

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on September 12, 2023 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers of the City Building. The meeting was called to order by Doctor Mayor Kenya Johns. The prayer was offered by Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor that was followed by the pledge to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Doctor Mayor Kenya Johns	Police Chief David Johnson
Deputy Mayor Peggy Evans	Fire Chief Mark Stowe
Councilwoman Vanessa Taylor	DPW Superintendent Patrick Burdine
Councilman Leonard Chiappetta	Chief Financial Officer Sandy Wilkins
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland	Director of Community Development Rochelle Burks
City Manager Charles Jones Jr.	Engineer Tony Sadaka (Widmer's)
City Clerk Paula Durish	

A motion was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to accept the minutes from the August 22, 2023 council meeting. The vote was:

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

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

Doctor Mayor Johns then read and presented Bridget Tita with a Certificate of Appreciation for taking pride in the city and voluntarily doing city wide cleanups. A round of applause followed.

Mr. Curt Friehs, Carnegie Library's Librarian, was present to speak to Council regarding a Keystone Grant for the library roof. The municipality needs to approve the application and complete it. Mayor Johns said this is a matching grant, where are the matching funds coming from. Mr. Friehs said they have money set aside and will be able to cover the match. Roof costs can vary and cost even more if there is damage under the shingles. He received quotes from \$80,000.00 to \$325,000.00. Mayor said he needs to have all the information before the grant is submitted. Mr. Kirkland asked Mr. Friehs what kind of roof he wanted. Mr. Friehs said asphalt-shingle. He will be talking to Mr. Jones. Ms. Evans said he has done research and has a lot of information. Mr. Friehs said the building needs a lot of work. The library is nonprofit and is separate from the school. Mayor Johns asked if the library can move forward as long as they have the funds to match. Council all agreed that Mr. Friehs can move forward.

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Ms. Taylor to adopt Resolution 1705 approving an agreement with Speerhas Business to provide a copy machine for the City Treasurer's Office. 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 1706 approving an agreement with Speerhas Business to provide a copy machine for the Beaver Falls Fire Department. 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. Taylor to adopt Resolution 1707 approving a list of General Fund and Payroll expenditures in the amount of \$495,203.01 from August 23, 2023 to September 11, 2023. 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 Mr. Kirkland to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee and grant the request submitted by Costas (Gus) Apostolis, owner of The Evergreen, to close 8th Avenue between 24th and 25th Streets on October 1, 2023 from 10AM until 6PM for a bike run cancer fundraiser for Joseph Durish Jr. 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 recommendation of the Safety Committee and grant the request submitted by Rochelle Burks, Director of Community Development, to close 13th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues on September 30, 2023 from Noon to 5PM for the Beaver Falls Fall Festival. The vote was:

Taylor	Chiappetta	Evans	Kirkland	Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Burdine reported that in the month of August, the department received 88 calls and the DPW employees, amongst other duties, swept city streets and avenues, inspected and removed debris from MS4 outfalls, repaired citywide potholes, cut grass at all parks and playgrounds and cut and removed residential tree branches blocking traffic signals and stop signs.

Mr. Sadaka said the contractor working at the 37th Street ballfield for the CDBG rehab project has not completed the work required and a field survey was done and design effort will begin to improve storm water control at 24th Street and 10th Avenue, 25th Street and 10th Avenue and 8th Avenue and 36th Street.

Ms. Burks explained that she is working on one (Fall Festival) of 3 events happening in the city on September 30, 2023. The Fall Festival will be held from Noon to 4PM at Falls Park, World Day of Play from 10AM till 2PM at Neighborhood North and Sip In The City sponsored by the Beaver Falls Business District Authority from Noon to 4PM at participating merchants. It will be a great day in the Falls!! She is also working on a Junior Councilperson Research Program and is uploading city information to the new digital sign in front of the Municipal Building.

Fire Chief Stowe read highlights from the August fire report: 154 calls for service, 7 structural fires, 82 medic first responder calls, 268 training hours and a total estimated fire loss of \$5,000.00. Captain Crawford and Firefighters Darrin Cole and Anthony Pieri went to Pensacola Beach in Florida on August 22nd, 23rd and 24th for a Water On The Fire conference. The fire department received their new SCBA's and are in service, fire department regionalization is moving forward and a meeting was held in Chippewa, the aerial is being repaired and should be done in a couple of weeks, there is fire fighting training at 43rd Street house on Thursday and Saturday and on September 28th, there is burn training on Bridge Street then house will be demolished. Zoning – 403 inquiries, 4 building permits issued; Code Enforcement – 155 complaints/inspections, 9 buildings posted uninhabitable, 50 residential occupancy permits issued, 30 citations issued; Rental Registration – 72 inspections.

Police Chief Johnson read his report for August in entirety, highlights noted: Parking – 250 tickets issued, Magistrate Fines (parking) \$379.42, total parking money \$1,725.92. Police – 1,443 calls for service, police traffic/non-traffic citations 119 and police fine revenue \$7,890.21.

Mr. Chiappetta said the new digital sign outside in front of the City Building is wonderful.

Mr. Jones said department regionalization discussions are moving forward, is working on contracts, attended a meeting regarding the turnpike and Route 18 construction, one of the reclaim houses on 8th Avenue and 13th Street has been demolished and that 16 more are scheduled for demolition.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Misty Hahn thanked Council for changing and hanging the American Flags at the Lt. Calvin Smith Park. She also stated that she is looking for the Home Rule Charter and is having a difficult time finding it on line. She has asked Mr. Jones, who said he is trying to find it and will get Ms. Hahn a copy. Mayor Johns said someone will get her a copy.

A gentleman from Ambridge was present and told Council he has been in touch with Betty Douglas's daughters. He is gathering her music collection and spoke to Mr. Jones about creating a center in which to display her items. The library is not an opportunity. If the collection cannot be displayed in a museum type building, it will have to be put in storage. If nothing can be done in Beaver Falls, Ambridge may be a possibility. This is a great artistic and rhythmic opportunity for the city. He also thinks Geneva College will support this endeavor.

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A motion was made by Mr. Chiappetta and seconded by Ms. Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 7:40PM.
The vote was:

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

pjd