

**Bentleyville Borough Council Continued Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, February 13, 2026**  
**Bentleyville Municipal Complex**  
**900 Main Street , Bentleyville PA 15314**

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Pigeon with the recitation of the Pledge to the Flag. Roll was called by Secretary, Danielle Ott. Mayor Gordon, Solicitor Makel, and Council Members ;Joe Patress, John Hackinson, Kathy Rakosky, Kara Shaw Dearth, Kim Sacco, Tim Miller and Joe Pigeon were all present.

Dave Molesky signed in for public participation but decided to wait to see what council addressed during the meeting.

A **motion** was made by **Joe Patress** and seconded by John **Hackinson** to approve minutes from the regular meeting on February 3, 2026. Joe Partress made a correction to the minutes. The final motion to continue the meeting should contain the reasoning for having the meetings in the evening is not just to accommodate the council members who work but also the public that can only attend in the evenings. The **motion** was amended and passed unanimously.

**New Business**

President Joe Pigeon apologized to Mayor Gordon for making a disparaging remark about Mayor Gordon in a private chat. Mayor Gordon accepted Mr. Pigeons apology and both men hoped that council could move forward in a less contentious way.

The next order of business was to consider overriding the Mayor's Veto on **Ordinance 606 Increasing the Tax Rate by One Mill** (1 Mill Tax Increase) Discussion regarding the Mayor's veto of the proposed tax increase. Points raised included:

- Need to fund salary increases, particularly for the Police Department.
- Comparison of local tax rates.
- Ability to transfer funds between accounts after March 31.
- Historical context of no tax increases since 2018.

The **Motion** to override the mayor's veto on the February 2026 tax ordinance was made by **Kim Sacco**, seconded by **Kathy Rakosky**. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Joe Patress - Yay

John Hackinson – Yay

Kim Sacco - Yay

Joe Pigeon III –Yay

Kathy Rakosky – Yay

Kara Shaw-Dearth – Nay

Tim Miller - Yay

The **motion** to override succeeded and the tax rate ordinance passed.

The Borough has received two quotes for a managed IT service from both Pittsburgh Computer Solutions and PC Whip. Discussion on this is deferred until the next meeting to allow review. No action taken.

There was a discussion regarding the rental fees for different Borough Properties. There was extensive discussion with the following schedule suggested to be voted on:

Civic Center

- Non-resident rental: \$200
- Resident rental: \$175
- Security deposit: Increased to \$100 (consensus)
- Civic Center Pavillion \$150 plus \$100 security
- Large pavilion: \$100 + \$100 security
- Small Pavillion \$50 and \$50
- Electricity fee: \$25
- Alcohol: \$125 Permitted with liability requirements
- Council will discuss discounts for Churches/non-profits in the future

We should include something in the agreement suggesting that renters take photos when they take possession of the pavilion and when they are leaving.

**Motion** by Tim Miller to adopt the revised fee schedule with discussed changes (including \$100 security deposits, resident discounts, and church adjustments) was seconded by Kim Sacco. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The secretary, Danielle Ott suggested an Open House at the Civic Center to introduce the public to the municipalities latest asset and to open it up for rentals and showcase the renovated building. Danielle proposed dates: Sunday February 22, 2026, with an alternate date of Sunday, March 1, 2026. The time of the open house will be from 10am to 3pm at no cost for the public. A **motion** was made by **Tim Miller** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to hold the open house on the above discussed days. Joe Pigeon announced that we are seeking refreshment donations from local businesses.

Discussion on multiple unofficial Facebook pages posting borough information. Concerns raised about transparency, liability, comments, and official status. Recommendation to clarify disclaimers or create an official page. No motion or resolution adopted.

There was a discussion of Borough Records Storage. Joe Pigeon recommended moving records from the Eagles building back to the borough building for security and accessibility. Wendy Nickerson of the PSAB was contacted and the "rule" is that records don't travel and the Borough Code makes the maintenance of the records the sole responsibility of the Borough Secretary. A **Motion** made by **Kathy Rakosky** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to move all borough records to the main building under one roof, utilizing available office space. All were in favor.

Recreational Board Appointments Review of applicants for the Recreational Board. This will be discussed at the upcoming workshop on February 28th.

Rich Tice, from McCall Scanlon and Tice were in the office on Tuesday to discuss the upcoming DCED Audit. One of the discussions on controls was to implement a purchase order system which was also suggested after a comprehensive DCED evaluation of the Boroughs' financial stability in 2006. These recommendations have never been put into place. No action was taken.

Police Department Overtime and Budget were discussed at length. Topics included police overtime hours, scheduling, court appearances, and 2026 budget allocations. Concerns raised about budget overruns and sustainability. Recommendation for Mayor, Chief, and Police Committee to meet separately. No motion taken.

#### Other Items

QuickBooks transition to online version is planned. McCall, Scanlon and Tice, the Borough's auditor, is also a QuickBooks vendor and will provide the borough with quotes for upgrading at a discounted rate.

When Tim Miller applied for the Community Development Block Grant the two possible projects that were discussed were turning the tennis court into a pickleball court or redoing the basketball court. A decision will need to be made before we get the grant.

Joe Patress received complaints about the sidewalk on Washington Street Bridge. The bridge belongs to the State of Pennsylvania. In the past the Borough was told not to clear these sidewalks. Solicitor Makel will investigate whether that has changed.

A **motion** was made by **Joe Patress** and seconded by **Kathy Rakosky** to pay the bills. All were in favor.

It was **moved** by **Kathy Rakosky** and seconded by **Tim Miller** accepting the receipts as presented.

A **motion** to adjourn was made by **Kathy Rakosky**, seconded by **Joe Patress** and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Danielle Ott

Secretary

