

Borough of Beaver, PA
Work Session Meeting
September 26, 2023
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and called to order on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00PM by Council President, Alexander Andres.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Sean Snowden, and Amy Stettler.
- Borough officials in attendance: Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, Debbie Hindman, Rebecca Phillips, and Municipal Authority Coordinator of Operations Scott Snyder.
- Absent: Mayor Thomas Hamilton, Jim Perini, and Alex Sebastian
- Public in attendance (signed in): Robert Snider and Todd Hindman

Public Participation – None

Municipal Authority Update – Reported by Mr. Snyder

- Reviewed current sewage and water operations.
- Explained ongoing projects and projects needed in the future, including the replacement of water meters in approximately 15 years.

Council Committee Reports

Shaw Park / Pool – Reported by Mr. Andres

- Fundraising is ongoing.
- Approximately \$500,000 worth of pledges have been made to fundraise for a pool.
- Members of the Pool Committee met with Borough Officials to review the old pool house renovations and the overall vision of Shaw Park.

Public Safety / Code Enforcement – Reported by Mr. Snowden

- Reviewed a recent article published in the Beaver County Times that mentioned Beaver Borough Police Department expenses.
 - Clarified that calculations within the article were inaccurate because annual revenue that the Police Department brings in was not taken into account. Mr. Snowden explained that the Police Department's expenses are offset by contracts and agreements with different entities such as Beaver Area School District, Western Beaver County School District, Shell, etc. These agreements that offset the Police's expenses were not incorporated into the article.

- A breakdown of Police Department expenses, revenue, per capita cost, and overall budget percentage were reviewed.
- Beaver Borough offered to meet or speak with the reporter from the Beaver County Times when the request was made for the Police Department expenses but the offer was not accepted.
- Mr. Deelo is satisfied that Beaver Borough Council is providing cost efficient public safety services to the residents. Public safety per capita costs and its percentage of the overall budget is considered each year when drafting the budget. Beaver's thriving business district and frequent events/entertainment are possible due to the efforts of Beaver's public safety.
- Mr. Snowden agreed and stated that the efforts of the Police Department have created a positive relationship with the School District.
- Mr. Snowden explained that the contracts with Vanport and Industry to provide police services are vital to Beaver Borough's budget.
- Mr. Andres commented that Public Safety is Council's top priority.

Finance – Reported by Ms. Stettler

- Reviewed the 2024 draft budget
 - Reviewed the potential need of increased tax revenue for 2024.
 - Discussed the need to update/replace the playground equipment.
 - Reviewed the potential need to acquire a loan to complete the pool house renovation.

Highways – No report

General Government –

- Ms. McKean asked if a letter will be drafted to the Beaver County Library System regarding the potential decision to prohibit the Beaver Area Memorial Library to charge late fees.
 - Mr. Andres will review.
 - Mr. Madgar suggested that a special tax be considered to contribute to the library.

Recreation – No report

Reports

Manager/Secretary Report – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Columbia Gas to finish sidewalks in town within the next few weeks.
- Continuing to work to schedule Road Paving Project No. 2. Due to delays in Columbia Gas's work, some paving of this project may need to be completed in 2024.
- Approximately \$250,000 of ARP funds have been put towards the renovations to the pool house. Additional funding will need to be explored to finish the renovation project after the ARP funds are exhausted.
- Continuing to work with Gateway Engineers to complete the design of the repaired stormwater drain located near River Road and Buffalo Streets. Finalized designs and ordered materials are expected within the next few weeks.
- Arborist Mark Rohm is finishing work along the Business District. Approximately 80 trees were treated.
- Proposed Townhome Development – Town Center Associates

- HARB submitted their preliminary review for the proposed townhome development.
- The Beaver Borough Planning Commission and Beaver County Planning Commission still need to submit their reviews before Council can move forward with any action. A vote at a Work Session may be needed depending on when their reviews are received.
- Trick or Treat will be held in Beaver Borough on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- The Beaver County Veteran’s Day Parade will be held in Beaver Borough on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.
- Reviewed most recent meeting with members of the Pool Committee to touch base on the overall vision of Shaw Park. Both the Borough and the Pool Committee are working together towards the renovations to Shaw Park.

Mayor Hamilton – No report

Police Chief Madgar –

- Mr. Snowden recognized and thanked Detective Degori for his guidance while submitting a grant for the Beaver Area School District.

Fire Department – No report

Emergency Management Coordinator –

- Detective Degori, Mr. Perini, and Fire Chief Meers attended a recent training regarding train derailments.

Engineer – No report

President – Reported by Mr. Andres

- Reviewed recent Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development event.
- Asked Council members to start thinking of projects to include on the 5-year plan and creative funding to support the projects.

Motions

Promotion of Michael Bitcko

Motion by Mr. Deelo, based on the recommendation of the Beaver Borough Municipal Authority and in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the promotion of Michael Bitcko to the level of Operator A effective August 9, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Snowden. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips