

Borough of Beaver, PA  
Council Meeting  
November 14, 2023  
Minutes

- A regular scheduled meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and was called to order on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM by Council President, Alexander Andres.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Jim Perini, Alex Sebastian, and Amy Stettler.
- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Tom Hamilton, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Solicitor Garen Fedeles, Sergeant Ken McCoy, Finance Manager Andy Kennedy, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, Debbie Hindman, and Rebecca Phillips.
- Absent: Sean Snowden.
- Visitors in attendance (signed in): Midge Sefton, William Kirby, Todd Hindman, Phil O'Shaughnessy, Mark Record, Ellen Kretchmar, Robert Snider, Tommy Wagner, and Pam Learn.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

***Motion by Ms. Good to accept the Public Hearing and Council Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023 and Work Session Minutes of October 24, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Stettler. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

#### **Treasurer's Report –**

- November 2023 Financial Report included in the Council Packet.

***Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Ms. Stettler. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

#### **Review invoices and authorization to pay bills**

***Motion by Ms. Good to authorize and pay submitted invoices for the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Sebastian. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

#### **Public Participation –**

- Ellen Kretchmar, Second Ward,
  - Addressed concerns that Vanport and Industry do not pay a fair share of police costs.
    - Ms. Stettler reviewed multiple variables such as population, community budget, and geography are all taken into consideration during contract negotiations with Vanport and Industry. Ms. Kretchmar's concerns have been noted and will be taken into consideration.
  - Requested that a monthly police report be published to residents that would include items such as how many arrests were made.
    - Mr. Andres stated that this could be discussed if the Mayor and Council felt that it was necessary to provide that information monthly.

- Asked if a petition could be provided to oppose a proposed ordinance to remove the residency requirement for the Borough Manager.
  - Solicitor Fedeles stated that the proposed ordinance has been advertised to be voted on at the December 12, 2023 meeting. The public is welcome to voice their opinions during this time or present a petition if desired.

## **Reports – Commissions / Authorities**

### **Council of Governments (COG) – Reported by Mr. Andres**

- Joining the Allegheny League of Municipalities and reviewed the benefits of becoming a member.

### **Civil Service Commission – Reported by Ms. Sefton**

- Two members will be reappointed at the Reorganization Meeting on January 2, 2024.

### **Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) – No report**

### **Planning Commission –**

- September 28, 2023 meeting minutes and October 23, 2023 draft meeting minutes included in the Council packet.

### **Tree Commission – No report**

### **Code Enforcement Officer Report –**

- October 2023 Code Enforcement Officer's report included in the Council packet.

### **Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) –**

- October 5, 2023 meeting minutes included in the Council packet.

### **Municipal Authority – Reported by Mr. Deelo**

- Meeting minutes from October 3, 2023 and October 18, 2023, and the Municipal Authority Engineer Report were included in the Council packet.
- Discussions with Bridgewater ongoing in regards to payment and meter functionality.
- The water tank painting has been completed and is now in use.
- The 2-million-gallon water tank is being evaluated on its condition and if its usage is necessary.
  - The flow available to handle any potential fires is being taken into consideration during this evaluation. Mr. Perini suggested reviewing this with Chief Meers.
- Reviewed chloride levels in water. The levels are not posing a health hazard. The Municipal Authority will meet with PaDEP in the coming weeks to review a solution.

### **Pool Committee – No report**

## **Council Committees**

### **Finance** – Reported by Ms. Stettler

- General discussion and review of the 2024 draft budget.
  - Reviewed the need of a tax increase and/or the need to transfer funds from the capital reserve fund.

### **General Government** – No report

### **Highways** – No report

### **Public Safety / Code Enforcement** –

- Ms. McKean reviewed information provided by the homeless shelter
  - Mr. McCoy – The efforts of the homeless shelter will continue to be supported but wants Council to be aware that there have been multiple incidents involving individuals traveling to or from the homeless shelter and asked that residents to call 911 if they see anything suspicious or concerning.
- Ms. McKean requested that information be shared regarding scam calls.

### **Recreation** – No report

## **Reports**

### **Manager/Secretary Report** – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Acknowledged Beaver Area School District for recent article commending their education innovation.
- Reviewed the Veteran’s Day Parade.
- Light Up Night will be held on Friday, November 24, 2023. The Parade will start at 5:00 p.m. and the fireworks will go off at 8:00 p.m.
- Small Business Saturday will be held Saturday, November 25, 2023.
- Leaf pick-up will continue during daylight hours.
- Reviewed draft ordinance regarding panhandling and loitering.
- Reviewed pool house renovations.
- Conditional Use Hearing will be held before next Work Session regarding proposed development at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Market Street.

### **Mayor Hamilton** –

- Congratulated re-elected and newly elected council members.

### **President’s Report** – Reported by Mr. Andres

- Reviewed email from residents requesting a consistent policy be put in place regarding sidewalk replacement.
- Addressed flyer that was distributed that encouraged residents to reach out to Mr. Andres regarding the budget. One email was received that was appreciative of Council’s current work being done for the town.

- Reviewed Library fundraiser.

#### **Police Department – No report**

#### **Fire Department –**

- October 2023 report provided in the Council packet.
- William Kirby, President of the Beaver Volunteer Fire Department, asked that Council consider a tax incentive program or increased contribution to the Fire Department. A draft tax incentive ordinance was presented to Council for their review and consideration.
  - Mr. Madgar suggested that Council consider an increased contribution so that all members of the fire department can benefit.
- Mr. Perini noted that recently 9 members of the fire department left. There are now 18 members of the fire department and are still able to answer fire calls.

#### **Emergency Management Coordinator – No report**

#### **Borough Engineer –**

- October 2023 Engineer's report included in the Council packet.

#### **Solicitor Report – No report**

### **Motions**

#### **Payment to Youngblood Paving for 2023 Road Paving Project No. 1**

*Motion by Mr. Deelo, based on the Borough Engineer's written recommendation, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the attached Youngblood Paving, Inc. invoice #2023-1483 with a payment of \$131,875.36. Seconded by Ms. McKean. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

#### **Purchase of Kubota Zero Turn Mower**

*Motion by Mr. Deelo, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the attached invoice from M&R Power Equipment Group to purchase a Kubota Zero Turn Mower dated November 9, 2023 in the amount of \$16,661.70. Seconded by Mr. Sebastian. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

#### **Amendment to Ordinance 855 "Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay District"**

*Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the attached ordinance amending Ordinance 855 "Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay District" regarding setbacks, porches, and lot overage and width. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

#### **Advertisement of Amendment to Ordinance 577 Regarding Resident Requirement for the Borough Manager**

*Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to advertise an amendment to Ordinance 577 to remove the residence requirement for the Borough Manager to be voted on at the December 12, 2023 Council Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

**Advertisement to Rescind Ordinance 628 “Soliciting or Canvassing” and Amend Ordinance 621 “Transient Retail Business”**

*Motion by Mr. Sebastian, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to advertise an ordinance to rescind Ordinance 628 regarding Soliciting or Canvassing and to amend Ordinance 621 regarding Transient Retail Businesses to be voted on at the December 12, 2023 Council meeting. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

**Advertisement of Amendment to Ordinance 669 Regarding Loitering**

*Motion by Mr. Sebastian, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to advertise an amendment to Ordinance 669 regarding loitering and panhandling to be voted on at the December 12, 2023 Council Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

**Advertisement of Conditional Use Hearing**

*Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to advertise a conditional use hearing for the proposed townhome development located at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Market Street within the Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay District. This conditional use hearing is to be scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

**2023 Donation to Beaver Area Memorial Library**

*Motion by Ms. Good, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the donation of \$27,500 to the Beaver Area Memorial Library. This item is approved in the 2023 budget. Seconded by Ms. Stettler. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

**2024 Donation to the Beaver Area Memorial Library**

*Motion by Ms. Good, I move that Beaver Borough Council increase the donation to the Beaver Area Memorial Library to \$28,500 and be reflected in the 2024 budget. Seconded by Ms. Stettler. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

**Request to Censure**

*Motion by Ms. McKean, I move that Beaver Borough Council censure Council President Alexander Andres for his recent derogatory comments about Kretchmar’s Bakery on his personal Facebook page. Such action is inconsistent with Council’s obligation to maintain an open public forum without fear of reprisal. Seconded by Mr. Perini. Roll call vote: Mr. Andres – Abstained, Mr. Deelo – No, Ms. Good – No, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – No, Ms. McKean – Yes, Mr. Perini – Yes, Mr. Sebastian – No, Ms. Stettler – No. Roll call vote failed 2-5.*

**Motion by Mr. Sebastian to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Stettler. Voice vote passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.**

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips