

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on March 26, 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 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 Ford-Taylor	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
Councilman Dean Dinell	DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine
Councilman John “Chuckie” Kirkland	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks
City Manager Charles R. Jones Jr.	
City Solicitor Shannon Steele	* Lucy Seese – Freshman Intern, Geneva College

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024 meeting. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

Ms. Rochelle Burks, Director of Community Development, introduced Ms. Peggy Evans, Deputy Mayor and Vanessa Ford-Taylor, Councilwoman, to present the Women of Influence Awards. Those receiving the awards were Ruth Ann Nesmith, Owner – Jackson’s Barbershop, Paula Durish, City Clerk – City of Beaver Falls, Kiarrah Wingo, Senior – Beaver Falls High School, Neziyah McElvy, Senior – Beaver Falls High School and Jeslyn Gouldsbary, Senior – Beaver County Christian School. The women were introduced individually by Ms. Burks who then read a brief narrative of each woman while being presented their award from Deputy Mayor Evans. A round of applause followed after each presentation.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Taylor to adopt Ordinance 4107 on first reading establishing a maximum speed limit on Ross Hill and providing for penalties for violations. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1738 approving an agreement with CARE Ministry providing support for the annual Christmas Dinner. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Dinell and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1739 approving the list of general fund and payroll expenditures for the period 3-21-24 to 3-26-24 in the amount of \$322,434.68. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	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 plumbing proposal for the crawl space room in the basement submitted by Reno Bros in the amount of \$16,080.00. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	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 from the Car Cruise Committee to hold the annual car cruise (33rd) on Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 11AM to 7PM. The cruise will be held on 7th Avenue between 5th Street and 24th Street. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	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 Ahmmad Eldeib to purchase property on 10th Street near 10th Avenue from the county repository for use as additional yard space adjacent to his property and to grant the request for tax exoneration prior to 2024. The vote was:

Taylor	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said she prepared the ordinance for first reading tonight pertaining to Ross Hill and will advertise for second reading before the next council meeting and that she prepared an ordinance for Chief Johnson to review for the approval of an incentive for police officers.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine said April 1st begins street sweeping between the hours of 5AM to 1PM, grass cutting equipment is ready for the start of parks/playgrounds maintenance season and his department is potholing alleys.

Ms. Burks thanked everyone who was involved in the Easter Egg Hunt at 37th Street; the city departments - police, fire for bringing the bunny, DPW for providing electric. The ministerium did a great job! Applications for the Junior Council Program can be obtained from her until April 11, 2024 from any high school sophomore, junior or senior. The Cinco De Mayo celebration will be held on May 4, 2024 at The Falls Park from noon until 9PM and the third annual Juneteenth community celebration will be held on June 15, 2024 from 2PM until 8PM at 2nd Avenue Playground.

Fire Chief Stowe said with the tragedy that happened in Jeannette where a father and four kids perished in a fire, it is very important that every house needs working smoke alarms. He is asking that all communities check their smoke alarms. Also prayers are needed for the barge tragedy on the bridge in Baltimore. Mr. Kirkland asked him to talk about carbon monoxide. Chief Stowe said it is important to have a meter in your home to detect any level of it in your home and prevent an accident.

Police Chief Johnson said the Neighborhood Watch meeting had good attendance and was held in Ambridge at the 911 Center and thanked them for their presentation. The next NW meeting will be held on April 29th.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Taylor wished everyone a Happy Resurrection!

Mr. Jones said he is happy to see Nicole Sariochek from the Beaver Falls Business District Authority at the meeting, the guys from the DPW are doing a good job at 37th Street ballfield and the Town Center Associates analysis of the city's business district shows we have the highest amount of businesses (13) added and our vibrancy score rated at #2. This is very encouraging news for the city and business district as it confirms all of our hard work.

Mrs. Durish thanked Council and everyone involved for selecting her as one of the Women of Influence award recipients.

Mayor Johns recognized and thanked Fire Chief Stowe for his 37 years of service with the city, said the library is holding an event this Saturday at 7PM and congratulated Susan Yonlisky on her retirement from the city having been employed 24 years.

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

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

