

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on January 23, 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 Clerk Paula Durish                          |
| Councilman Dean Dinell             | Police Chief David Johnson                       |
| Deputy Mayor Peggy Evans           | Fire Chief Mark Stowe                            |
| Councilman John “Chuckie” Kirkland | DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine               |
| City Solicitor Shannon Steele      | CFO Sandra Wilkins                               |
| City Manager Charles R. Jones Jr.  | Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks |

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2024 council meeting. The vote was:

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

Mayor Johns then introduced Bobby Lincoln, who gave a presentation on the value of having EV chargers in our community.

Seth Whitted was then introduced by Mayor Johns and he spoke about the Tomorrow Project and painting a mural on the building he owns at 507 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, BF (former Stray Cat Studio).

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to adopt Resolution 1731 approving an employment agreement with Teri Underwood, Parking Enforcement Officer. 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 1732 approving the list of General Fund (\$454,576.35) and Payroll (\$167,455.86) expenditures in the total amount of \$622,032.21. 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 Beaver Falls Police Patrolman Aaron Baer effective December 28, 2023. 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 Ms. Evans to accept the bids of Ian Johns for the purchase of city owned properties at 1020 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 1014 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1016 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, BF. Mr. Johns submitted a sealed bid, as advertised, and bid \$100.00 for each property. He was asked what he intended to do with the property and he said possibly build a home. The vote was:

|        |        |       |          |         |
|--------|--------|-------|----------|---------|
| Taylor | Dinell | Evans | Kirkland | Johns   |
| Absent | Yes    | Yes   | Yes      | Abstain |

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to accept the request submitted by Police Chief Johnson and hire Police Cadets Devin Lewis and Gabriel Morales as part-time jailer/trainee at a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective immediately. 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 Jerry Ford as Alternate to the Civil Service Board. Mayor Johns asked if Mr. Ford was in attendance as last year Council stated that newly appointed and reappointed members of boards had to be present. Police Chief Johnson said it was necessary to appoint Mr. Ford tonight as a police test was coming up next week. Mrs. Durish said she will contact Mr. Ford to attend the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. 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 table the request from the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority to reappoint Rodney Austin to the Board of Directors for a 5 year term. Mr. Austin was not present and Mrs. Durish said that she would contact him to attend the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The vote was:

|        |        |       |          |       |
|--------|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| Taylor | Dinell | Evans | Kirkland | Johns |
| Absent | Yes    | Yes   | Yes      | Yes   |

Motion Passed

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said the deeds were accepted and recorded for the Bridge Street Project. Mayor Johns thanked her for all her hard work. Ms. Steele said there were city employees who helped and she thanks them.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine gave his December report. Said the DPW employees are treating the roads for winter and are filling potholes.

Ms. Burks said she is in the early event planning stage for the Easter Egg Hunt at 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Cinco de Mayo at Falls Park and Juneteenth at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Playground. She is working with the BFBDA to create a calendar of city events. She highly recommends everyone attend the Chili Cook Off on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and she has a meeting on Thursday with Mr. Farkas from the Junior High School to discuss the creation of a Junior Council Program.

Fire Chief Stowe read his fire department and code department reports. Also submitted a yearly report and asked Council to review it.

Police Chief Johnson read his police department and parking enforcement reports and year end reports for both.

Mr. Jones said a fantastic job was done with blight, received funding to tear structures down. Received a letter of thanks for tearing down house in the city.

Mrs. Durish said the first car cruise meeting was held last night (January 22<sup>nd</sup>) and that there were new members attending. The committee is excited to begin planning the 33<sup>rd</sup> Car Cruise to be held on June 8, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS – NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Lynwood Alford, Beaver Falls – said he always has to give kudos to City Council! The fire department, police department and street department are all doing a fantastic job!! Beaver Falls is becoming “the City” in Beaver County. The Duquesne Light (for EV chargers in the city) and mural projects mentioned tonight are moving the city forward. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Candy Young is coming to Beaver Falls and will be at Tabernacle Baptist Church. She has written a book and is a Beaver Falls native. Would like support from the city at this event.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM. The vote was:

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

