

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session at 7:00PM on September 27, 2022 in Council Chambers of the City Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kenya Johns. The prayer was offered by Councilwoman Vanessa Ford Taylor that was followed by the pledge to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Kenya Johns	City Manager Charles Jones Jr.
Councilwoman Vanessa Ford Taylor	City Clerk Paula Durish
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilwoman Peggy Evans	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland	Chief Financial Officer Sandy Wilkins
Solicitor Garen Fideles	Community Development Director Rochelle Burks

Mayor Johns announced that Council met in executive session this evening at 6:30PM for personnel reasons.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022 council meeting. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

Mayor Johns then said that Item #1 on the agenda, Ordinance 4077 first reading, is to be removed.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Ms. Evans to adopt Resolution 1655 authorizing the distribution of monies supporting the Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$26,403.24 was approved. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Chiappetta to adopt Resolution 1656 allocating the city's General Municipal Pension System State Aid among the city police, paid firefighters and non-uniformed employees pension plans in the total amount of \$414,436.14 was approved - (Separate deposits: police - \$248,661.68 fire - \$95,320.31 non-uniformed - \$70,454.15). The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Ms. Taylor to adopt Resolution 1657 approving the list of General Fund expenditures of transactions, including payroll, in the amount of \$311,733.37. The vote was:

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Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

Mrs. Durish then presented the city's financial requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO'S) for the 2023 Municipal Budget:
Police Pension Plan - \$484,484 Fire Pension Plan - \$188,842 NonUniform Pension Plan - \$86,613

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve the pension calculations for Officer Michael Seybert, who retired August 27, 2022, as presented. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to accept the letter of resignation and separation agreement from Police Officer Christopher Tessmer effective September 23, 2022. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve the recommendation of the Chief's of Police Association and plan Trick or Treat from 6PM to 8PM on October 31, 2022. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to table Item #9 on the agenda, BCBH Early Intervention's request to hold a Trunk or Treat event on October 22nd from 11:30AM to 12:30PM. Mrs. Durish was instructed to contact the agency and ask them to consider a later time as there will be Little Tigers football games throughout the day. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Ms. Taylor to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee and permit the closure of 14th Street between the alley and 8th Avenue from 1PM to 8PM, as requested by the Beaver Falls Christmas Committee, for their Winterfest and Santa Land on November 26, 2022. The vote was:

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Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

Mayor Johns asked Mrs. Durish to explain what this was all about. Mrs. Durish said that the Christmas Parade will be on November 26th at 6:00PM starting at 17th Street and go south to 10th Street. In conjunction with Neighborhood North on 14th Street, the Christmas Committee is planning outside children's activities and hosting Santa Land there after the parade. Closing the portion of 14th Street will provide added safety for anyone attending.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to grant the request submitted by Malik Shegog and Samantha Weir to purchase 841 2nd Avenue, BF from the county repository. The plan is to renovate the structure and then sell it. Council also exonerated the city taxes prior to 2022. Mr. Shegog and Ms. Weir are also responsible for paying one half (1/2) of the property maintenance liens (\$1,758.00) against the property in the amount of \$879.00. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Fideles, in the absence of Solicitor Steele, reported that Ms. Steele is reviewing the Administrative Code for Home Rule and will be meeting with the City Manager and Mayor. The audit letter has been sent to Mark Turnley for 2021, sent draft of release and settlement agreement for Mata and Dillon properties, sent draft of letter to Mayor Johns for Tigerland attorney, continuance of summary appeal for John Pagalos, review separation agreement regarding a personnel issue in the police department, asked if Council wanted to do a resolution for Act 57 and is meeting with Aqua municipalities on October 3rd.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Burks highlighted the report she submitted to Council, has a draft of the newsletter she has been working on and has also been keeping up with the city's website and facebook page.

Fire Chief Stowe said Fire Prevention Day is scheduled from 1PM to 4PM on October 15th with activities and displays at the northern part of the high school field.

Ms. Wilkins said Council received her report and if there are any questions, to please see her.

Police Chief Johnson said District Attorney David Lozier is conducting an Active Shooter Symposium for churches and businesses on October 20th at Penn State Beaver with two sessions, 2pm to 5pm or 6pm to 9pm.

Mr. Jones said there are two events happening this weekend, BF BarBQ and Taste of Caribbean (two new restaurants) are both having grand openings. The PNC Bank has been sold and a new business will be opening there soon.

Mrs. Durish said she already explained the Christmas Parade and added that the Geneva College Homecoming Parade will be October 8th starting at 10:00AM with lineup down 12th Street west to 8th Avenue. The parade will march north on 7th Avenue to the round-a-bout on the college's campus.

Ms. Evans asked if the Beaver Falls Little Tigers were going to be in the parade? Ms. Burks said all of the teams/players/cheerleaders were invited.

Mayor Johns said there is a conference next week in Pittsburgh, the Hispanic event last Sunday at Reach Community Church was great and over \$5,000.00 was raised at Neighborhood North's Play with a Purpose event (fundraiser) on September 20th for indoor playground equipment.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bruce Carper stood and said that he is running against Jim Marshall for State Representative. He has been speaking with people and will take the citizens comments to Harrisburg when he wins. He is learning that people want a change. Thanked Mayor, Council, City Manager for what they are doing. The people are noticing. He thanked Council and said he is looking forward to working with all of them. Election is November 8th, get out and vote.

Mayor Johns thanked Mr. Carper and said Mike Veon is interested in helping with voter turnout and would like to meet and talk to Council members.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Ms. Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 7:31PM. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motion Passed				

pjd