

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on August 8, 2023 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 Councilwoman Vanessa 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 Superintendent Patrick Burdine
Councilman John “Chuckie” Kirkland	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks
City Solicitor Shannon Steele	City Engineer Tony Sadaka – Widmer’s
City Manager Charles R. Jones Jr.	

Dr. Mayor Johns announced that Council met at 6:00PM this evening in Executive Session for personnel matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2023 meeting. 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 amend the agenda to add Ordinances 4100 and 4101. 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 Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve Ordinance 4100 amending Ordinance 1872 and Ordinance 2037, adopting the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code with amendments, as the Maintenance Code of the City of Beaver Falls. 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 Ordinance 4101 adopting the 2018 International Fire Code, with amendments, as attached in Exhibit A. 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 1697 approving the agreement between the City of Beaver Falls and the New Brighton Band Parents providing for security of two officers at the New Brighton 45th Annual Beaver County Marching Band Festival at Geneva College on September 16, 2023. 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 1698 approving the list of General Fund/Payroll Expenses in the amount of \$589,481.72 for the period July 27, 2023 to August 7, 2023. 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 Firefighter Seth Stowe, as read, effective July 27, 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 letter of retirement for a disability pension from Joseph M. Durish Jr., Manager of the WasteWater Treatment Plant, as read, effective August 20, 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 retirement from Fire Captain Robert Butler II, as read, effective September 17, 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 grant the request submitted from the Big Beaver Falls Area School District to host its Ninth Annual Tiger Trot 5K Run and 1.5 Walk on Saturday, November 4, 2023 starting at 10:00AM. 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 Mr. Chiappetta to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee and approve the request submitted by McMahon’s Cycle Sales Inc. to close 6th Street between 7th Avenue and Main Alley from noon to 6:00PM on August 26, 2023 to celebrate their 50th Anniversary with a live band and food trucks. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Ms. Steele said the title searches for the reclaim project should be done in a week – Chief Stowe made changes and were reviewed by the Beaver Falls Planning Commission zoning ordinance – Beaver County Planning Commission must review and comment – received letter from Charlton Law in reference Tigerland, Inc. – prepared Ordinances 4100 and 4101 for Chief Stowe – had meeting for personnel issues – finalizing deeds for Bridge Street by the end of the week.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine highlighted his July report: received 81 calls – inspected and removed debris from MS4 outfalls – repaired citywide potholes – removed and disposed of trash and debris from city parks and playgrounds – cut grass at all parks and playgrounds.

Ms. Burks stated that the Back 2 School Bash will be held on August 18, 2023.

Fire Chief Stowe read highlights from his July reports. The house on 8th Avenue will be demolished next week, Bridge Street homes and additional homes will be demolished using ARPA money, the aerial should be fixed by October 1, 2023. Mr. Kirkland asked if a firefighter will be hired to replace Robert Butler who is scheduled to retire in September. Chief Stowe said there are two candidates on the Civil Service list.

Chief Johnson read his July police reports and had nothing additional to report.

Mr. Jones said he had separate meetings with Jen Hammers, Solicitor Steele, Planning Commission and Genie Evanco and discussed various topics, opened sealed bids for Bridge Street properties and attended the Legislative Cruise with Mayor Johns.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Evans said Little Tigers football season will begin with their first game on August 19th and other games are on August 26th, September 9th and September 16th.

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Mr. Kirkland said the Public Works Department, under Mr. Burdine, are working on Mount Washington clearing properties by the projects and looks really good! Chief Stowe is finding locations to clear. Thanks for showing improvements.

Mayor Johns said Second Baptist Church is having a free community event on August 12, 2023 giving away shoes and clothes and on August 26, 2023 they will have a grab and go food event.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Brian Ferrington – Attorney who spoke on behalf of Tigerland Inc. and what the project means to the community and Mr. Ziegler. There were fund raisers and partnerships created for a better community. People enjoy the wave pool. There were requirements imposed on his client and he has done what was asked of him. Is trying to get the project up and running. There were miscommunications and Tigerland is more than ready and willing to move forward.

Dana Cunningham – asked what happened to the signs that were hung on the fence around the wave pool. Dr. Mayor Johns said the city has taken them down. She can get them if she wants.

David Hopton – has been here for 35 years, there is nothing for the kids and community. There are drug dealers, crackheads and more. There is money for ballfields and playgrounds but nothing is done. How is that right? How can Council sit and not take care of the city. Council is padding their pockets. Dr. Mayor Johns said no one is padding their pockets. Council does not get paid much, figures are in the budget, anyone can see.

Garrett Wilcox – is upset that the wave pool was approved to be on the agenda but was taken off.

Attorney Steele – this is a different agenda. The attorney this evening (Brian Ferrington) was the second solicitor for Tigerland. It is very difficult with different communication. She explained what happened in the past with the previous attorney.

Robert Taylor – there are new people on Council. The prior Council should have taken care of this. Why doesn't everyone get together and do the right thing. Try to open the pool.

Danielle Johnson – is a community/board member. The lawyer was going to ask for a meeting, sit with Council, try to resolve this. There was a lot going on, Tyrone had a stroke. Information was given to them in July. There was a letter dated July 19th.....Solicitor Steele said she did not do the letter. Ms. Joshnson said people are saying wrong and bad things about Tigerland.

Frances Trczinski – said she managed the pool in 1997 and it was productive. Asked if there are plans for the property, does Council have plans for the pool property, what do kids have to look forward to. Kids need to socialize. There is too much technology.

Leanne Spearman – it takes a village to move forward. Need to do this for the children. Worked hard for 7 ½ years. Council has a responsibility, put your egos in a trash can and move on!

Carol Wiltse – asked who has the key (to the pool)? Dr. Mayor Johns said the city does. Ms. Wiltse asked if Tyrone had it. Did Tigerland have it? Tyrone was doing things at the pool. Why does he not have it now?

Latasha Nelson – asked what all the confusion was. He did all the work, does the city want to take over now? Solicitor Steele said there were negotiations, Tigerland would not sign the agreement. Neither side (Tyrone/Council) could reach an agreement.

Deputy Mayor Evans said she loved the support people gave tonight. The solicitors have to do the negotiating.

Ben Kaufman – said he met Tyrone 6 years ago. He was very excited about the wavepool. He owns a business to work on pools. He worked 4 days at the pool with Tyrone. Did the inspection before the feasibility study. It is all about being legal now, was not before. That is a cop out. Tyrone raised tons of money and now the plug is being pulled.

Kirsten Bestor – asked if the city is willing to negotiate with Tigerland. Dr. Mayor Johns said the city cannot, it's legal.

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Evans to adjourn the meeting. The vote was:

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

pjd

