

Borough of Beaver, PA
Council Meeting
March 10, 2026
Minutes

- A regular scheduled meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room of the Beaver Borough Municipal building and was called to order on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM by Council President, Roberta Good.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Bob Bickerton, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Tom Hamilton, Todd Hindman, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, and Phil O'Shaughnessy.
- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Lincoln Kretchmar, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Solicitor Garen Fedeles, Sergeant Ken McCoy, Assistant Borough Manager Rebecca Phillips, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, and Debbie Hindman.
- Absent: Jarrod Thomas.
- Visitors in attendance (signed in): Midge Sefton, Ellen Kretchmar, Pamala Learn, Randy Learn, Gary Gordon, Alli Quigley, Matt Quigley, Amy Shay, Christine Cilli, Rebecca Beem, Chuck Copeland, Elan Pavlinich, Jordan Colalella, and Robert Snider.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, to accept the February 10, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes and the February 24, 2026 Work Session Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Bickerton. Voice vote passed.

Treasurer's Report

- The January Treasurer's report was provided in the Council packet for review.
- Investment opportunities being explored.

Review invoices and authorization to pay bills

Motion by Mr. Hindman to authorize and pay submitted invoices for the Borough. Seconded by Mr. O'Shaughnessy. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Public Participation –

- Elan Pavlinich, 302 River Road
 - Expressed concern about data centers in the region.
 - Asked Council to adopt an ordinance against data centers and ensure developers report all emissions, energy, and water consumption.
- Ellen Kretchmar, Ward 2
 - Expressed concern about reducing meetings.
 - Asked how ideas will be generated without work sessions.

- Expressed concerns about streamlined agenda.
 - Ms. Good explained decision to have some months with one meeting, but committees and commissions can still bring issues to the table. Clarified there are still work sessions scheduled for the year, particularly around budget discussions in May, August, September, October, and November.
- Sergeant Ken McCoy, Beaver Police Union President
 - Requested clarification regarding potential regionalization of police services with Brighton Township.
 - Expressed concerns about conflicting messaging and the resulting of uncertainty within the Police Department and asked for clarification on the mayor's position and Council's intentions.
 - Mayor Kretchmar stated that while he was not initially interested in regionalization, he is willing to explore all financial options. He noted that upcoming retirements of the Beaver Borough Police Chief and Brighton Township Police Chief could present an opportunity to consider a merger. He is seeking to gather information for Council's consideration and keeping all options open, including regionalization.

General Council Comments

- Ms. McKean stated she will attend a meeting in April about model ordinances for data centers and addressed advertising concerns for the pool house.
 - Mr. Madgar stated the website page and social media for the Pool House Civic Center is being worked on and will be available soon.
- Ms. Learn-Conjeski reported that the Shaw Park Project Committee is requesting Borough financial support for a DCNR 50/50 matching grant application for a splash pad project. The proposed application totals \$320,000, with \$80,000 being request from the Borough and \$80,000 to be contributed by the Shaw Park Project Committee. The Committee is also requesting \$5,350 from the Borough to share the cost of \$10,700 for a required design of a splashpad for the grant. This grant is due by the end of April.
 - Mr. Hindman raised financial concerns regarding funding transparency and potential responsibility for any funding shortfall.

Amendment to Agenda

Motion by Mr. Hindman, I move that Beaver Borough Council amend the agenda to add a motion to consider regionalizing or merging the police department with another municipality. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed. Ms. McKean opposed.

Amendment to Agenda

Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council amend the agenda to add a motion regarding a DCNR grant application for a splash pad at Shaw Park. Seconded by Mr. O'Shaughnessy. Voice vote passed. Mr. Hindman opposed.

Reports

Manager/Secretary – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Reviewed motion to appoint Dave Meers to the Emergency Management Coordinator position.
- Preliminary list for this year's paving was provided to Council.
- The 2026 Liquid Fuels allotted amount is \$133,579.00.
- Nighttime parking enforcement has begun and tickets will start to be issued next Monday.
- Residential recycling bins are still available.
- America250 parade planning is ongoing with Beaver County.
- Detective Jim DeGori submitted a grant through Norfolk Southern for five defibrillators for approximately \$10,000. This is a no match grant.
- The playground equipment at Linn Park sold for \$2,000. New playground equipment is expected in April.

Mayor – Reported by Mr. Kretchmar

- Discussed general cost estimates related to police operations, including approximate annual expenses, per-officer costs, and police-generated revenue, as well as average calls for service.
- Requested legal opinion from the Borough Solicitor regarding the police chief's participation in the DROP program.
- Exploring public EV charging stations.

President –

- Ms. Learn-Conjeski addressed the Borough's current leadership structure, including the combined roles of Police Chief and Borough Manager. Ms. Learn-Conjeski stated that the structure has resulted in long-term cost savings and expressed support for maintaining the current arrangement. She also stated that any concerns regarding leadership should be addressed through appropriate evaluation processes and asked Council members to consider whether changes to the leadership structure or positions were warranted.

Police Department – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Requested to put on the record that Mayor Kretchmar has made prior comments indicating that the Police Chief would be leaving in January and expressing a desire for younger leadership within the police department.
 - Mayor Kretchmar stated that he did not make these comments.
- Expressed hope for adherence to the Solicitor's review of the DROP program so that Council and the Borough may move forward.

Borough Engineer –

- The Engineer's report for February 2026 was provided to Council.

Solicitor Report – Reported by Mr. Fedeles

- Will prepare a memo for the April meeting regarding the DROP program and whether the Police Chief is required to resign upon exiting the program.
- Gave update on efforts to get gas line and stated that Columbia Gas is seeking permission from CSX to put in the line.

Motions

Fire Department Life Insurance Coverage

Motion by Mr. Hindman, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the addition of active and retired members of the Beaver Volunteer Fire Department to the Borough's life insurance policy, with coverage in the amount of \$10,000 for active members and \$5,000 for retired members, with coverage to be effective March 1, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski.

Voice vote passed unanimously.

Purchase of Police Vehicle

Motion by Mr. Bickerton, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the purchase of a 2026 Ford police vehicle, VIN ending in 03236, in the amount of \$47,250.00, in accordance with the Laurel Ford invoice #2026-023, as budgeted in the 2026 budget and consistent with the established police vehicle rotation. Seconded by Mr. Hindman.

Voice vote passed unanimously.

Appointment of Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, I move that Beaver Borough Council accept the resignation of John Kowalski as Emergency Management Coordinator and appoint Dave Meers as Emergency Management Coordinator for Beaver Borough, effective immediately. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski.

Voice vote passed unanimously.

Purchase of Police Vehicle

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the purchase of a 2026 Ford police vehicle, VIN ending in 81659, in the amount of \$44,280.00, in accordance with the Laurel Ford Invoice #2026-015, as budgeted in the 2026 budget and consistent with the established police vehicle rotation. Seconded by Mr. Bickerton.

Voice vote passed unanimously.

Exploration of Potential Regionalization of Police Services

Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council explore at this time regionalization or merging the Borough's Police Department with other municipalities in the area. If this is approved, Council will authorize who on behalf of the Borough is tasked with this and to report back to Council on the findings if other communities are interested in discussing this matter further. Seconded by Ms. McKean.

Voice vote failed unanimously.

DCNR Grant Application and Matching Funds Commitment for Shaw Park Splash Pad

Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the construction of a splash pad at Shaw Park. As part of this application, Council designates and commits up to \$80,000 match by the Shaw Park Project Committee. In addition, the Borough will commit 50% of the design fee to submit with the grant application at a cost of \$5,350 to the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Bickerton.

Motion to amend by Ms. Learn-Conjeski to revise the motion to approve only committing 50% of the design fee to submit with the grant application at a cost of \$5,350 to the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Bickerton.

The amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

It was requested that a formal letter be sent to the Shaw Park Project Committee requesting clarification of any additional financial contributions they are able to commit toward the overall project beyond the previously stated \$80,000.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips