

Borough of Beaver, PA
Work Session Meeting
June 28, 2022
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and called to order on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 7:01PM by Council President, Alexander Andres.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Margaret McKean, Jim Perini, Sean Snowden, and Amy Stettler. Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Tom Hamilton, Borough Manager and Chief of Police Dan Madgar, Rebecca Phillips, and Debbie Hindman. Absent: Whitney Learn-Conjeski and Alex Sebastian.
- Public in attendance (signed in): Chuck Bates, Cole Zurik, Midge Sefton, Nicholas Vercilla, Rick Sprecker, Jim Woolley, and Robert Snider.
- Moment of silence held for retired Beaver Borough Police Officer Jim Rose.
- Mr. Andres announced a motion was on the agenda due to a time restraint.

Public Participation

- Chuck Bates, Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department –
 - Attending on behalf of the Beaver County Firefighters Association.
 - Asked for Council’s support to relocate the Beaver County Firefighters Memorial from Rochester riverfront park to the Beaver County Courthouse property. This memorial represents firefighters who lost their lives on the line of duty in Beaver County. Other locations have been considered such as the Rochester round-about and the 911 Center located in Ambridge but believes that the memorial would be best in front of the Courthouse, adjacent of the County Police Memorial.
 - Mr. Bates assured Council that the monument would be moved and maintained by the Fire Fighters Association.
 - Mayor Hamilton – Suggested the Association make a formal request to the County Commissioners and look into who owns the property of the proposed location.
 - Mr. Madgar – Suggested that the Association also seek support from the Chiefs Association and FOP.

Council Committee Reports

Shaw Park/Pool – Reported by Mr. Andres

- Fundraising discussions continue. Plans include to start private fundraising first and then go to the public once \$1 million is raised.

Public Safety / Code Enforcement – No report

Finance – No report

Highways – Reported by Mr. Deelo

- Requested that recommendation of roads to pave this year be provided by the Engineer before a motion is put on the agenda.
- Mr. Sprecker stated a meeting is scheduled with Columbia Gas and the Borough Engineer on Wednesday, June 29th to discuss their upcoming projects and meet their new contractors. Columbia Gas switching to a new contractor has created delays in their projects this year.
- Mr. Snowden asked for more information regarding the paint marks on College Avenue.
 - Mr. Hamilton – These markings are by Columbia Gas to identify the utilities for Pennsylvania One Calls. This is done with very strong paint.
 - Mr. Sprecker – The markings have been removed by power washing in the past, this can be discussed at the scheduled meeting tomorrow.

General Government – Reported by Mr. Snowden

- Brunner's Contract
 - Mr. Madgar – Brunner's notified the Borough that they were implementing raises to their recycling rates. The Borough currently pays \$1,136 per month for residential recycling pickup (one pickup per month). Brunner's stated they would raise this rate to \$1,500 per month. Brunner's also stated they would be willing to handle billing for each resident to pay for recycling pickup and would increase the pickup to every other Monday. Brunner's will charge residents an additional \$3.80 per month to do this. The motion on the agenda to terminate the current contract with Brunner's would make residents responsible for paying for their recycling. This motion was on the June Council Meeting agenda and was tabled for further discussion.
 - Mr. Perini – Reviewed discussions with Brunner's and breakdown of costs for residents. Brunner's will notify residents of this change via letter and the effective date.

Terminate contract with Joseph J. Brunner, Inc. for Recycling Pickup

Motion by Mr. Snowden, I move that Bever Borough Council terminate the agreement with Joseph J. Brunner, Inc., in which the Borough pays on behalf of residents, for residential recycling pick-up and hauling, effective July 1, 2022. Residents will now be billed directly by the hauler for recycling pick-up. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.

- Pool Bathhouse Schematic Design and Pavilion Priorities
 - Motion to approve Moshier Studios to create a schematic design of the bathhouse was tabled at the June Council Meeting.
 - Mr. Snowden clarified that any renovations to the bathhouse would not be meant to complete with the Train Station or have similar types of events. The renovation ideas are similar to the 2-Mile Run facility in Brighton Township and to provide something to our residents to utilize all year.
 - Discussed ideas of potentially approaching the Heritage Foundation to ask to partner on this project. The Heritage Foundation has a successful system to rent out and manage their current space of the Train Station. A private and public partnership may open opportunities for different types of grants.
 - Ms. Good stated she cannot speak on behalf of the Heritage Foundation but believes they would be open to considering the idea, as the Board does not want to see the

building torn down. Ms. Good recommended approaching the Heritage Foundation once a plan is put together and there is a clear vision for the project.

- Mr. Snowden stated that the Borough does have ARP funds of approximately \$200,000 and funds originally budgeted for grant match money to refurbish the water lot reservoir totaling \$15,000 could be put toward this project. The grant that was submitted to refurbish the reservoir was not awarded.
 - Ms. McKean – The funds budgeted for the reservoir are still needed to complete work by Michael Baker.
 - Mr. Snowden – Asked that the motion to approve these funds was revisited, as his memory is that the funds were to be used for a matching grant.
 - Mr. Madgar – A schematic design of the bathhouse is needed before any other aspect of the project can move forward, such as asking for partnerships or applying for grants. The bathhouse will sit empty until the draft of a design is approved.
 - Mayor Hamilton – Does not want to see the bathhouse demolished and believes that something needs to be done with the space.
- Process Alignment
 - Ms. Stettler stated that it would be beneficial to create a process on how ideas are surfaced and how ideas are moved forward. Council has multiple projects and ideas being discussed but no current plan on how or when to move forward with them. Would like to discuss a plan to put the Quay Square, pool bathhouse and pavilion on a realistic timeline.
 - Ms. McKean – Would like Council to consider converting the bathhouse into a new Borough building, selling the current Borough building, and renovating the pavilion into a rentable space. Would also like to look into more shared services with other municipalities, such as regionalized police. 30-year loans are available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Borough facilities that could be utilized.
 - Ms. Stettler – Believes that renovating the bathhouse into a rentable space, refreshing the pavilion and moving forward with Quay square within the current budget and available grant will create new revenue streams for the Borough and give residents more opportunities to engage in events in town. Does not believe that a Borough building next to a potential new pool and school district is the best location.
 - Mayor Hamilton – Believes that the deed for Shaw Park states that the park is to be used for recreational use only. More information would need to be researched by the Borough Solicitor to convert the bathhouse into a government building. Also, consultants at Town Center Associates recently had discussions with Borough officials regarding the benefits of having the Borough building in the heart of the town.
 - Mr. Perini – Estimates that the Borough building could be sold for \$1 million. The Borough building was closed for almost two years during the pandemic and believes this had no impact on the town and no residents come into the Borough building now.
 - Mr. Andres – If the bathhouse was renovated, public meetings could be held there and would comply with ADA accessibility. The current Community Room in the Borough building could then be used to add additional needed space. Does not believe that the Pool Committee would be in favor of moving the Borough building to that location.
 - Mr. Perini – The need to consider regionalizing our police force is a serious issue and should not be ignored.
 - Mr. Andres – Suggested this separate topic be discussed at another time as it is not something that Beaver Borough Council can control at this time.

- Mr. Deelo – Parameters and a budget for a preliminary design of the bathhouse need to be set before requesting the design from Moshier Studios.
 - Mr. Snowden – After past discussions with Mr. Martone, he believes that a reasonable budget would be approximately \$300,000 - \$500,000.
 - Ms. Good – Encouraged for more details such as a budget and parameters of this project be determined and presented to the Heritage Foundation when asking for a partnership.
 - Ms. Stettler – Suggested that design options ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000 be requested from Moshier Studios and a motion be put on the agenda at the July Council Meeting. This would then fall in line with the Heritage Foundation’s next meeting scheduled for August 15, 2022.
 - Mr. Andres – A plan will be discussed at the July Work Session regarding these projects for a presentation to the Heritage Foundation at their October meeting. The tabled motion to approve Moshier Studios for a schematic design will be on the July Council Meeting agenda.
 - Ms. Good – Asked if there should be general discussions with the Heritage Foundation Board members to let them know of Council’s idea of a partnership.
 - Mr. Snowden, Ms. Stettler, Mr. Andres, Mayor Hamilton, and Mr. Madgar voiced agreement of starting some discussion.
 - Mr. Madgar suggested that these discussions also include a potential partnership to complete Quay Square so that it can be completed by the end of the year.
 - Mr. Deelo – Asked if donations were going to be solicited for any of these projects.
 - Mr. Andres – Concerned about soliciting for donations for multiple projects within the Borough at the same time.
 - Mr. Snowden – Asked if Council agreed to fund the sidewalks to be installed in Quay Park.
 - Mr. Andres – There was not an agreement at the price that was quoted. Would like to stay within a consistent price of the other parks with replaced sidewalks.
 - Mr. Andres – These items will be discussed at the July Work Session.

Recreation – Reported by Ms. McKean

- Michael Baker is coming to look at the Waterlot project next month to see what work is able to be done for \$12,500.
 - Mr. Madgar – Asked if \$12,500 is for a written report or hands-on work.
 - Ms. McKean – Michael Baker to get back with more information next month, they have not been on site to look at the project yet. Would like them to look at the project before a proposal is given. \$12,500 will not just pay for a written report.

Reports

Manager/Secretary Report – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Upcoming events:
 - Concert in the Park will be held Sunday, July 3rd at the Gazebo
 - Carnival organized by Hometown Happenings to be held in Shaw Park July 6th – 9th
- Planning Commission will start in-person meetings again in July

- Reviewed meeting with Mark Peluso from Town Center Associates, would like to have a presentation to Council sometime in the fall.
- Borough Solicitor stated to be in compliance with the Sunshine Act, committee meetings must be advertised.
 - Suggested that committee meetings be scheduled one hour before Work Sessions and asked that Council notify Borough staff when they would like to start these meetings so they can be properly advertised.

Mayor Hamilton – No report

Police Chief Madgar – No report

Fire Department – No report

Emergency Management Coordinator – No report

Engineer – No report

President – Reported by Mr. Andres

- July Work Session to review upcoming projects and ideas
- Reviewed recent events in town.

Adjourned at 8:47 PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips