

Bentleyville Borough Council Special Meeting
January 29, 2026 at 7:00pm
900 Main St., Bentleyville PA 15314

The special meeting of the Bentleyville Borough Council was called to order by Council President Joe Pigeon with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was called by Secretary Danielle Ott. Present were Mayor Adrian Gordon, Solicitor Makel, Council President Joe Pigeon, and Council members Tim Miller, Kara Shaw -Dearth, Kim Sacco, Kathy Rakosky and John Hackinson. Joe Patress was the only absence.

Joe Pigeon introduced John Hackinson, the newest council person who was appointed to a 2-year term at January's Regular meeting. Joe announces that due to John's extensive background in public safety and his exposure to law enforcement through his father's longtime police work, he was being appointed as chair of the police committee. He is also assigning Hohn to Finance and purchases and buildings and grounds committee.

The **motion** to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 reorganization meeting was made by **Kathy Rakosky** and seconded by **Joe Pigeon**. Kara Shaw-Dearth pointed out that a motion to nominate Kathy Rakosky as council president was made by Kara Shaw-Dearth. The motion was amended to reflect this change and was carried unanimously.

A **motion** to approve the minutes of the first regular meeting of the year on January 5, 2026 was made by **Kim Sacco** and seconded by **Kathy Rakosky**. All were in favor.

A **motion** to adopt a resolution for the 2026 American Sprit Grant was made by **John Hackinson** and seconded by **Tim Miller**. The grant is for \$25,000 and is meant for "beautification" of Main Street in observance of our nation's 250th birthday. The Borough would be required to provide a \$5000 in kind match. The motion carried by voice vote with all ayes.

Kim Sacco made a **motion** to provide a Surety Bond for Jill Pernell, the elected tax collector in the amount of 30% of the face value of the tax duplicate. **Kathy Rakosky** seconded the motion with all being in favor.

A **motion** by **Kathy Rakosky** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to grant Danielle Ott full online access to all Borough accounts held at CFS bank and view only access to Council members and the Borough Mayor. All were in favor.

A **motion** by **Kara Shaw-Dearth**, seconded by **Kathy Rakosky**, to authorize the Borough Secretary to pay recurring utility bills (West Penn Power, Peoples Gas, Consolidated Communications, Pigeon Creek and similar) prior to Council approval when necessary to avoid late penalties, with all such payments to be listed on the subsequent bill list for Council review. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A **motion** to make payment to Ellsworth Sportsman Club was made by **John Hackinson**, seconded by **Tim Miller**. All were in favor.

There was a brief discussion exploring the Washington County Public Safety shooting range as a potential lower-cost or free alternative to the Sportsman Club.

A **motion** to adopt the reopened 2026 budget which includes a 1 mill increase, as advertised, was made by **Kathy Rakosky**, seconded by **John Hackinson**. A roll call vote followed with John Hackinson, Tim Miller, Joe Pigeon, Kathy Rakosky and Kim Sacco voting in the affirmative. Kara Shaw-Dearth was the only dissenting vote.

A **motion** by **Kim Sacco**, seconded by **John Hackinson**, to adopt Ordinance 606, setting the Tax Rate at 3.9 mills for 2026 as advertised, was voted on by roll call. John Hackinson, Tim Miller, Joe Pigeon, Kathy Rakosky and Kim Sacco voted in the affirmative. Kara Shaw-Dearth voted no. The motion carried.

The ordinance and the budget were signed by Council President Joe Pigeon and attested by Secretary Danielle Ott, affixed with the borough seal, and presented to Mayor Gordon for signature or potential veto (the mayor has 10 days to act). Note: Mayor Gordon requested correction of the spelling of his name from "Gordan" to "Gordon" on official documents.

Discussion was held regarding Bentleyville Borough Council's participation in the February 1st spaghetti dinner to benefit the family of Emily Zortich, a young lady in the community that lost her life. Kim Sacco and Joe Pigeon volunteered as delivery drivers. Council members are assembling a wagon for the Chinese auction raffle. Members were encouraged to contribute items.

Kim provided a list of uncleared General Fund transactions for council to peruse before the next meeting.

To wrap up the meeting there were additional announcements and recognitions.

- Appreciation expressed to Dennis Makel for donating signs recognizing the boys' soccer championship.
- Kim Sacco and Kathy Rakosky each purchased stainless steel tables for the Civic Center, Joe Pigeon purchased chairs. Additional kitchen improvements (triple sink) are planned.
- Mayor Gordon extended thanks to police, fire department, road crew, and emergency personnel for outstanding work during the recent snowstorm and water line break.
- Recognition given for the emergency declaration made during the storm, which may qualify the borough for FEMA/PEMA assistance.
- Gratitude to Ron Sicchitano Jr. for coordinating the emergency response.

A **motion** by **Kim Sacco** to adjourn the meeting was seconded by **Kathy Rakosky** and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly G. Sacco
Interim Secretary