. Madgar – Does Council want to move forward with Stage 1, which would cost \$32,050. This includes:
    - AJ Schwartz holding a meeting with council to discuss estimates and designs.
    - Would show designs from surrounding communities, estimating costs of \$4 – 6 million.
    - Once Council reaches out to him, he will need a few weeks to prepare for the meeting.
    - The current baby pool is not in compliance due to the height and filtration system. It was recommended after inspection not to reopen.
      - Ms. McKean wanted to ensure opening the baby pool was not an option to provide to the residents.
- Mr. Bovalino – Consider that a variety of design options will cost the borough more money. Ultimately, the pool is too old to function or repair but is an asset to the community and all options could be considered.
- Mr. Sebastian – Agreed that the pool is an asset to not only the borough but the county. Many people from surrounding areas utilize the Beaver Pool. Although, it will not be easy to finance and is concerned about upcoming reassessment. How can the borough ask residents to take on an additional financial liability? Financing will be difficult.
- Mr. Andres – Suggests that the public is involved sooner rather than later to get input on financing. Surrounding communities have had to close their pools because it was too much to ask tax payers to fund entire project. Believes that the borough should go to state representatives and encouraged utilizing state and federal funding.

- Mr. Snowden – Reminded Council that residents outside of Beaver Borough pay more for pool passes and admission. Agrees to look at all types of government funding. Council has a responsibility to uphold what the community wants. Mr. Snowden does not want an empty pool to be left because Council is not able to come up with a solution. An empty pool would become a liability. A decision needs to be made either way regarding the property.
- Mr. Rathbun – Fully supports renovating the pool. His children go to the pool every summer and are disappointed they are not able to this year. Wants Council to keep in mind that sales in pool passes have gone up over the years – recognized Mr. Madgar, Borough and pool staff, and Christie Ringer for improvements. Funding is a concern but Council needs to do everything they can, will be a good investment. Agreed that the reassessment is a concern.
- Kirsten Porter – Currently a resident of Brighton Township. Believes that a public pool is necessary for children to learn social skills and stay out of trouble. Suggested that the Borough offer a bus to transport residents outside of Beaver to the pool to increase sales. Encouraged Council to take the next step forward to reopening a pool.
- Mr. Snowden – There is a high probability that there will not be a pool next year either.
- Ms. McKean – U.S. Department of Agriculture offers a 40-year loan program to communities with infrastructure projects, including pools, and this option should be considered.
- Mr. Deelo – Variables for Council ultimately to consider:
  - Do nothing with the pool – decide what to do without the pool.
  - Maintain/repair existing pool – engineers have said this is not possible/recommended.
  - Build a new pool
    - Review and consider financing options
    - Consider that Beaver may see an increase in property taxes after assessment
    - Consider all impacts this will have on residents
  - Council will need to move forward with a decision and be prepared to answer all questions.
- Leslie Hare – Was under the impression that there were no issues with the pool and was surprised when it did not open this year due to repairs needed. Questioned if the pool was inspected by a structural engineer and if the pool liner was the original solution to fix the pool.
  - Mr. Snowden – Yes, the pool liner was the original solution to fix the pool this year but unfortunately was not possible due to the overall condition of the concrete. The COVID-19 outbreak also played a roll in the pool not opening this year.
  - The Aquatic Facility Design group is highly trained and experts in dealing with these types of pools. They were highly qualified to make the recommendation on the quality of the pool.
  - Mr. Madgar – The Borough Engineer was also there to inspect the pool. Mr. Madgar also wanted to note that the pool was reported to lose hundreds of thousands of gallons of water due to cracks in the floor of the pool.
  - Mr. Rathbun – When the Borough hires firms to do studies, they are sure that they have the appropriate licensure and requirements to back up any claims. The Borough Engineer was present to ensure that all bases were covered. When a hired firm makes a recommendation, the Borough will go by those recommendations

because of the credentials they obtain. This firm was not in the business to sell the Borough a pool but to recommend what should be done with the pool and provide designs.

- Ms. McKean – Aquatics is a well-recognized firm in Pennsylvania and considered a top consultant for pools.
- Mr. Bovalino – The weight and stress the water in the pool was putting on the structure was dangerous. The Borough did not want to risk damage or safety.
  - Mr. Rathbun – The pool does not sit on solid ground and if it would cave in, there could be fatalities.
  - Mr. Sebastian – It has become dangerous to walk around below the pool due to condition of the concrete.
- Mr. Andres – Other pools and municipalities were asked for references and Aquatics was highly recommended with many positive reviews.
- Don Hare, 1098 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Questioned how long the concrete was in poor shape and as a previous lifeguard, if he was in unsafe working conditions. Also stated, that he believes that Council has not communicated with the residents regarding the quality of the pool.
  - Mr. Snowden – The poor quality of the concrete was brought to Council’s attention at the last inspection in March 2020.
  - Mr. Rathbun – Inspection of the entire pool was done each year to determine what repairs were needed and if the pool was safe and structurally sound. Repairs were made to the pool each year as needed to make it safe to open to the public. This year it was determined that the concrete was not structurally sound and Council did not want to take a chance on only patching the problem as a temporary fix. The fact that the pool was losing so much water, showed that it was deteriorating. This was ultimately why the Borough brought in another firm and engineer to inspect the pool. The Borough was not comfortable opening the pool after the professional recommendation was given this year. The Borough would not have opened the pool in previous years if they thought it was not safe.
- Mr. Madgar – Asked the pool engineers if there was any way that the pool could be patched or repaired to reopen this year. The answer was that they did not recommend patching the issue. If the Borough would go against the engineer’s recommendation and there was ultimately some kind of lawsuit, it would not be defensible by the Borough.
  - AJ Schwartz is willing to come to a Council Meeting to present different options and answer any questions. Mr. Madgar will reach out to see how soon Mr. Schwartz could have a meeting.
  - Mr. Bovalino – Have a presentation to the public regarding the pool.
    - Mr. Snowden – Different options will be considered.
    - Mr. Sebastian – Agrees to educate the public.

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

- June Council Meeting and Work Session will be scheduled to be held via Zoom unless anything changes.
- Discussions regarding the Car Cruise have been happening, no decisions will be made until word from the Governor.
- Rick Granati has donated his time and product to work on the Gazebo – Mr. Madgar thanked.

- Will work on getting AJ Schwartz to attend next meeting.
- Asked permission from Council to sell the following items from the pool:
  - Slide
  - Pumps
  - Handicap lift
  - Diving board
  - Heaters
    - Mr. Snowden – Agreed that these items will not be able to be reused and should be ok to sell.
    - Mr. Madgar – A motion will be ready for next meeting.

**Mayor Hamilton**

- Recognized a need for a new pool but agreed finding the funding will be a challenge.

**Police Chief Madgar**

- Police supplies are holding up, they have everything they need for PPE.
- Working with the Fire Department to get necessary supplies

**Fire Department –**

- Holding virtual meetings
- Trying to start trainings again in June
- Call volume is still down
- Fire Department 5K has been changed to a virtual race – typically a major fundraiser for the year

**Emergency Management Coordinator – No report**

**Engineer –**

- Environmental Planning and Design – Planning/Design/Engineering Approach Summary dated May 22, 2020 included in Council packet

**Solicitor – No report**

**Council Committee Reports**

**Public Safety/Code Enforcement – No report**

**Finance – Reported by Mr. Perini**

- Budget Considerations dated May 21, 2020 by Finance Manager included in Council packet
- Expecting a shortfall in funds, cuts on spending will be necessary.
- Funding a new pool will be difficult.
- Andy Kennedy – Does not recommend Council restructuring the budget because adjustments needed will relate to not spending money.
  - Borough will only be able to spend what the community absolutely needs. Conservative spending.

- Seriously consider minimal spending on road repairs this year.
- Will see impact of losses in EIT and BPT because people are not working. Starting to see impacts of this now.
- Mr. Snowden – Is the Borough able to see the rate of unemployment in Beaver?
  - Mr. Kennedy – Will need to base the percentage off of the state unemployment rate.
- Numbers included in report are worst-case-scenario.

#### **Highway –**

- Need to reduce spending, postpone projects where possible.
- Continue with Bank Street project.
- Mr. Madgar –
  - Dan Martone will see what projects Columbia Gas will split financially.
  - Sealing and striping of the basketball court should be done and open this week.

#### **General Government –**

- Mr. Andres - Strategic Plan was sent out to Council – asked Council to review.
  - Minor adjustments can be made at the next meeting. Motion will be made to approve at next meeting.
- Mr. Madgar – Teleconference with PNC Bank to eliminate required signatures on reoccurring bills. A summary of the reoccurring bills would be issued to Council for review.
  - Mr. Kennedy – Believes this is within the rights of Council to do this for reoccurring bills.
  - Borough Solicitor will be at the next Council Meeting to comment.
  - A motion will be made at the next Council Meeting to approve.

#### **Recreation –**

- Ms. McKean – asked who owned property between 5<sup>th</sup> Street, water lot and Brighton Township.
  - Mr. Sebastian - A combination of borough and private ownership of the property.
  - Mayor Hamilton – Borough property does not go to the top of the hill.
  - Ms. McKean – A lot of storm water is coming through this area causing environmental degradation.
  - Mr. Snowden – will request Dan Martone to research and get back to Ms. McKean.

Adjourned at 8:37PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips