

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on February 13, 2024 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers of the City Building. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Mayor Kenya Johns. The prayer was offered by City Manager Charles R. Jones Jr., that was followed by the pledge to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Mayor Kenya Johns	City Manager Charles R. Jones Jr.
Deputy Mayor Peggy Evans	City Clerk Paula Durish
Councilman Dean Dinell	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
City Solicitor Shannon Steele	DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine
City Engineer Tony Sadaka	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2024 council meeting. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motion Passed				

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to hire Daniel Frederick as a Patrolman in the Beaver Falls Police Department with a starting date of February 14, 2024. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motion Passed				

Mr. Frederick was called forward and Mayor Johns administered the Oath of Office to him. He was congratulated by Council and received a round of applause from everyone in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Dinell to hire Nathan Abbott as a Firefighter in the Beaver Falls Fire Department with a starting date of February 19, 2024. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motion Passed				

Mr. Abbott was congratulated by Council and received a round of applause from everyone in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve Ordinance 4106 on first reading approving the sale of three properties located at 1020 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 1014 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1016 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, BF to Mr. Ian Johns, BF in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per property (total of Three Hundred Dollars - \$300.00). The vote was:

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Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

Mrs. Durish introduced Mr. Jerry Ford, who was appointed to the Beaver Falls Civil Service Board at the meeting held January 23, 2024 but was not in attendance. Council had discussed last year that anyone appointed or reappointed to any board should attend the council meeting and be introduced so that Council members may meet them. Mr. Ford gave a brief description of his background. Council thanked him for his interest to serve on the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Dinell to reappoint Mr. Rodney Austin to the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority Board for an additional five year term expiring December 31, 2028. Mr. Austin stood, introduced himself and gave a few comments about his background. Council thanked him for his prior years of service and desire to continue serving on the BFMA Board. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to appoint Mike Brown to the Beaver Falls Recreation Board for a five year term expiring February 13, 2029. Mr. Brown stood, introduced himself and gave a few comments about his background. Council thanked Mr. Brown for his interest to serve on the Recreation Board. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Dinell and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1733 approving the list of General Fund (\$307,694.33) and Payroll (\$338,306.34) expenditures in the total amount of \$646,000.67. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Dinell to accept the letter of resignation from Patrolman James H. Brown III, Beaver Falls Police Department, effective February 3, 2024. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to accept the letter of resignation from Patrolman Sierra Higby, Beaver Falls Police Department, effective February 8, 2024. The vote was:

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Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Dinell to accept the letter of retirement from Susan Yonlisky, City Tax Office, effective March 29, 2024 at 4:00PM. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Dinell to approve the request made by City Manager Charles Jones Jr. to apply for a 2024 CDBG Grant. Mr. Jones explained that the grant is due in April and if approved, will be used towards city projects. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said she has the deed for the properties mentioned in Ordinance 4106 that was read tonight. After acquiring the proper signatures, she will record the deeds for the three properties.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine read his January report and also said there is a crew working on park projects and has a schedule for filling potholes in the city.

Mr. Sadaka reported that a highway occupancy permit was submitted for the intersection at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and will put the project out for bid in about a month.

Ms. Burks said she is bringing back the BF Buzz newsletter and is working on a spring edition. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on March 23, 2024 at 37<sup>th</sup> Street Park, a box is outside the Mayor's office for Love Thy Neighbor collections during the remainder of the month of February and an organization called Entrepreneurs Forever that offers small businesses Pier Mentorship Programs.

Fire Chief Stowe thanked Council for hiring Nathan Abbott as a Firefighter tonight. He then read highlights from his January fire and code office reports.

Police Chief Johnson thanked Council for hiring Daniel Fredericks as a Patrolman tonight. He then read his January police and parking reports.

Mr. Jones said that Council has his report, plans to move the power lines on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the spring, is looking at new sidewalks and trees on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and received a \$50,000.00 Tourism Grant.

Mrs. Durish said the Car Cruise is on June 8, 2024 and a second meeting will be held on February 19, 2024. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help, please attend the meeting next week.

Ms. Evans said the Beaver Falls Business District Authority Chili Cook Off was a great success! Congratulations to Wolfe's for winning first place and to Mayor Johns for placing third. It was a fun day!

Mr. Kirkland asked whatever happened to the request for handicap parking in front of the library? Mayor Johns said it was decided that a sign would be erected to let everyone know that handicap parking was behind Falls Park on 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Johns said Congratulations should go to Ian Johns for winning third place in the BFBDA Chili Cook Off and also congratulated the Beaver Falls Varsity Girls Basketball Team, Lady Tigers, for winning their WPIAL Girls Basketball Class 3A Playoffs game. Candy Young will be the speaker at Tabernacle Church on February 18, 2024 for Black History Month. Ms. Young was a resident of Beaver Falls graduating from Beaver Falls High School and was an outstanding track star. Portia Cosby, a former resident and 1998 graduate of Beaver Falls High School will be at the high school on February 23, 2024 to present the award-winning short film she wrote and produced titled On Deaf Ears that highlights a concern in the special needs community. There will be a K-9 Benefit at Jus1More Sports Bar on March 2, 2024 for K9 Figo and the Beaver Falls Police Department.

#### CITIZENS COMMENTS

Curtis Walsh, WBVP Radio Station - asked for the safety of citizens, what can anyone tell him about the incident that occurred by the walking trail near Geneva College. Is there a threat to the community? Why is the police department not giving out information? Mayor Johns said it is an active investigation and information cannot be given out at this time. Ms. Evans made a few comments and also said that the pastor of SOMA is doing community prayer on Thursdays at 8AM at the entrance of the walking trail at 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Anyone can attend.

Xavia (student from Beaver Falls) asked what does it mean when the Mayor says "have a motion". Mayor Johns explained that she is asking for a council person to make a formal proposal to either accept or deny an agenda item that was discussed and needs voted on.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM. The vote was:

Taylor	Evans	Dinell	Kirkland	Johns
Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motion Passed				

