

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session at 6:00PM on January 6, 2022 in Council Chambers of the City Building. The meeting was called to order by Councilman Kevin Kunselman. The prayer was offered by Councilman Douglas Carson that was followed by the pledge to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilman Douglas Carson	City Manager Charles Jones Jr.
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	City Clerk Paula Durish
Councilman Kevin Kunselman	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
City Solicitor Shannon Steele	CDD Bethany Williams

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Chiappetta to approve the 2021 minutes as follows: July 27 – August 10 – August 24 – October 12 – October 26 – December 28. The vote was:

Carson	Chiappetta	Kunselman	Kirkland	Quay
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent
Motion Passed				

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Steele said it was a pleasure to work with the outgoing Council, Mr. Carson, Mr. Kunselman and Mayor Quay. She is looking forward to working with the new members, Mayor Johns, Councilwoman Evans and Councilwoman Taylor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Kirkland said the employees from the Department of Public Works are out working clearing the roads of the snow.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Carson thanked Beaver Falls for letting him serve on Council for the last 9 years. It was a gift from God that he was able to do so. Thanks to everyone, thank God for each employee. The new members will do good work.

Mr. Kirkland said the new members of Council have things to learn and must work together. Everything is new, take your time and focus.

Mr. Kunselman said he came here 4 years ago as an outsider. He was ready to take on City Hall but soon learned that there was a lot more he didn't know than what he knew. Working together for the greater good was far better than working in opposition. He said it has been an honor serving the citizens of Beaver Falls. He feels he gave 110% and was a very active councilman many times going above and beyond the minimum just to get by. He's enjoyed his time here and working with everyone. He has gained many new friendships and guesses the true ones will last beyond tonight.

He said he was speaking for himself and Mayor Quay. Our record has nothing to do with you “liking us” or not and cannot diminish all the great achievements our TEAM has made over the years. As he looks at the long list of achievements that this TEAM has accomplished in the past four years, he asks himself what are the ones with the greatest impact on the city. The greatest by far is the financial stability of the city, which now properly managed, should last for a number of years. He quoted a parable from the Bible, one house built on the sand, one built on rock. For decades, the foundation of the city, because of the financial instability, was a foundation of sand. It did not matter what we built or tried, because of this sandy foundation, it became very difficult. He is not saying that trying to build on this foundation was foolish, you work with what you have, and for years we struggled. The city’s finances are finally stable after years and decades of instability. So now we have a solid foundation, a rock foundation. Soon now, whatever is built, should surely stand. Mayor Quay and he made the city and code office more business friendly. That was his goal when he ran 4 years ago. There have been 16 new businesses that came to Beaver Falls in the past 2 years with many more showing interest in opening up. We leave a great team of dedicated city employees. Many who go above and beyond things that they do not get recognized for. We leave with one of the best fire departments in the state. A police force that is second to none! The street department, code office, finance/tax collection office, all have employees that are highly skilled and responsive to the needs of the residents. Bethany Williams, our Community Development Coordinator, has gotten the city millions of dollars in grants. Paula Durish, our City Clerk, words cannot describe her abilities. Mick Jones is the best City Manager this city has ever seen. Shannon Steele, our Solicitor, makes up part of this great team. Mayor Quay, Doug Carson and myself can walk out of here proud, knowing that we are leaving the city a much better place than we found it. So now with that solid foundation, Kenya, Vanessa and Peggy, your dream of “build back better” has a solid foundation to start. So when the three of you leave this place, my hope is that you too can say you have left this place better than you found it! A round of applause from Council and the audience followed.

CITIZENS

Kenya Johns, newly elected Mayor, thanked the present Council for all they’ve done, leaving a great foundation for the new members of Council.

Geryn Carson thanked the outgoing council members. She was blessed to see the different phases of government. It is not just on Tuesdays, it is every day! She encourages all who are here tonight in this room to pray and encourage the new council members.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adjourn the meeting. The vote was:

Carson	Chiappetta	Kunselman	Kirkland	Quay
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent

Solicitor Steele then announced that the two newly elected councilwomen would be sworn in and then everyone was welcome to attend the swearing in of the new Mayor at the Beaver Falls Senior High School LGI beginning at 7:00PM. Ms. Steele then introduced Judge Dirk Goodwald to administer the Oath of Office to Ms. Peggy Evans and Ms. Vanessa Ford Taylor, who presented their Certificates of Election to the Judge who then swore them in. A round of applause followed by Council and the audience as the women took their council seats.

BEAVER FALLS CITY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION AGENDA
JANUARY 6, 2022 – 7:00PM

Solicitor Steele explained that the meeting tonight will be for the purpose of reorganization and will reconvene after Kenya Johns is sworn in by Judge Dirk Goodwald. Ms. Johns presented her Certificate of Election to the Judge who then swore her in. A standing ovation and round of applause followed.

Mayor Johns called the meeting to order for reorganization and Council roll call was as follows:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Present	Present	Present	Present	Present

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

A motion was made Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to appoint Ms. Evans as the Deputy Mayor. 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 Mr. Kirkland to accept the letter of resignation from Firefighter Bill Cummings effective January 9, 2022. 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. Taylor to appoint COG delegates as follows: Mayor Kenya Johns – Primary and Councilwoman Peggy Evans – Alternate. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

NEW BUSINESS – NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Kirkland said he was surprised that there are no comments from any citizen. He wants everyone at the Council meetings, wants people to come. Is totally surprised that no one is saying anything. Council needs help, wants the citizens to help out.

Cindy Cook, School Board President – thanked Kenya Johns for being sworn in at the High School LGI. It shows a great connection between the school and the city.

Mr. Kirkland said the citizens need to help the city and council. We have great police and fire departments. Thanked everyone for coming. Continue to bless the city.

Mayor Johns thanked everyone for voting for her and coming out.

Ms. Evans thanked everyone, must keep together, thanks to everyone who voted them in. Congratulated Kenya Johns for being the first African American Mayor and congratulated Ms. Taylor for being an African American Councilwoman.

Ms. Taylor thanked everyone who voted for her. Asked that everyone take their time with them, be patient. Everything is new to them and is new to the city. They will be the best they can be. Give them the opportunity. Pray for wisdom, knowledge and strength.

Tonya Clark – is a citizen of Beaver Falls. This is a proud moment for her, the young ages and women on Council. Just seeing everyone on stage makes her proud. Everyone needs to work together. Kids are getting a good education. Prayers to Council. Pray for the city. Thank you!

Mayor Johns – the journey was not easy to get where they are but the residents stood beside us. Wants everyone to be in positions alongside us, not in front or behind. We will do our part, you have to do your part. We want to make a difference. Change is different, give us time.

Mayor Johns announced that the next regular council meeting will be on January 11, 2022 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers of the City Building.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to adjourn the meeting. The vote was:

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

