Bentleyville Borough Council Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026
7:00 PM – Bentleyville Municipal Complex

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice President Joe Tim Miller, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Roll call was taken, and members were present as indicated.: Joe Patress, Kara Shaw Dearth, Adrian Gordon, Dennis Makel, Tim Miller, Kim Sacco, John Hackinson, and Kathy Rakosky were all present. Council President Joe Pigeon was absent due to illness.

Jared Rittenour addressed Council to thank the Bentleyville community, Fire Department, St. Katharine Drexel volunteers, Knights of Columbus, and numerous parents and children for their support of the recent spaghetti fundraiser. He noted that nearly 800–1,000 people attended, all supplies were donated, and the event was organized in under two weeks.

Scott Slagle echoed these remarks and expressed appreciation to all who participated.

A **motion** was made by **Kathy Rakosky** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2026, Special Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Kim reported that multiple auditing firms were contacted, but only McCall Scanlon & Tice LLC provided a complete proposal for our annual DCED Audit. The firm currently performs work for Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority and has been highly responsive. Mr. Tice reviewed the Borough's needs, including DCED audits and potential consulting work to identify irregularities. If concerns arise, the work may expand into a forensic audit.

A motion was made by **Kim Sacco** and seconded by **Kathy Rakosky** to accept the three-year proposal from McCall, Scanlon & Tice LLC. The motion passed with four yes votes, Kara Shaw Dearth voted against, and Joe Patress abstained.

Council discussed transitioning from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online. Danielle explained that the online version eliminates the need for a local server, includes automatic backups, and supports direct deposit for employees and Council members. Payroll costs under the Desktop version increased on February 1. Council agreed that final pricing comparisons are needed before voting. The matter was tabled until the March meeting, with Danielle providing a full cost breakdown.

Council discussed obtaining an industrial appraisal to establish accurate inventory, depreciation schedules, and insurance valuations. Members noted past issues in other municipalities where lack of inventory hindered insurance claims. Council will seek a formal proposal before taking action.

Council discussed the need to advertise for a Zoning Hearing Board member. Council will verify whether **Tim Marodi** and **Jerry Peters** remain active members. One vacancy will be advertised.

A motion was made by **Joe Patress** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to consent to the sale of a property from the Repository list. The motion carried unanimously.

Seven letters of interest were received from: Amanda Blevins, Ashley Bodner, Gina Jenkins, Bob Jenkins, Morrissey, Jessie, Rebecca Dining, and Cami Kent. Council reviewed ordinance requirements, including residency and staggered five-year terms. A workshop will be scheduled to review all letters and select members. Council will also confirm whether the Recreation Board was ever formally dissolved. A **motion** was made by **Joe Patress** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to add the subdivision request to the agenda. The motion carried. Kerry Krider brought the planning board approved plans for the Kings'/Coen Subdivision. He explained that the subdivision was originally approved in 2003 but never recorded. The current request re-files the identical lot lines so the Kings parcel can be sold. A **motion** was made by **John Hackinson** and seconded by **Kara Shaw-Dearth** to approve the subdivision separating the Kings parcel from the Cohen parcel. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was made by **Kim Sacco** and seconded **by Kathy Rakosky** to add discussion of the PC Whip proposal to the agenda. The motion carried.

Kim reported a major system crash earlier in the day and noted that Borough computers are still running Windows 10. PC Whip has been highly responsive and provided a proposal to modernize systems. Council discussed comparing current IT provider costs with PC Whip's proposal. The matter was **tabled** pending cost information from the existing provider.

A letter of interest was received from **Prudy Nicholson**, who currently serves as Planning Commission Secretary. A **motion** was made by **Kathy Rakosky** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to appoint Prudy to the Vacancy Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Council acknowledged a letter from **Charlotte Carpenter**, Acting Librarian, thanking the Borough for its $300 monthly donation and for clearing the library parking lot during winter months.

A **motion** was made by **Kara Shaw-Dearth** and seconded by **John Hackinson** to approve the road closures for the Run for Alex on June 6. The motion carried unanimously.

Council reported on a Team's meeting with Mr. David Hall of CivicPlus looking at possibilities of implementing mass information technology. CivicPlus is one of the national leaders in Municipal website design and all of the ancillary services that go with it. All agree that an approximate $4000 price tag is more than Bentleyville can afford, It is worth perusing if only to get ideas on where we can move in the future. Mr. Hall is going to do a mockup of Bentleyville's website and present it to us on February 17th at 6pm. Dan Harvey, from Washington County 911 said that the county is implementing a mass notification system and Municipalities within the county are going to be able to participate although to what degree and for what information is still unclear. There would be no cost to the borough if we decide to participate in their system.

Council discussed whether technology oversight should fall under Buildings & Grounds, Police, or Purchasing. The matter was **tabled for workshop discussion**.

Council reviewed the need to finalize rental rates and update the rental contract for pavilions and the Civic Center. Several residents have already inquired about birthday parties and graduation rentals. Council will locate the prior rate sheet and contract draft and revisit the matter at the next meeting.

There was discussion of the need for all of council to complete NIMS (National Institute Management System). Several Council members have already done so, but the new members and any others need to complete it whether individually or Mr. Sicchitano will conduct a group training with individual testing. When council is ready to proceed with this, we should contact Mr. Sicchitano.

Reports

- Code Enforcement: Potential self-storage/boat/camper facility at former Family Dollar requires zoning hearing.

- Mayor's Report:
    - Thanks to road crew, police, fire, and residents during recent snow emergency. Concerns raised regarding prior secretary dismissal and transparency.
    - Transparency Issues:
    - Still unclear on reasons for prior secretary's dismissal; demands full payment for her 8 years of service.
    - Questions notary process for council swearing-in and delayed building key access (locks changed).
    - Council Dynamics:
    - Criticized seating changes as divisive ("Hatfields and McCoys"); feels like an "outcast."
    - Urges better collaboration; feels "defenseless" against council overrides.
    - Budget Concerns:
    - Inconsistent raises: Secretary ~7.25%, Public Works ~7.1%, Police only ~6.7%.
    - Warns underfunding police risks reliance on PSP (slow responses, up to 1 hour), leading to more crime/drugs.
    - Prioritize police to maintain community safety.
    - Overall: Committed to community good; calls for unity.
- Police Chief Young's Report
    - Major cuts: Reduced overtime, pension, payroll expenses (~$80K removed vs. ~$13K added to base).
    - Department "set up to go over budget" due to unpredictable overtime needs (e.g., incidents like assaults/fires).
    - Described as "bait and switch"; less overall funding despite claims of better coverage.
    - Call Volume/Data Disputes:
    - Council data (400+ borough calls, 252 PSP in 2025) misleading: Only dispatched calls; excludes proactive work (e.g., traffic stops).

- Actual service calls much higher; logging issues from chronic radio/911 tower problems (affects multiple municipalities).
  Hire part-timers to control overtime (no budget for it).
- Schedule police committee meeting (with Mayor) to review contracts/scheduling.
- Budget is adjustable post-March 31.
- Positive: Commended fire/police response to recent high-rise fire (smoke, entrapment, rapid patient transport).

Purchases/Finance: December and January financial statements distributed although Kim says that she has little confidence in the balances of the General Fund, Payroll Fund and Rec Board Fund.
Redevelopment: American Spirit Grant discussion.

It was **moved** by **John Hackinson**, seconded by **Kathy Rakosky** to pay the bills as presented.

It was **moved** by **John Hackinson,** seconded by **Kathy Rakosky** to accept the receipts as presented. All were in favor. Motion passed

It was **moved** by **Kim Sacco**, seconded by Kathy Rakosky to continue the regular meeting to Monday February 9th at 9 am. There was discussion regarding having a meeting scheduled in the morning due to scheduling conflicts with several, councilors. An **amendment** to the motion was offered, changing the continuation to Friday, February 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Sacco

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Interim Secretary