

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session at 7:05PM on November 14, 2023 in Council Chambers of the City Building. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kenya Johns. The prayer was offered by Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor 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
Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor	Police Chief David Johnson
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland	DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine
Solicitor Shannon Steele	Chief Financial Officer Sandy Wilkins
Engineer Tony Sadaka – Widmer's	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks

Mayor Johns announced that Council met in executive session prior to this meeting for personnel matters.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1720 amending the local share assessment grant to \$1,010,000.00 to be used for city road paving project. The amount approved at the October 24, 2023 meeting was \$1,002,700.00. 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 1721 approving a list of General Fund and Payroll Expenditures in the amount of \$912,414.27 for the period 10-27-23 to 11-13-23. 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 the city's Sexual Harassment Policy. 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 bid, submitted thru Municibid, from Mathew Dodson in the amount of \$4,800.00 to purchase the city owned 2013 Chevrolet Caprice. The vote was:

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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 accept the letter of resignation from Police Officer Herman Sayre effective November 22, 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 approve the lot consolidation of 2301 8th Avenue and three (3) adjoining lots on 8th Avenue requested by The Apostolis Family. The city Planning Commission met on November 6th and recommended that this be presented to Council for final approval. 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 Cierra Durkee to purchase 1326 10th Avenue, BF from the county repository to remodel and use as her permanent address. 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 grant the request submitted by TSTEALS RENTALS, INC. to purchase a lot on Center Avenue and 17th Street, BF from the county repository to use for extra yard as it abuts her existing property at 1707 Center Avenue, BF. 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 2022 tax refund to Connolly Park LLC in the amount of \$973.38 due to an assessment change. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve the 2023 tax refund to Connolly Park LLC in the amount of \$1,250.48 due to an assessment change. 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 2024 employee insurance proposal presented by UPMC with a 9.5% increase from 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. Evans to accept the three (3) year household waste and recycling proposal (2024, 2025 and 2026) presented by Valley Waste Service, Inc. 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 modification to the civil service rules and add the creation of the Police Cadet position as requested by Police Chief Johnson. 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 Ms. Evans to approve the proposed 2024 city budget as presented. Council and Department Heads are to review and contact Ms. Wilkins if any changes are to be made prior to final approval at the council meeting on December 12, 2023. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said she reported everything in executive session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine read highlights from his October report – 74 calls, conducted 6 property dye tests with code enforcement, marked and recorded 46 pa one calls, repaired potholes, installed Veterans banners on 7th Avenue, picked up leaf piles and trimmed 7th Avenue trees.

Mr. Sadaka said the contractor is working on completing the 37th Street Ballfield Rehab CDBG project.

Fire Chief Stowe read highlights from the October fire report – 134 calls, 5 structural fires, 20 false alarms, 54 medic first responders and 367.5 hours of training. Said the Aerial is due back tomorrow. Read highlights from the October code report – 326 calls and walkins, 3 building permits issued, 41 complaints/inspections for code enforcement, 71 inspections, 27 residential occupancy permits issued and 108 rental registration inspections. BFCDC paid for 2 houses to be demolished and the house on 4th Avenue and 35th Street is being demolished next week. Thanked Mr. Jones and Ms. Steele for their work to have this taken care of.

Police Chief Johnson read highlights from the October police report – 256 parking tickets issued, 3 police parking tickets issued, total calls for police service was 1,226 and 63 police traffic/non-traffic citations were issued. The Neighborhood Watch meeting in October had a good response to the drone presentation topic. The next meeting is November 27th and will be on Holiday Fire Safety, presented by Fire Chief Stowe and members of the fire department.

Ms. Taylor gave an update on Ruhe Park, seeking a Block Grant for the park.

Mr. Chiappetta said he is happy to see the newly elected official, Dean Dinell and that he has enjoyed being on Council for 17 years.

Mrs. Durish reminded everyone that the Christmas Parade is on November 25th and begins at 6:00PM. Lineup will start on 7th Avenue and 17th Street and the parade will travel south to 10th Street.

Mr. Kirkland said he is glad to see everyone out. Mayor Johns congratulated Mr. Kirkland on winning the election. He said he is proud to be a Councilman. Reminded everyone of the Christmas Dinner on December 25th at the Beaver Falls High School.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Paul Deppenbrook, BF – asked what the status of Ross Hill was. This is not the first time a problem existed here. Oil is the problem on the hill. He has seen three accidents. Asked what the status was again. Mayor Johns said it is still being checked into. He said it is a federally maintained highway and the city should check it out. The city should also look into the hill's historical status. His advice was to check to see who put the blacktop down on the road.

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

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

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