

Borough of Beaver, PA
Work Session Meeting
November 26, 2024
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and called to order on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 7:11PM by Council President, Sean Snowden.
- Mayor Hamilton administered the Oath of Office to Robert Bickerton
 - The Oath of Office and Affidavit of Residency were signed and submitted.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Robert Bickerton, Roberta Good, Todd Hindman, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Sean Snowden, and Amy Stettler.
- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Thomas Hamilton, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Sergeant Ken McCoy, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, and Debbie Hindman.
- Absent: Michael Deelo
- Public in attendance (signed in): Lorchid Peters, Sheryl Manganello, Emily Dingfelder, Michael Dingfelder, Shephanie Johnson, Josh Eckelberger, Sandie Egley, Rick Sprecker, Ron Stidmon, Rosemary Stidmon, Robert Snider, Tom Plevel, Katie Hummel, Ellen Kretchmar, Judy Conner
- An Executive Session was held from 6:30 PM until 7:08 PM prior to the scheduled meeting to review contract negotiations and personnel matters.

Presentation by Town Home Associates – Mark Peluso

- Reviewed vibrancy of the town and conditions of downtown businesses.
- Compared average home sale prices to other similar towns.
- Explained what has been done in Beaver to maintain a vibrant central business district long-term.

Public Participation –

- Ellen Kretchmar, Ward 2
 - Gave Council a copy of a New Brighton budget message. Ms. Kretchmar requested that something similar be provided from Beaver Borough and posted on social media.
- Sandie Egley, 1460 2nd Street
 - Asked what the Executive Session held was regarding.
 - Solicitor Fedeles - Contract negotiations and personnel matters.

Commissions/Authorities

Beaver County Regional Council of Governments (COG) –

- September 28, 2024 meeting minutes were included in the Council packet.

Civil Service Commission –

- October 7, 2024, November 4, 2024, and November 18, 2024 meeting minutes were included in the Council packet.

Zoning Hearing Board – Rick Sprecker

- There will be a Zoning hearing on December 19, 2024.

Planning Commission –

- August 19, 2024 meeting minutes and October 21, 2024 and November 18, 2024 draft meeting minutes were included in the Council packet.

Shade Tree Commission –

- October 28, 2024 meeting minutes and November, 2024 agenda were included in the Council packet.

Code Enforcement Officer –

- October-November 2024 Code Enforcement Officer's report were included in the Council packet.

Historical Architectural Review Board – No report

Municipal Authority –

- October 16, 2024 meeting minutes were included in the Council packet.
- Municipal Authority Engineer Mid-October through mid-November 2024 report were included in the Council packet.

Pool Committee – Reported by Mr. Andres

- November 4, 2024 meeting minutes included in the Council packet.
- Judy Conner, 956 5th Street – Asked if a milage increase will pay for the pool.
 - Mr. Andres – No funds in the Borough budget have been designated for a pool.

Council Committee Reports

Finance – Reported by Ms. Stettler

- Reviewed proposal #4 of the 2025 Draft Budget and a tax increase needed. A 2 mill increase was recommended.
 - Suggestions to reduce spending and generate spending submitted by Mr. Andres was included in the Council packet.

General Government – No report

Highways – No report

Public Safety / Code Enforcement – No report

Recreation –

- Ms. McKean noted she continues to work a preservation specialist to apply for a grant to preserve the reservoir at the water lot. The project is expected to cost between \$150,000-\$300,000 and would be paid for by the grant if awarded.

Reports

Manager/Secretary Report – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Nighttime parking enforcement will be suspended Saturday, December 16, 2024 through March 1, 2025.
- Leaf pickup will end Mid-December
- Possible conditional offer of full-time employment for a police officer at the December 10, 2024 council meeting.

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. Snowden

- Thanked everyone in attendance for attending the meeting and encouraged to attend more often.
 - Katie Hummel, 1140 3rd Street – Asked for more advertisement of information.
 - Mr. Snowden stated that all Council meeting agendas are posted to the Borough website.
 - Tom Plevel, 409 Buffalo Street – Asked if the Shade Tree Commission and the Historical Architectural Review Board cost the borough any money.
 - Mr. Snowden – No, the residents on those commissions/boards are volunteers.
 - Matthew Knight, 1106 2nd Street – Asked Council to consider a Consumer Tax to be implemented on those who spend money in Beaver but are not residents.
 - Mr. Snowden explained the Business Privilege Tax and Mercantile Tax currently in place. Mr. Snowden questioned if the suggestion made was legally possible and if it would be enforceable.
 - Judy Conner, 956 5th Street – Questioned how the police contracts with Vanport and Industry are calculated.
 - Chief Madgar – Based on call volume.
 - Sandie Egly, 1460 2nd Street – Questioned if she could have a copy of the proposed budget.
 - Mr. Snowden stated once approved, the draft budget it will be advertised and available for public review.
 - Ron Stidmon, 259 Taylor Avenue – Asked for more open meetings and to be transparent.
 - Vivian Mahli, 1199 7th Street – Stated speeding on Buffalo Street continues.

Motions

Advertisement of 2025 Budget

Motion by Ms. Stettler, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the Solicitor to advertise the draft 2025 General Fund Budget for adoption at the December 10, 2024 Council Meeting at a 2 mil increase. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Roll call vote: Mr. Andres – No, Mr. Bickerton – Yes, Ms. Good – Yes, Mr. Hindman – Yes, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – Yes, Ms. McKean – No, Mr. Snowden – Yes, Ms. Stettler – Yes. Motion passed: 6-2.

Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. McKean. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips