

Borough of Beaver, PA
Council Meeting
September 8, 2026
Minutes

- A regular scheduled meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held at the Pool House Civic Center and was called to order on Tuesday, September 8, 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, Phil O'Shaughnessy, and Jarrod Thomas.
- Borough officials in attendance: 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: Mayor Lincoln Kretchmar.
- Visitors in attendance (signed in): Suzanne Vogel-Scibilia, Amy Shay, Midge Sefton, Mary Anne Peluso, Sarah Ankrom, Jim Woolley, Bill Cutri, Kathy Dunn, Alyson Struwe, Gary and Janet Hess, Carolyn and Larry Renninger, Nancy Werme, Mike McClune, Allison Hartley, Sue Cutri, Ed DeMailo, Christine Cilli, and D. Wagner.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hindman, to accept the August 11, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- The August Treasurer's report was provided in the Council packet.
- First draft of the 2027 budget is expected to be presented at the September Work Session.

Review invoices and authorization to pay bills

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

Beaver Area Memorial Library – Ms. Mary Anne Peluso

- Provided an update on Library usage, programs, services, fundraising efforts, and recent facility expenses. She thanked the Borough and Beaver Police Department for their support and requested continued financial support from the Borough.

Public Participation –

- Suzanne Vogel – Scibilia, Ward 2
 - Expressed concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Borough's election structure, previous Council appointments, the Borough budget and expenditures, and recent Borough projects. Stated that she believed changes to the election structure should be considered by referendum.

- Allison Hartley, Ward 3
 - Expressed support for park cameras and suggested Council consider regulations related to flock cameras.
 - Asked questions regarding the purpose and potential impacts of changing the ward structure and reducing the number of Council members.
 - Raised questions regarding Mayor Kretchmar's proposed retention of outside legal counsel.
 - Mr. Thomas explained his reasons for proposing an at-large system, including allowing residents to vote for all Council members rather than only those representing their ward, and noted that eliminating the ward system would require a reduction from nine to seven Council members.
- Nancy Werme, Ward 3
 - Expressed support for an at-large election system what would allow residents to vote for all members of Council.
- Midge Sefton, Ward 3
 - Expressed support for maintaining the current ward system, noting the value of representation by Council members within each ward.

General Council Comments

- Ms. McKean asked about the status of photographs at the pool house, the Borough building repairs, and the Comprehensive Plan survey, including the possibility of adding a question regarding the proposed changes to the ward system.
 - Mr. Madgar provided an update on potential photo displays at the pool house and addressing the echo. The Planning Commission will be contacted to provide an update on the comprehensive plan survey.
- Mr. Hindman read a prepared statement that addressed concerns raised on social media regarding Council procedures, Council appointments, ethics, conflicts of interest, and meeting minutes.

Reports

Manager/Secretary – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Reported that he, the Borough Solicitor, Engineer, and Road Foreman met with a resident regarding the previously reported stormwater concerns at 705 Galey.
- Provided an update on the deteriorated sidewalk at 1098 Fifth Street, including recent court proceedings. Options for addressing the sidewalk were discussed, with further consideration by Council anticipated.
- Discussed potential future improvements to the downtown streetscape, including modifications to existing planters and the possible closure of the alley next to the Borough Building to improve pedestrian safety and public space.
- Costars Road Salt Contract came in at \$89.59 per ton. This is a 5% increase from last year.

- Signage addressing e-bikes, scooters, and other recreational vehicles has been ordered for the business district, and educational outreach with local schools is ongoing.
- Ward 1 polling location has been temporarily relocated to the Pool House Civic Center for the November election due to ongoing construction at the Borough Building. The County has mailed notification of the change to affected voters.
- Provided an update on preparations for the upcoming America 250 parade, noting continued coordination with County officials and participating agencies.
- Provided an update on the Borough building ceiling repair project, including ongoing construction, an anticipated completion by the end of the year, and estimated project costs of approximately \$180,000 to \$200,000. He also discussed potential insurance assistance with project expenses.
- Right to Know Request update includes four additional request responses were completed, noting that the staff time has delayed the distribution of the Borough newsletter.
- Reported that the fire department generator has been ordered, with an anticipated delivery of 20-25 weeks. A deposit was paid from the current year's budget, with the remaining balance to be paid upon installation next year.
 - Larry Renninger, resident – inquired about the cost of responding to Right to Know requests. Mr. Madgar discussed the staff time and the impact on other Borough operations. Council and staff discussed the volume of Right to Know requests, associated costs, staffing considerations, and response requirements.

Mayor –

- Report included in the Council packet.

President – Reported by Ms. Good

- Upcoming Events – Provided information regarding the Let's Roll ceremony at the Gazebo, the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation's Beaver Tales, the America250 parade, and Wine Fest.
- Gave a recap that approximately 8,000 people were reported in the business district during this year's Car Cruise.

Police Department – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Reviewed calls for service in August.
- Shared written comments submitted by resident Tom Fry expressing support for maintaining the Borough's current ward system.
- Sergeant McCoy provided an update on traffic considerations for the America 250 and Veterans Day parades, as well as anticipated traffic delays associated with PennDOT construction from September 28 through October 10.
- A reminder was provided regarding the September 11 Memorial Ceremony hosted by the Beaver Area High School JROTC.

Borough Engineer –

- The engineer's 2026 Road Paving Project report was included in the Council packet.

Solicitor Report –

- Mr. Hindman and Mr. Deelo asked questions regarding Mayor Kretchmar's proposed retention of outside legal counsel at Borough expense. Solicitor Fedeles provided clarification on the approval process, payment procedures, and statutory spending limitations.

Motions**2027 Minimum Obligation (MMO) for Police and Municipal Employees**

Motion by Mr. Hindman, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve Resolution 2026-07 relating to the 2027 Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for Police and Municipal employees. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Payment to Youngblood Paving for 2026 Road Paving Project

Motion by Mr. Deelo, in accordance with the Borough Engineer's written recommendation dated September 1, 2026, I move that Beaver Borough Council issue payment to Youngblood Paving Inc., for invoice #2026-1528 in the total amount of \$245,589.32. Seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Abolishment of Borough Wards and At-Large Council Representation

Motion by Mr. Thomas, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance to abolish all wards within Beaver Borough which by law would require Council to be reduced to 7 members elected at large throughout the Borough to be effective beginning in the 2027 election cycle. Seconded by Ms. McKean. Voice vote failed 1-8, with Mr. Thomas voting in favor.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips