

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on June 13, 2023 at 7:01PM in Council Chambers of the City Building. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Mayor Kenya Johns. The prayer was offered by Councilwoman Vanessa Ford-Taylor that was followed by the pledge to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Mayor Kenya Johns	City Clerk Paula Durish
Deputy Mayor Peggy Evans	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	DPW Manager Patrick Burdine
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland	Chief Financial Officer Sandy Wilkins
City Solicitor Shannon Steele	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks
City Manager Charles R. Jones Jr.	

Dr. Mayor Johns announced that Council met in executive session at 6:15PM this evening to discuss personnel matters.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Ms. Taylor to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2023 council meeting. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Ordinance 4099 amending the vehicles and traffic ordinance (Ordinance 1619) for placement of stop signs at 6th Avenue and 20th Street, southeast and southwest corners. 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 Resolution 1682 amending the Asset Purchase Agreement with Aqua, deleting Article 1 in Ordinance 4049 and replacing it with Article 1 in this resolution. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to adopt Resolution 1683 approving the fees for the special use of city parks and playgrounds. 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 1684 approving a list of General Fund and Payroll expenditures from 5-25-23 to 6-12-23 totaling \$419,081.37. 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 adopt Resolution 1685 entering into a Cooperation Agreement with the County of Beaver to participate in the CDBG Program for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026. 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 letter of resignation from Police Officer Hans Spencer from the Beaver Falls Police Department effective June 15, 2023. 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 letter of resignation from Probationary Police Officer Tyler Ursida from the Beaver Falls Police Department effective May 27, 2023. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

Fire Chief Mark Stowe began saying that the City of Beaver Falls, Big Beaver Borough, Chippewa Township, Darlington Township and Patterson Township requested technical assistance from the Department of Community and Economic Development, Governor’s Center for Local Government Services, to carry out a feasibility study for a regionalization of the fire service. This study was conducted by Daniel P. Wauthier, Fire Peer Consultant who provided a report of observations and recommendations. Chief Stowe said the reason this is being done is because the fire service has hit a crisis level in that only a small amount of firefighters are responding to calls.

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Evans to grant the request submitted by the S.H.A.Y. Foundation and permit the 2nd Annual Back To School Bash on August 18, 2023 from 5:00PM to 10:00PM on 4th Avenue between 8th Street and Pine Street (streets will actually be closed starting at 2:00PM). There will be a cookout, bounce house, carnival games, Corvette Club, Communicycle, movie and free school supplies. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said everything she had to report was discussed in tonight's executive session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine reported the following for the month of May: 66 calls to the department, 10 downed trees/branches removed, conducted 17 property dye tests, marked 43 pa one calls, inspected MS4 outfalls, cleaned sanitary/storm lines, hung Veteran's banners on 7th Avenue, removed furniture, tires, trash and debris from various locations and reinstalled stone face to BFPD alley access steps.

Ms. Burks spoke about Juneteenth and thanked Mayor Johns, Deputy Mayor Evans and the Reunion Committee for their help in planning the event that will be held at Second Avenue Playground. She also brought to everyone's attention that Beaver County Behavioral Health is conducting Narcan Training on Thursday, June 29th from 6 to 7:30PM at Christian Assembly on Lincoln Place in Beaver Falls.

Fire Chief Stowe reported the following for the month of May: 119 calls for service, 7 structural fires, 80 medic first responder calls and 1 fire prevention program. There was a total estimated fire loss of \$2,000.00 and 202 total training hours. The code office reported for zoning: 337 inquiries, 9 demolition permits and 6 building permits; code enforcement: 165 complaints, 296 inspections, 44 residential occupancy permits issued, 4 commercial occupancy permits issued and 12 citations issued; rental registration: 26 rental registration inspections. Total fees from every department totaled \$10,901.87.

Police Chief Dave Johnson reported the following for the month of May: 261 parking tickets issued, 1,630 calls for service and 179 police traffic/non-traffic citations issued.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Taylor said the Ruhe Playground event had a great turnout. Thanked Pat Burdine, Fire Chief Stowe and Police Chief Johnson and their departments for all their help. There is a fundraiser on June 30th at CC's Catch 22 for the playground. There have been new volunteers joining the playground committee. There is information available to sponsor a bench at the playground.

Mr. Jones said the car cruise on Saturday was a great event. Thanked Paula Durish for doing a great job on behalf of the city and the elected officials for taking part throughout the day.

Ms. Evans said the car cruise had a great turnout! She had a lot of fun and loves doing things in Beaver Falls.

Mr. Kirkland said the car cruise was great. He is glad to be a part of Beaver Falls.

Fire Chief Stowe said Lindy Tita, a citizen of Beaver Falls, picks up trash in the city every day. He believes she should be recognized.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ray Gutowski, 14th Street and Sherman Alley, BF – on the library’s Board of Trustees. Had a meeting last night and wondered with Aqua acquiring the WasteWater Treatment Plant, is the grant for the library roof still part of the agreement with Aqua. Mayor Johns said that it is. The CDBG Program grants pertain to the new park, part of the outside of the library and the old News Tribune building.

Alex Lathom, BF – he purchased property and it is not in his name yet. Mr. Jones and Mrs. Durish said they will work with him. There is a problem with not having a deed and a survey has to be done. Ms. Steele said she will explain what is happening to him after the meeting.

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

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

pjd