

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session at 7:00PM on January 24, 2023 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 Clerk Paula Durish
Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
Councilwoman Peggy Evans	DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland	Chief Financial Officer Sandy Wilkins
City Solicitor Shannon Steele	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks
City Manager Charles Jones Jr.	

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2022 meeting. 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 approve the minutes from the August 9, 2022 meeting. 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 approve the minutes from the December 27, 2022 meeting. 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 approve the minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

Mayor Johns announced that Council met in executive session at 6PM this evening for the purpose of discussing real estate.

Mayor Johns said that Agenda Item #10, Approval of Wavepool Transfer, was being removed from the agenda. The city's proposal was denied by Tigerland and they were only willing to enter into an Agreement that while it was very beneficial to Tigerland, it was not responsible for the best interest of

the city and community.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA

Danielle Harris – asked for a copy of the executive session minutes. Mayor Johns and Solicitor Steele said there are no minutes kept from those meetings.

Janet Cunningham, Slippery Rock, PA – said she is the secretary of Tigerland and commented on the status of the wavepool.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Ms. Evans to adopt Resolution 1671 approving an agreement with RABC (Redevelopment Authority of Beaver County) for the demolition and site clearance at 804 3rd Avenue, BF. 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 1672 approving a list of General Fund and Payroll expenditures in the amount of \$382,215.53. 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 Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1673 ratifying the approval of the Asset Purchase Agreement for the sale of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Chiappetta wanted it on record that when the approval of the Asset Purchase Agreement (Ordinance 4049) was introduced the first time around (September 14, 2021), he voted Yes then read a statement that included his vote be recorded as a Dry Vote. 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 bid of \$1,000.00 submitted by Darrin Cole, BF, for the purchase of city owned property located at 14th Avenue, BF, parcel 06-07-0603.000. 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 accept the bid of \$1,000.00 submitted by Darrin Cole, BF, for the purchase of city owned property located at 19th Street, BF, parcel 06-008-0701.000. 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 grant the approval requested by Mr. Jones to apply for an AARP Community Challenge Grant to be used for renovations at the 37th Street Park. 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 grant the approval requested by Mr. Jones to apply for a CDBG Grant for 5th Avenue Park. 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 approve the request submitted by Martin Cleckley Sr. and Martin Cleckley Jr. to purchase 924 10th Avenue, BF from the county repository to renovate and make their permanent home. The request for tax exoneration prior to 2023 was also approved. Property Maintenance liens (2019 thru 2022) exist on the property in the amount of \$921.00 in which 50% has been exonerated by Council leaving a balance of \$460.50 which must be paid by the Cleckley's to the Code Office prior to receiving their paperwork and proceeding. 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 approve the request submitted by Martin Cleckley Sr. and Martin Cleckley Jr. to purchase parcel 02-005-0100.001 (10th Street), BF from the county repository to use as additional yard space. The request for tax exoneration prior to 2023 was also approved. A Property Maintenance lien (2019) exists on the property in the amount of \$100.00 in which 50% has been exonerated by Council leaving a balance of \$50.00 which must be paid by the Cleckley's to the Code Office prior to receiving their paperwork and proceeding. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said she has reviewed the Administrative Code and can be placed on the agenda for approval at the next Council meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine said his department is still picking up Christmas trees, the new employee is still training on the street sweeper and starting Monday, January 30th, Insight Pipe will be relining the storm sewer lines with this work being paid for by a grant. Mayor Johns said that the Public Works employees did a good job clearing snow from the streets.

Ms. Burks said the council meeting minutes are uploaded and posted on the city website, the Geneva College student, Katie, is helping in her office doing an internship, the Recreation Board is planning the Easter Egg Hunt in April and research is being done to create a city flag.

Fire Chief Stowe reported 124 calls for service in December, 12 structural fires, 64 medic first responder calls, \$12,500.00 estimated fire loss and 500.5 total training hours. He also reported 237 calls/walkins for the Code Office, 1 zoning permit, 1 building permit, 17 complaints for code enforcement, 35 inspections, 1 building posted uninhabitable, 25 residential and 3 commercial occupancy permits issued, 31 rental registration inspections and \$600.00 lien letter fees. Chief Stowe said he is working on two FEMA grants, one for SCBA's (\$210,000.00) and a new aerial (\$1 million). He also attended a meeting to discuss fire district regionalization.

Ms. Wilkins stated that the 2023 tax bills will be going out on February 1st.

Ms. Taylor said she attended a great meeting about the 5th Avenue Park, discussed prices for park rides. Is really excited about getting this park (Ruhe Playground) back up and going. Planning to have a fund raiser this summer.

Mr. Jones said a \$200,000.00 grant was approved for the 2nd Avenue Playground and is waiting for confirmation letter. The library park should be completed in the spring.

Mr. Kirkland said the new men are working well in the Public Works Department and with Mr. Burdine.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Stowe said with more and more cardiac arrests happening, everyone should learn CPR. He is very proud of his guys, they saved a life today.

Police Chief Johnson said the Neighborhood Watch meeting is on January 30th and Rochelle Burks, the city's Director of Community Development, will be the speaker.

Mayor Johns said a meeting of the city's businesses, set up by Chief Stowe and the Code Office, is on Wednesday, the 25th and all businesses are invited to attend. It will be held in the High School's LGI.

Mr. Jones said there has been a series of accidents at the Eastvale Bridge (west side of 7th Avenue) and PennDot has been contacted to conduct a traffic study.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mayor Johns told the members of the audience, if they wanted to speak, they had a time limit of three (3) minutes.

Janet Cunningham – represents Tigerland, Inc. One man is working to open the pool. Met with Mr. Jones and applied for a grant. He wants to continue with the project. He was given the keys to go on the property. Why was he given the keys if the property was not his. He wants to move forward. Ms. Steele made comments to the remarks made by Ms. Cunningham. Mayor Johns told Ms. Cunningham her speaking time was up.

Denise Molchen-Donnelly – Chair of the Beaver Falls Business District Authority. She introduced three (3) new members wanting to be appointed to the board. Stated that there will be a (chili cook-off) Beaver Falls Pro-Bowl Chili Walk-Off on February 4th. There are 27 businesses participating.

Lynwood Alford, BF – thanked Council for making a difference. The town is moving in the right direction. It's been a while but it is going forward. The streets, businesses and all departments are doing great jobs! Most people in the town complain but need to support one another for what is being done. We want Beaver Falls to be the best it can be. Let the children know we support them. There is a program at Tabernacle Church, everyone is invited, it's to recognize city leaders. It is on February 19th at 3PM. February is Black History Month.

Kelly – from Patriot Home Care said they are here to help the community. They go into homes to help the elderly. They have aids to help. It is state funded, the residents pay nothing, the insurance company pays nothing.

Ray Gutowski, BF – over a year ago there was a committee elected to study the Home Rule Charter. Asked where that stood. Mayor Johns said that work has been completed and Council will vote on it at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Johns recognized the students from Beaver Falls High School who were present as part of their class assignment.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Ms. Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 7:53PM. The vote was:

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