Borough of Beaver, PA
Council Meeting
October 13, 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, October 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM by Council President, Roberta Good.

- Council Representatives in attendance: Bob Bickerton, Roberta Good, Tom Hamilton, Todd Hindman, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, Phil O'Shaughnessy, and Jarrod Thomas.

- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Lincoln Kretchmar, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Solicitor Garen Fedeles, Sergeant Ken McCoy, Corporal Shawn Reese, Assistant Borough Manager Rebecca Phillips, Borough Engineer, Dan Martone, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, and Debbie Hindman.

- Absent: Michael Deelo.

- Visitors in attendance (signed in): Pam Learn, Christine Cilli, Midge Sefton, Carolyn Renninger, Kathy Scarlett, Larry Renninger, Liza Fuller, Ellen Kretchmar, Cynthia Bevevino, Jeff Hamilton, Robert Snyder, Tom Planty, S. Vogel-Scibillia, Allison Hartley, Ron Nardick, Jason Foster, Ed Demailo, and Jim Woolley.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, to accept the September 8, 2026 Council Meeting with corrections and September 22, 2026 Work Session Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bickerton. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- The September Treasurer's report was provided in the Council packet.
- Mr. Hindman discussed the following potential 2027 budget items for discussion at the upcoming Work Session and requested that members of Council submit any additional funding requests for consideration at the Work Session:
    - Contribution to the library and fire department
    - Rental property behind the Borough building
    - Whether to keep the playground project in 2027 or defer it to 2028
    - Potential increases in Highway and Police staffing
    - Newsletter and public works expenditures, including a dump truck purchase
    - Third Street sidewalk repairs in the Business District, including whether to obtain bids and how much work should be budgeted

Review invoices and authorization to pay bills

Motion by Ms. Good to authorize and pay submitted invoices for the Borough. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Public Participation –

- Midge Sefton, 1360 River Road
    - Expressed appreciation for the Borough and Council's service and raised concerns about the tone of recent meetings, repeated questions, and the use of Right to Know requests. She encouraged the Mayor and other Borough officials to listen to one another and work together.
- Suzanne Vogel Scibilia, Ward 2
    - Read a prepared statement raising concerns about Council's transparency, the reported costs of Right to Know requests, and how residents are treated who ask questions. She questioned oversight of police compensation and pensions, the Mayor's role in supervising the Police Department, and Council's decision on mediation.
- Ron Nardick, President of Vanport Township Board of Commissioners
    - Raised concerns about questions asked by a resident at a recent Vanport meeting and their effect on the longstanding relationship between Vanport and Beaver. He stated that Vanport pays for police services under its contract and invited Borough officials to meet directly with him to discuss any concerns. Mr. Nardick asked Mayor Kretchmar his opinion on the police contract so he could tell his board.
        - Mayor Kretchmar stated that he did not have enough information about the full cost of police staffing to determine whether he believed Beaver was subsidizing the services.
- Larry Renninger, 1440 River Road
    - Raised concerns about the volume of Right to Know requests from one individual and the impact on Borough staff time and taxpayer costs. He asked Council to hold a vote of no confidence in the Mayor until Borough officials work together.

General Council Comments

- Ms. Mckean suggested using leftover bricks from the Columbia Gas project as a potential option for replacing the sidewalk on Navigation Street.
    - Mr. Madgar reported that quotes to replace the sidewalk were received at approximately $15,000.
    - Discussions of additional labor needed to lay bricks of varying thickness and planned to revisit the options and budget impact at the Work Session.
- Ms. Mckean asked if a winter weather plan has been determined, including plowing priorities, and plowing, and about deterioration at the Wolf Lane underpass.
    - Mr. Madgar confirmed prior contact with the railroad and discussed revisiting the site.
- Ms. Learn-Conjeski gave information on the Beaver Area Chamber of Commerce's upcoming Halloween Fest on Saturday, October 17th, including a touch a truck event in the parks.
- Ms. Learn-Conjeski reported that the Shaw Park Committee met with the Borough Manager and herself on October 9th to review another splash pad vendor and continue to explore design and funding options.

- Mr. Martone gave a review of this year's paving project, stating that the work went smoothly with minor additional base repairs on Oak Street. Mr. Martone also reviewed the area on Second Street and Sassafras, observing ponding during heavy rain and discussed potential drainage improvements.

Reports

Manager/Secretary – Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Reported on sections of sidewalk lifted by tree roots in front of Luckey Agency. Discussions of responsibility for sidewalk repairs and options including root barriers or replacing the trees were reviewed. The discussion will continue at a future meeting.
- Painting is beginning on the second floor of the Borough building. The window and countertop are not in yet. The goal is to have the second floor open by the end of the year.
- Reviewed Right to Know requests, including appeals currently pending.

Mayor – Reported by Mr. Kretchmar

- Discussed hero program and shared residents concerns about maintenance, flooding, and Borough operations.
    - Mr. Madgar noted that the Borough had responded to the resident's email and offered to meet.
- Asked about the proposed Axon camera agreement, including all costs, purchase authorization, and policies for recorded footage.
    - Mr. Madgar stated that the initial inquiry was sent to an incorrect email address and that the information was provided after he was notified.
- Discussed his directive to track police grant activity and officer hours.
    - Mr. Madgar reviewed past grant awards and that officers write grants voluntarily.
    - Ms. Learn-Conjeski asked what prompted the directive and Sergeant McCoy encouraged direct communication with police personnel.
- Requested a written explanation of his exclusion from a past executive session and reiterated his willingness to participate in mediation.
- Questioned how the Sergeant and Corporal ranks were established.
    - Sergeant McCoy and Mr. Fedeles discussed the police ordinance and the Civil Service Commission promotion process.
- Requested details on police compensation, overtime, post-DROP costs, contracted police services, and outstanding obligations and receivables.

President – Reported by Ms. Good

- Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 29th from 6PM to 8PM.
- The Beaver Area Heritage Foundation is working on a veteran's recognition project for November 11th.
- The second draft of the 2027 budget will be reviewed at the October 27th Work Session.

Police Department – Reported by Chief Madgar

- Provided Finance Committee with costs to purchase two police vehicles in 2027, in accordance with the current rotation.
- Reviewed applying for an LSA grant for two police vehicles.

Borough Engineer – Reported by Mr. Martone

- Provided update on Columbia Gas project.
- Mr. Thomas raised concerns about inconsistent sidewalk requirements and asked whether there were plans to add sidewalks where none currently exist.

Solicitor Report – Reported by Mr. Fedeles.

- Updated Council on Right to Know request that is pending appeal.
- Signage ordinance recommendation from the Planning Commission will be sent to the Beaver County Planning Commission for review before Council votes. There will be an advertised public hearing.

Motions

Advertisement of Police Pension Ordinance Amendment

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, I move that Beaver Borough Council authorize the solicitor to advertise a proposed amendment to the Borough's Police Pension Ordinance for consideration at the November 10, 2026 Council Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.

- Discussion
    - Mayor Kretchmar asked about Act 205 and the need for a cost estimate.
        - Mr. Fedeles stated that the amendment would align the ordinance with the collective bargaining agreement without changing pension amounts.
    - Ms. McKean asked about eligibility and an end date.
        - Sergeant McCoy explained that the two-year post-DROP option was negotiated in lieu of retiree medical benefits.

Corporal Job Responsibilities

Motion by Mr. Bickerton, I move that Beaver Borough Council add Corporal job responsibilities to the Police Department Handbook. Seconded by Mr. O'Shaughnessy. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of Civil Service Revisions

Motion by Mr. Bickerton, per the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the proposed revisions to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations and Police Eligibility Application Letter, as presented, to update applicant eligibility requirements, including Act 120 certification, qualifying prior police service, and veterans' preference provisions. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Review of Planning Commission Zoning Ordinance

Motion by Ms. McKean, I move that Beaver Borough Council instruct the Planning Commission to review our zoning ordinance for both the Gateway East and West areas to consider expanding permitted uses and review parking requirements. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote failed 1-7. Ms. McKean voted in favor and all other members opposed.

- Discussion
    - Ms. McKean read a letter from Elaine Savoldi and cited recent variance requests. Council discussed how parking requirements are applied and whether to review them separately.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Seconded by Mr. O'Shaughnessy. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips