

Borough of Beaver, PA  
Work Session Meeting  
June 23, 2020  
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and was called to order on June 23, 2020 at 7:01PM by President, Sean Snowden.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Frank Bovalino, Michael Deelo, Chris King, Margaret McKean, Jim Perini (7:03 PM via phone conference), Adam Rathbun, Alex Sebastian (7:16PM), Sean Snowden. Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Tom Hamilton, Chief Dan Madgar, and Borough Secretary Debbie Hindman.
- Public in attendance (signed in): Jim Woolley, Judy Bowser, Zach Bowser, and J. Philip Colavincenzo

**Public Participation –**

- J. Philip Colavincenzo, 404 Bank Street – Member of the Shade Tree Commission and is in favor of the exploration and development of the Water Lot. Would like to utilize the space and for Council to consider it an extension of the parks.
- Jim Woolley, 343 Park Street – Complimented Borough workers and first responders for their efforts after the recent storms in town.

**Reports**

**President's Report –**

- Council will continue to meet for public meetings in person, unless directed otherwise.
  - If a larger meeting space is needed to accommodate the public and practice social distancing, other local locations will be looked in to. If Council is unable to find a larger space, the meeting will be held virtually.
  - Council will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the state.

**Manager/Secretary Report – Reported by Chief Madgar**

- Brent Dawson and Nancy Roman walked the parks after the storms to inspect trees. Removed any limbs that were a safety hazard.
  - Mark Rohm will also look at the trees in the parks.
- Borough was contacted about home for sale on the corner of Wayne Street and Corporation Street. Property is attached to Borough property. The home is listed for approximately \$140,000. Mr. Madgar wanted to mention to council as other nearby properties have been purchased in the past.
- Mr. Martone wrote a letter to PennDOT requesting assistance on Market Street up to 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - A traffic count and traffic study will be done and will take approximately 60-90 days. After the study, PennDOT will respond in writing to Mr. Martone.

- The Highway Department is currently repairing and replacing sidewalks in the McIntosh Park due to safety hazards.
- Garrison Day and Book Festival have been cancelled.
- Borough will provide a misting station for residents at the pavilion. A test run was done with Christi Ringer and all went well.
  - Will run misting station from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and possibly 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. if all goes well and weather permits.
- The Borough Municipal Collective Bargaining Agreement expires December 31, 2020. They are considering percentage increases and extension of one-two years due to COVID-19.
- Information was sent out to the 900 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street notifying properties that the Municipal Authority will be pouring concrete causing a street closure from June 30 through July 2, 2020.
- Brighton Township notified Beaver Borough that there will be a road detour on Gypsy Glen Road the week of July 6 to repair an area with a road slide.
  - Mr. Snowden asked that side streets be marked for the detour as well.
- Would like Council to consider and approve allowing voting at Work Sessions. Work Sessions should be utilized to conduct business when necessary.
  - Mr. Deelo – This has been considered before but not passed even though it was recommended by the Solicitor at the time.
  - Ms. Hindman – Voting during a Work Session would be for emergency reasons, not as regular business.
  - Mr. Deelo – Council has experienced multiple times where voting during a Work Session would have been beneficial.
  - Mr. Bovalino – Does not want Council to be caught off guard with motions to vote on during Work Sessions, would like to be notified in advance.
  - Mr. Rathbun – The idea was not passed in previous years because it made the public aware that Council would only be voting once a month, so they would only need to come to one meeting a month instead of two.
  - Mr. Andres – Consider that the Borough Solicitor does not attend Work Sessions.
  - Mr. Madgar – If there were to be a vote during a Work Session, there would need to be a specific reason noted as to the reason (time sensitive, etc.)
- Borough is working with the Solicitor and Civil Service Committee. Civil Service Eligibility List is set to expire in August 2020. Due to COVID-19 Council has not had time to charge Civil Service. Civil Service would need to create a new eligibility list but current list would be valid until new list was created (approximately 6-7 months).
  - Motion will be made at the next Council Meeting, Solicitor will attend to go into further detail and answer any questions.
- Two requests for an inground pool on a vacant property next to the owner's home are going before the Zoning Hearing Board. Meeting will be held for both on July 13, 2020 in the Community Room at 7:00 PM.

### **Mayor Hamilton**

- Received a letter from Arbor Day Foundation President congratulating Beaver on being Tree City USA 2019. Beaver has won this award every year. Mayor Hamilton recognized and thanked the Shade Tree Commission for their efforts.

- Mayor Hamilton was invited to be on KDKA's radio to discuss how Beaver's businesses are recovering so well from the current pandemic and showcase the town.

**Police Chief** – No report

**Fire Department** – No report

**Emergency Management Coordinator** – No report

**Engineer** – No report

**Solicitor** – No report

### **Council Committee Reports**

**Public Safety/Code Enforcement** – Reported by Mr. Sebastian

- Will need to consider new-hires in the near future and discussions will need to continue over the next few council meetings.

**Finance** – No report

**Highway** – No report

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

- Vacancy Tax – consider implementing for properties on the market for long periods of time and for those holding on to vacant property for bigger investors.
  - Mr. Snowden – Should be discussed with Solicitor
  - Mayor Hamilton – Vacancy does not seem to be an issue in town but there are always one or two properties that would make this tax worth looking into.
  - Mr. Snowden – When a business is vacant, owners are still responsible for the upkeep.
  - Ms. McKean – Asked how many properties in town are vacant.
  - Mr. Deelo – Vacant properties are denying the Borough from tax revenue.
  - Mr. Rathbun – Property owners cannot be forced to develop a vacant property.
  - Ms. Hindman – Will reach out to the Solicitor to get more details.
- Mr. Andres – Would like to recognize those in the community who have gone above and beyond during this pandemic with some type of award from the Borough.
  - Mr. Snowden – Suggested an award named after Mayor Lynn, and continue to give out awarding service to the community each year. Details can be discussed.

**Recreation** –

- Pool
  - Mr. Snowden encouraged Council to make a decision to move forward with the pool soon.
  - Mr. Rathbun – Encourages Council to move forward with stage 2 of the pool, which will cost approximate \$45,000 and will include:

- Multiple design options
  - A meeting with the public for public input
  - Site Surveys
  - More precise prices for project
  - Options of how to fund the project
- Ms. King asked for dimensions of current pool.
  - Mr. Rathbun – Approximately 11,000 square feet.
- Ms. McKean suggested the Planning Commission develop and conduct public surveys since they have conducted community surveys in the past. The survey feedback would then be communicated and implemented into design options.
  - Mr. Rathbun – This company already has a process in place and a survey created so they are able to collect all of the information and data they need for conceptual design. Does not see a need for the Planning Commission to do the same process, that could also be time consuming.
  - Ms. McKean – Suggested the Planning Commission be part of the process so residents do not have any concerns and would not have a conflict of interest, as this company will be bidding on the project.
  - Mr. Bovalino – The Planning Commission is currently involved and this company is specific to doing these types of surveys and projects.
  - Mr. Snowden – There are not many businesses who create community pools. A motion should be made regarding Phase 2 at the next meeting.
- Mr. Andres – \$45,000 is a large gamble if they go through Phase 2 and they decide not to go through with rebuilding the pool.
  - Mr. Rathbun – By moving forward with Phase 2, Council is doing their due diligence and considering all options for the community.
  - Mr. Madgar – Council needs complete Phase 2 to make sure they are making a good decision whether to move forward with a new pool or not.
- Water Lot
  - Ms. McKean – Liability concerns were addressed by Solicitor, included in council packet. Contacted another company, Penn Trails, located in Carlisle, PA. This company has done a lot of work for other communities and has helped them get DCNR grants. To have a representative come look at the property from Penn Trails, would cost approximately \$800 - \$1,000.
    - Believes that the Historic Spring House is being damaged from overgrowth of plants. Council should highlight this historic structure.
  - Mr. Snowden – Suggested Ms. McKean reach out to Josh Kail.
  - Ms. McKean – Concerned about storm water coming down from Brighton Township and tried to get water tested.
  - Mr. Madgar – Homeowners input should be considered.
  - Mr. Rathbun – Asked what Ms. McKean was looking for when she tried to get it tested.
    - Ms. McKean – If anything was harmful to plants/vegetation.
  - Mr. Rathbun – Believes that Council should prioritize projects and focus on one project before starting another. If grants are awarded for multiple projects, the Borough cannot afford all of the money needed to be matched by grant.

- Mayor Hamilton – Concerned about liability but does believe that the property should be preserved.
- Mr. Sebastian – If anything, preserve the Spring House.
- Mr. Snowden – Draft together exactly what ideal trail would look like, what grant would be applied for and details, Borough responsibilities, and bring to a motion at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:03PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips