

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on March 14, 2023 at 7:00PM 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	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine
Councilwoman Peggy Evans	WWTP Manager Joe Durish Jr.
Councilman John “Chuckie” Kirkland	City Engineer Tony Sadaka (Widmer’s)
City Manager Charles Jones Jr.	Chief Financial Officer Sandy Wilkins
City Clerk Paula Durish	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks

Mayor Johns announced that Council had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting at 6:30PM for personnel matters.

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Chiappetta to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2023 council meeting. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1676 approving a list of General Fund and Payroll expenditures in the total amount of \$624,321.07. 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 city’s purchase of the following properties for the American Recovery Program Act (ARPA) Project for future development: 306 8th Street – 808 9th Avenue – 1017 10th Avenue – 1412 2nd Avenue – 1420 2nd Avenue – 225 13th Street – 1318 3rd Avenue – 213 15th Street – 1123 3rd Avenue – 1315 8th Avenue – 1323 10th Avenue – 1523 2nd Avenue – 1924 11th Avenue – 1815 Center Avenue – 1821 Center Avenue – 1919 Center Avenue/12th Avenue – 2008 12th Avenue – 1907 12th Avenue – 1911 12th Avenue – 12th Avenue – 1919 12th Avenue – 2001 12th Avenue – 1919 13th Avenue – 924 22nd Street. 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 grant the request submitted by Jessica Wilson to purchase 1118 10th Avenue, BF, from the county repository to renovate and move in

with her family. The request for city tax exoneration prior to 2023 was also granted. Ms. Wilson has to satisfy the Property Maintenance lien in the amount of \$100.00 prior to receiving her paperwork from the Code Office to proceed with the purchase process. 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 grant David Coley, a 14 year old city resident, permission to have a racecar car show on May 14th from noon to 5PM. The cars will park on the east side of 7th Avenue from 8th Street to 10th Street. The DPW will set barricades in the bike lane to prevent pedestrians from going out in the traffic. The young teenager believes bringing in these cars for the show would help bring people to the city and new customers to the area. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine read the following highlights from his report – the DPW received 76 calls, marked and recorded 29 pa-one calls, inspected and removed debris from MS4 outfalls and are still potholing. He also explained a proposed new sweeper schedule that would be done during daylight hours. Solicitor Steele would be given the information to prepare an ordinance for passage by Council.

Mr. Sadaka reported that the company who was to erect the fence at the 37th Street Ballfield for the CDBG Rehab Project never showed up to start the work. The county will address this situation.

Mr. Durish said work is still being done for the permit renewal and is waiting for the lab results.

Fire Chief Stowe highlighted his fire report – the department received 100 calls for service in February, there were 8 structural fires, 49 first responder and 284 training hours. The fire gear and equipment used at the train derailment fire in East Palestine, Ohio was inspected on Friday. The reimbursement from Norfolk Southern should be \$188,377.79. The Code Office report was as follows: Zoning – 342 calls and walkins and 4 building permits issued. Code Enforcement – 46 complaints, 72 inspections, 3 buildings posted uninhabitable, 28 residential occupancy permits issued, 3 commercial occupancy permits issued, 13 hearings and 7 citations issued. Rental Registration – 26 inspections.

Police Chief Johnson read his February report with 206 parking tickets issued, 1,342 total police calls for service and 165 police traffic/non-traffic citations issued. The Neighborhood Watch meeting on March 27th will host Medic Rescue to speak on how various ways to stop someone from bleeding out.

Mr. Jones said that Council has his report to read and is available to answer any questions they may have.

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Ms. Taylor said the 5th Avenue Park is moving along. There is a meeting on Thursday at 7PM. Anyone wanting to attend or wanting to volunteer is welcome.

Ms. Evans congratulated Matt Drzik as he was named Employee of the Month at WBVP radio station. Congratulations from Council and a round of applause followed.

Ms. Burks read highlights from the Department of Community Development report – attended a meeting for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 1st, will recap council meetings to the Business District Authority to keep them informed of what is happening in the city, will be attending the Economy Electric Mobility meeting at the library and attended a meeting with Beaver County Tourism.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS – NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mayor Johns said there are a lot of events happening and would like to see a lot of community participation.

Mr. Dean Dennell said he is running for Council and is looking forward to working with Council members.

District Attorney Lozier said he enjoys coming to Beaver Falls, it is the most positive community and he goes to a lot of communities. Beaver Falls is the leader in Beaver County. He praised Fire Chief Stowe and the fire department and Police Chief Johnson and the police department. Said Beaver County is fortunate coming out of Covid that there were no increases of drug overdoses.

Mayor Johns said the city is blessed with it's employees, they are always supporting the citizens in Beaver Falls.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Ms. Evans to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM. The vote was:

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

pjd

