

MINUTES OF THE BIG BEAVER BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING March 17, 2026

Held at the Big Beaver Municipal Building, 114 Friendship Rd, Darlington, PA 16115

Vice President Erin Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer.

Roll Call:

Mayor: Michelle Joy

Council Vice President: Erin Walter

Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Gasser

Council Members: Karla Myers

Engineer: Dan Martone

Jeff Magee

Chief Of Police: David Johnson

Jessica Chaney

Zoning Officer: William Payne (arrived 6:03pm)

Eli McCormick

Deborah Eutsler (arrived 6:07pm)

Absent: Council President Kimberly Wagner and Solicitor Shannon Steele

Approval of Agenda:

Jeff Magee made a motion, seconded by Jessica Chaney to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carries.

Public Comment:

Doug Kost reported that he cleaned up the trash dumped at Aley Hill and Norwood with Dalton's approval and blocked the driveway to prevent further dumping. He also noted beer cans being discarded from Aley Hill to Friendship and asked Chief Johnson for increased patrols. Chief Johnson advised the officers do sit at the spot he cleaned up and Doug Kost advised that area is completely blocked. Dan Martone reported that PennDOT will be out soon to make repairs at Friendship and Ivy. Doug also noted the previously reported streetlight is now working.

Randy O'Hara asked for a breakdown of the police report, including the number of traffic control calls, arrests, citations, and monthly mileage. Chief Johnson stated that the department does not log miles and that a detailed report is submitted to the Borough.

Cindy Evans asked for an update on the Fire Department. Erin Walter reported that discussions are still ongoing and another mediation is scheduled.

Paula Cook asked about the repair at Friendship and Ivy. Dan Martone explained that when Friendship was repaved last summer, a lip was left on Ivy. Ms. Cook expressed concern about the Borough's overall emergency preparedness and would like to see more coordination.

Approval of Minutes:

Eli McCormick made a motion, seconded by Jeff Magee to approve the Minute of March 3, 2026, February 2026 Financials and March 2026 Bill List. All in favor, minutes approved.

Administrative Reports:

Mayor: Mayor Joy reported on the support letter she wrote for the City of Beaver Falls for a rescue pumper.

President Report: Erin Walter reported that DCED approved an extension of the Sherwood Bridge grant through July 2027. Jennifer Gasser noted that the goal remains to complete the bridge repair in 2026.

Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Gasser reported the insurance adjuster inspected the damaged park shelter and that the Borough hopes to have it repaired for upcoming rentals, though no guarantee can be made. Additionally, she reported on the insurance claim for the broken window on the backhoe and working with the company that installed the garage roof due to leaking issues. A draft of the employee manual was distributed, and she asked for comments back prior to the workshop meeting. She reported she has been working with the committees and professionals. Dan Martone added that Bill has recommendations for the other shelter, and Bill advised he recommends installing hurricane ties.

Professional Reports:
Fire Department: Turned In

Zoning/Code Enforcement: Turned in. Bill Payne advised he has been working on code enforcement.

Police Department: Turned in. Chief Johnson reported on the Keeping PA Beautiful program and noted that the Borough can apply for loaner cameras, outlining the process. He also reviewed the procedure followed when the department is dispatched for downed trees.

Engineer: Turned in – Dan Martone reported that a PFM meeting will be held this Thursday regarding continuing discussion about the sale of the sewer. He noted that MEPP (Mitsubishi Electric Power Products) will provide a progress update on April 7. He also reported on a Timber Harvest permit on McKinley Road and provided an update on the Foxwood Drive repairs, including potential longer-term repairs needed for the bridge.

Solicitor: Jennifer Gasser advised Shannon Steele has the draft ordinances and is working on the advertisements for the April 21st meeting.

Unfinished Business:

A. Advertise Ordinance 247 Amendments to the Public Comment Ordinance. After discussion, it was agreed this item can be removed, as it was approved at the last meeting.

New Business:

A. Jennifer Gasser and Dan Martone discussed the Backup Operator with Council. Jessica Chaney made a motion, seconded by Deborah Eutsler to approve Joe Rakoowski as the backup operator for the Lift Stations. Roll Call Vote Yes: Karla Myers, Eli McCormick, Deborah Eutsler, Jessica Chaney, Erin Walter, and Jeff Magee.

B. Eli McCormick made a motion, seconded by Jessica Chaney to ratify the phone call vote for the Gateway Engineer Foxwood Bridge Work Authorization. Jennifer Gasser read in the phone call Votes Yes: Karla Myers, Eli McCormick, Deborah Eutsler, Jessica Chaney, Erin Walter, Kim Wagner and Jeff Magee.

Cindy Evans asked whether a committee worked on the handbook. Jeff Magee stated that the project has been ongoing for about ten years.

Executive Session: Emergency Preparedness 6:23pm-7:51pm

Meeting Adjourned 7:51pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Gasser
Secretary/Treasurer