

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on April 11, 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	City Clerk Paula Durish
Deputy Mayor Peggy Evans	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor	DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	WWTP Manager Joe Durish Jr.
Councilman John “Chuckie” Kirkland	Chief Financial Officer Sandy Wilkins
Attorney Shannon Steele	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks
City Manager Charles Jones Jr.	City Engineer Tony Sadaka – Widmer’s

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

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Absent

Motion Passed

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

Ray Gutowski was present and introduced the new Library Director, Curt Friehs. He said Mr. Friehs was formerly at the Evans City Library and also practiced at Pittsburgh, New York and Kansas Libraries. He owns a home in Ambridge and has also owned other properties and business ventures. He has written and co-authored several publications. He is very much interested in community activities and involvement, history and wishes to have the library even more of an integral part of community events. A round of applause followed the introduction.

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Chiappetta to adopt Ordinance 4082 approving the Administrative Code and Operations of the city as a Home Rule Municipality. 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 adopt Ordinance 4083 approving an agreement between the city and the Beaver Falls Car Cruise Committee for security services at the Beaver Falls Car Cruise on June 10, 2023. 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 1678 approving the list of General Fund and Payroll expenses in the amount of \$670,331.18. The vote was:

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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 hire Tyler Ursida as a Beaver Falls Police Officer with a starting date of April 17, 2023. Police Chief Johnson introduced Mr. Ursida and said that he has completed and passed his physical and psychological tests and is ready to start. Mr. Ursida said he was working in Beaver Boro and is anxious to begin working in Beaver Falls. 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 resignation from Chris Quinn from the Recreation Board effective immediately. Mr. Quinn has family sport responsibilities and cannot lend his time as he feels he should. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said she has been working on ordinances with Mrs. Durish.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine read highlights from his March report – received 82 calls, conducted 11 property dye tests with code enforcement, marked 389 PA-One Calls, inspected MS4 outfalls, repaired potholes, sealed and repainted floors in the police department and repaired various alleys and avenues throughout the city,

Mr. Sadaka said a change order is being issued for an additional backstop at 37th Street Ballfield as part of the rehab CDBG project.

Mr. Durish said an ad has been placed in the newspaper for the Mechanic Trainee open position at the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Ms. Burks said the Easter Egg Hunt on April 1st at the 37th Street Park was a success with well over 150 kids attending. She thanked the Beaver falls Ministerium, the Beaver County Christian School, Neighborhood North, Department of Public Works, Beaver Falls Fire Department and Beaver Falls Police Department for helping out. On April 29th, the Core Launch event will take place along with the Library Park ribbon cutting. She has also established a park naming activity with students from Central School and the High School.

Police Chief Johnson read his March report with 257 parking tickets issued, 4 police parking tickets issued, 1,472 police calls for service and 199 police traffic/non-traffic citations issued. Chief Johnson thanked Council for hiring Mr. Ursida and said that the Neighborhood Watch meeting on April 24th will be held at the Beaver County Hazmat Garage located next to the walking trail at Brady's Run Park on Route 51. It will be a presentation by the Beaver County Emergency Services Unit with displays of some of their equipment and discuss their role in emergency services.

Ms. Taylor said plans with Ruhe Park are moving forward. An Out of School Bash will be held on June 2nd with food vendors, games, activities and a movie. Help is needed with everything. Anyone able to donate time and help is welcome. A trail clean up will be held on April 22nd and everyone is invited to help.

Mr. Jones said Council has his report to read and that he had the pleasure of escorting Mayor Johns, Deputy Mayor Peggy Evans, Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor and City Clerk Paula Durish to Harrisburg on Wednesday to receive the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence. The city received the Promoting Community/Economic Revitalization award.

Ms. Evans said Li'l Tigers is back to meeting and is looking for volunteers for their program.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Chrissy Webb – does mobile vacuum sales and repairs in her home and is wanting to start a business in Beaver Falls. Would like a storefront in Beaver Falls. Mayor Johns said it is great to have her come to the city. There is help for her. She suggested that she speak to Mr. Jones after the meeting.

Ray Gutowski – said Geneva College acquired the building by the river and wanted to know if there were any plans to extend the bike trail. Thinks that renaming the park should have a plaque acknowledging the March Family as they donated money to start the original park. The person who renames the park should have their name on a plaque too. Mayor Johns said the original plaque will remain at the library. Mr. Gutowski said he does not want the library associated with the park.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM. The vote was:

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

