

Borough of Beaver, PA
Work Session Meeting
October 24, 2023
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and called to order on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 7:00PM by Council President, Alexander Andres.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Jim Perini, Alex Sebastian, Sean Snowden, and Amy Stettler.
- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Thomas Hamilton, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Sergeant Ken McCoy, Finance Manager Andy Kennedy, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, and Rebecca Phillips.
- Absent: None.
- Public in attendance (signed in): Midge Sefton, Jeff Hamilton, Todd Hindman, Ellen Kretchmar, Phil O'Shaughnessy, Jim Woolley, Pam Learn, Robert Snider, and Chuck Copeland.

Officer Robert Applegarth and Officer Tyler Ursida recognized and welcomed to the Beaver Borough Police Department.

Public Participation –

- Ellen Kretchmar, Ward 2
 - Believes that too much of the budget is allocated to police services and asked that Council take this into consideration when preparing for next year's budget.
 - Mr. Snowden – With the guidance of the Finance Manager, Council votes and approves a budget each year based off of not only expenses but revenue brought in to the Borough and how to best keep the community safe. There have been no other complaints from residents that too much of the budget is spent towards police services.
 - Asked what the overall budget of the renovations to the old pool house is.
 - Ms. Stettler – Initially, the project was quoted over \$3 million. The Borough is projecting to keep the project at approximately \$1 million. The approximate \$450,000 of ARP funds will be used towards the \$1 million budget.
 - Asked how Council knew that residents wanted the old pool house to be renovated.
 - Ms. Stettler – Council did not want the building to sit empty. The repurposing of the building would benefit the town as an asset and also as potential revenue. Feedback was received by conversations with different members of the community.
 - Mr. Andres – Members of Council were voted to serve in their positions by people who trusted them to make decisions on what is best for the town.
 - Mr. Snowden – Polls have been done in the past for large projects such as the pool and a very low percentage of residents participated in the survey.
 - Asked to set up a meeting with Mr. Sebastian and if there is a code of conduct policy for social media posts.

Council Committee Reports

Shaw Park / Pool –

- Ms. Stettler complimented the Shaw Park Project’s social media presence.

Public Safety / Code Enforcement –

- Ms. McKean asked that the phone located outside of the Borough building be looked at, as it is difficult to hear the person on the other end of the line.
- Ms. McKean addressed concerns of someone walking in the middle of the street who she believes has mental health issues.
 - Mr. Madgar – Concerns such as this should be directed to the 911 center.
 - Mr. McCoy – Residents will start to see more people from out of town with the new Homeless Shelter located in Vanport. The Police Department has seen an increase in these types of calls. Always call 911 when you see something suspicious.

Highways – Reported by Mr. Deelo

- Paving projects are still on hold until Columbia Gas completes their work. Paving will most likely take place in the Spring of 2024. Patch work and trench repairs will continue this year.

General Government – No report

Recreation –

- Ms. McKean asked if Friends of Beaver Parks would be contributing to the renovations to the pool house project.
 - Ms. Stettler – The amount to be donated towards the project is subject to how much the mini-stage at Quay Park costs. Friends of Beaver Parks did state they would earmark funds towards the pool house project.
 - Ms. McKean – No borough funds are to be used towards the mini-stage at Quay Square.
 - Mr. Madgar – No borough funds are being used towards the project. The project is being funded by Friends of Beaver Parks. The Borough workers will assist with some digging and miscellaneous work.
 - Ms. Stettler – The only plans for Quay Square are for the stage to be installed. There are no plans for the sidewalks at this point.

Reports

Manager/Secretary Report – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Trick or Treat will be held on Tuesday, October 31st from 6pm – 8pm
- 2023-2024 Road Salt pricing from COSTARS
 - \$81.26/ton
- Received closeout pricing for playground equipment. Equipment takes about 16 weeks to ship once ordered. New equipment is needed.
- Distributed an expense report for the pool house renovation project to Council.
- Can purchase iPad’s from the school district to reduce the use of paper to print Council packets and increase efficiency.

- Received letter from residents at 844 2nd Street in support of Town Center Associates proposed development at the corner of 2nd and Market Street.
- Leaf pickup continues overnight and during the day as time allows.
- The Municipal Authority has finished the painting project of the water tank

Mayor Hamilton –

- The Veteran’s Day Parade will be held in Beaver Borough on Saturday, November 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Police Chief Madgar – No report

Fire Department – Reported by Mr. Perini

- Pennsylvania allows tax incentives to Volunteer Fire Departments to encourage participation and help with recruitment. Five members of the Beaver Volunteer Fire Department are Beaver Borough residents. Mr. Perini encouraged the Fire Department to reach out to the Borough to work on creating some type of program.
- Mr. Madgar – Due to the increasing amount of ambulance response time, Council may need to consider having a full-time paid employee to respond to emergency calls similar to what Brighton Township recently started.

Emergency Management Coordinator – No report

Engineer – No report

President – Reported by Mr. Andres

- Rep. Josh Kail having an event at the Borough Building on Friday, October 27, 2023.
- Ms. McKean – Addressed concerns of a social media post by Mr. Andres.

Finance – Reported by Ms. Stettler

- Reviewed the 2024 draft budget

Motions

Playground Equipment Order

Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the attached quote from Jeffrey Associates dated October 12, 2023 totaling \$80,021.00 for playground equipment and installation at Bouquet Park. Seconded by Mr. Sebastian. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Deelo to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips