

Borough of Beaver, PA  
Work Session Meeting  
February 23, 2021  
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was remotely via Zoom due to COVID-19 Pennsylvania distancing guidelines. Meeting was called to order on February 23, 2021 at 7:00PM by Vice President, Alexander Andres.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Frank Bovalino, Chris King, Margaret McKean, Jim Perini, Adam Rathbun, and Alex Sebastian (7:03PM). Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Tom Hamilton, Chief Dan Madgar, Borough Secretary Debbie Hindman and Finance Manager Andy Kennedy. Absent: Michael Deelo and Sean Snowden.
- Public in attendance: Carole and Robert Snider, and Judy Conner.

**Public Participation** – None

## **Reports**

**President's Report** – Reported by Mr. Andres

- Read e-mail statement from Council President Sean Snowden: "I am sorry I cannot be there this evening. I want to quickly express my thoughts in regards to moving forward with the pool project. Having read some articles and having that information confirmed in a meeting with Zelienople representatives, I have come to the harsh realization that we do not have the financial resources to move forward with the pool project. Even if we were rewarded with a large DCNR grant, raise taxes 5 mils, float a bond, and accept money via donations, we would still fall short of the \$5 million dollars or more needed for the project. We cannot bankrupt our Borough for a facility that is used 3 months of the year. This unfortunate is our harsh reality."

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

- Resident of Third Street reached out with concerns of trucks speeding in town and discussed with Mr. Andres, as he was also contacted by the same resident. Mr. Madgar responded to the resident that current legislation does not allow local police to use radar for speed enforcement. To set up a speed zone, 100 feet of open space is required which is difficult with increased traffic.
- Discussed e-mail received from Beaver Area School District Superintendent, Dr. Rowe, that addressed their upcoming pool construction projects and potential partnerships with the Borough.
- Reviewed draft letter to be sent to Beaver Volunteer Fire Department that identified potential training locations.
- Referenced motion passed by Council on June 9, 2020 that authorized Borough Manager to sell items/equipment from pool house and would like to start moving forward.
  - Items could be useful for other communities and would not be utilized if a new pool is put in.
- Received an invoice from EPD for approximately \$20,000. This brings the total to approximately \$70,000 put into surveying, designs and presentations for a new pool and Shaw Park.

- Six responses have been received from the virtual pool/Shaw Park presentation. These responses/questions have been forwarded to the Pool Committee and responses are being issued as they come in.
  - Virtual presentation of the pool and Shaw Park will be advertised in the upcoming Borough magazine.
- Police body cameras have been received. Working with Solicitor to draft policies of cameras. Representative will be scheduled to come to station to set up and install equipment.

**Mayor Hamilton** – No report

**Fire Department** – No report

**Emergency Management Coordinator** – No report

**Engineer** – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Working with Borough Engineer and Highway Department Supervisor to get a recycling/dump area up and running. Once weather cooperates, construction will begin and is estimated to take about four weeks to complete.

## **Council Committee Reports**

**Shaw Park/Pool** –

Discussed during Finance report.

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

**Finance** – Reported by Mr. Perini

- Mr. Madgar, Mr. Perini and Mr. Kennedy met to put together a spreadsheet to show expenses of putting in a new pool and long-term impact on budget (also considering reassessment). Spreadsheet was distributed to Council Members.
  - Spreadsheet was discussed.
    - Mr. Kennedy – Borough must find another revenue resource(s) and invest in a capital project to do so. Suggested looking at other communities for examples because current revenue sources are not keeping pace with expenses.
    - Mr. Sebastian – Does not believe that the pavilion would bring in enough revenue to support putting in a new pool. Construction of new pool should be put aside until a better way to fund the project is certain.
    - Mr. Bovalino – The pool is an asset to the community. The Borough should reach out to surrounding communities for assistance.
    - Mr. Madgar – It will cost the Borough more money to look into more pool designs, asked if Council wanted to put more money into the process.
      - Virtual pool/Shaw Park presentation will be advertised in the upcoming magazine and will continue to be advertised on social media.

- Suggested that Council not move forward with the pool/Shaw Park project right now until more funding is available, until the Borough is in a better place financially. As of now, the maximum tax increase would not fund a bond payment and leaves the Borough with no money for emergencies.
- Mr. Bovalino – Suggested that resources such as windmills be put in to produce energy and DCNR grants be looked into to fund the project. A 501C can be developed to accept donations if needed.
- Ms. McKean – Encouraged the development of a Recreation Committee to increase public participation, and create funding ideas and revenue streams.
- Mr. Bovalino – Approximately \$70,000 has been put into the potential construction of the pool/Shaw Park. This was needed to make a good decision.
- Mayor Hamilton – Suggests that Council not put any more money into this project until finances are more stable.
- Mr. Rathbun – Council needs to take a step back and look at the Borough’s finances as a whole and consider other important projects that need completed (Borough building construction and street paving). Give time to build up funds for a large project for the pool/Shaw Park.
- Ms. King – Asked if the Borough would be able to take any donations for the pool or a splash pad.
  - Mr. Andres – The Borough is not at the point to take any donations as there is no current plan in place to utilize the money.
- Mr. Andres – Suggested that the presentation continue to be advertised in the upcoming magazine to continue to receive resident feedback. Would like to see this project move forward but until resources/funding are in place Council should take a step back and focus on Borough finances.

**Highway – Reported by Mr. Bovalino**

- Borough Engineer is continuing to reach out to PennDot regarding Third Street’s deteriorating conditions going toward Vanport (in front of Wendy’s).
- Pot holes to be fixed in town, specifically on Fourth Street between Beaver Street and College Avenue.

**General Government – No report**

**Recreation –**

- Ms. McKean - will send proposal to Council from Markovsky Engineering regarding the potential repairs and restoration of the water lot.
  - The Beaver Area Heritage Foundation has agreed to support a grant request to cover the costs of the project.
  - Will be asking for Council approval and if labor and equipment could be provided from the Borough (directed by Markovsky group and Borough Engineer Dan Martone).
    - Mr. Madgar – Asked to work with Mr. Martone to discuss Borough involvement. Borough will be able to help with labor and equipment as long as it’s within reason.

- Ms. McKean - would like project to be added to agenda for March's Council Meeting and a motion voted on so approval is given to Heritage Foundation to move forward.
- Reviewed letter from Beaver Borough Planning Commission requesting that the Borough develop an ordinance allowing short term rentals.
  - Ms. McKean – Thought that Environmental Planning and Design (EPD) was putting together an ordinance that addressed short term rentals for the Borough.
    - Mr. Perini – Understanding is that this is the work that was done by EPD and they have consulted the Planning Commission.
  - Mr. Andres – Asked if anyone from Council had an issue with the Planning Commission moving forward.
    - Mr. Perini – It was discussed in prior years that a family was required to live/stay in a R1 dwelling. This prevented room rentals to those who were not family or related.
    - Mr. Bovalino – This could go against the current zoning.
    - Mr. Sebastian – One of the purposes of developing the Rental Registration program was to prevent this.
    - Mr. Andres – This is to be utilized for options such as Air BNB, where visitors would stay for a few days/weeks, not months.
    - Mayor Hamilton – Air BNB is not to be rented for months at a time, more short term.
    - Mr. Sebastian – This could create a loop-hole to the Rental Registration program.
    - Mr. Madgar – Suggested that a representative from the Planning Commission attend the next Work Session so these questions can be answered and clarified.
    - Mayor Hamilton – Suggested that the Solicitor's opinion also be considered.

Adjourned at 8:22PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips