

Borough of Beaver, PA
Work Session Meeting
February 25, 2025
Minutes

- A regular scheduled work session meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room and called to order on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00PM by Council President, Sean Snowden.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Robert Bickerton, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Todd Hindman, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Sean Snowden, and Amy Stettler.
- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Tom 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: Alexander Andres.
- Public in attendance (signed in): Ron and Rosemary Stidmon, Ellen Kretchmar, Rebecca Beem, Robert Snider, Lincoln Kretchmar, and Jim Woolley.

Public Participation –

- Ellen Kretchmar, Ward 2
 - Quoted the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
 - Believes that the current Borough practices cause her to file Right to Know requests.
 - Witnessed a disorderly conduct incident on Third Street.
 - Believes that the Police Department should track how many non-medical emergencies are responded to, at what time of day, and what type of incident it is.
 - Believes that there are violations of the Ethics Act by Council members and plans to take action.
- Ron Stidmon, Taylor Avenue
 - Asked if Council had a response
 - Asked if the information could be provided
 - Mr. Snowden stated that the Borough Solicitor guides the Borough in regards to the Ethics Law.

Commissions/Authorities

Beaver County Regional Council of Governments (COG) – No report

Civil Service Commission – No report

Zoning Hearing Board – No report

Planning Commission –

- The November 18, 2024 meeting minutes were provided in the Council packet.

Shade Tree Commission – No report

Code Enforcement Officer –

- February 2025 Code Enforcement Officer report included in the Council packet.

Historical Architectural Review Board –

- January 16, 2025 HARB meeting minutes included in the Council packet.
- Ms. Good asked if any one had information on the vendor for the HARB/Heritage Foundation's Emblem program.

Municipal Authority – Reported by Mr. Deelo

- December 18, 2024, January 7, 2025, and February 4, 2025 meeting minutes included in the Council packet.
- Discussions continue with Bridgewater Municipal Authority regarding appropriate charges for treating the wastewater from Bridgewater.

Pool Committee – No report

Council Committee Reports

Finance – Reported by Ms. Stettler and Mr. Hindman

- Presented a draft summary report of the budget that lists notable budget expenses.
- Pool house revenue and rentals can be provided on a quarterly basis.
- A draft 5-year plan to be presented at the Work Session.

General Government – No report

Highways – Reported by Mr. Deelo

- Reviewed meeting with Columbia Gas. Currently, small projects are planned for 2025 and 2026.
- Mr. Madgar explained that the Borough benefitted from Columbia Gas work. Columbia Gas contributed to most of the paving that was completed. The Borough will not be able to complete as much paving without their projects and therefore their contributions. A list of roads is being created by the Engineer to prioritize paving.

Public Safety / Code Enforcement – No report

Recreation – Reported by Ms. Learn-Conjeski

- Beaver Library's Soup Fundraiser will be held on March 8, 2025.

Reports

Manager/Secretary Report – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- At the March Council Meeting, a motion will be presented to approve the quote for the upgrade of the Police camera server system. This quote is in the amount of \$19,400. This work is expected to begin in April or May. These funds are being reallocated from the Police vehicle line item.
- Reviewed life insurance option for the Fire Department members. The Borough can see a reduce in the cost of the policy by adding members of the Fire Department.
 - Ms. McKean asked if we can reach out to cooperating fire departments and have them be added to the policy, then there could be more savings with a broader number.
 - Mr. Madgar stated that due to workers compensation, etc., this would be best for COG to look into.
- Yard Waste Permits can now be renewed online.
- Reviewed Senior Scams event/speaker series with Detective Jim Degori and the District Attorney's office at the Pool House. Mr. Madgar thanked Pam Learn for coordinating.
- In April or May, carpet will be installed at the Pool House to help address the echo. The noise will be reassessed after the carpet is installed.
- To date in 2025, approximately \$20,000 has been spent on salt for the roads due to the harsh weather. Approximately \$6,000 has been spent in overtime due to plowing.
- Recent repair to a plow truck was approximately \$3,500.
- Office printer needed repaired costing approximately \$600.
- Heater repairs at the Fire Department costing approximately \$4,000.
- Reviewed continuous Right to Know request costs:
 - Estimated that the requests have costed the Borough approximately \$20,000 this year.
 - 1,669 pages have been provided to one requestor through Right to Know requests.
 - Ms. McKean suggested consulting with other Boroughs on how they have responded to right to know requests before consulting the Solicitor.
 - Mr. Madgar addressed concerns about the amount of employee time that is being spent on the requests.

Mayor Hamilton –

- Reviewed Senior Scam Speaker Series at the Pool House and the partnership with the Beaver Area School District to organize.
- Reviewed Beaver County's new DNA technology to process DNA faster. This will cut down on local communities that need this type of service for serious crimes.

Police Chief Madgar – No report

Engineer – No report

President –

- Mr. Snowden addressed the public and explained:
 - The Borough Solicitor is to serve the majority of Council. The Borough has been paying the Solicitor substantially over and above normal amounts as a direct result of right to know requests.
 - It appears that the same member of the public is targeting specific members of Council.

- The same individual of the public repeatedly brings up issues that have long since been resolved.
- To the extent that it is claimed there to be a violation of the Ethics Act, members of Council have and will continue to abstain from votes that have a direct financial impact on family members as required under the Ethics Act. This is guided by the Borough's Solicitor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips