

January 3, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Bedford Borough Council was held on the above date with the following Council Members present, Tim Weaverling, Sharon Turkovich, Jeff Rinscheid, William Blackburn, Kenny Fetterman and Matthew Bullington.

Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, Police Chief Craig Bowman, and Solicitor Dean Crabtree were in attendance.

Council Member Patrick Neff and Engineer Tim Cooper, PE of Stiffler McGraw were absent.

Erica Burkholder of the Bedford Gazette was in attendance along with Lorelle Steach, Downtown Bedford, Inc. (DBI).

Motion was made by Council Member Turkovich, seconded by Council Member Blackburn, to amend the agenda to include two zoning hearing applications scheduled to be heard by the Zoning Hearing Board on January 9, 2023, discussion on the Open Container Ordinance with a possible motion and an update from the Ordinance Committee on their meeting discussion on the Sign Ordinance. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Rinscheid, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to make the following appointments:

- Borough Solicitor – Dean Crabtree
- Borough Secretary – Beverly Geller
- Assistant Borough Secretary – Misty Hizer
- Borough Treasurer – Barbara E. Diehl
- Assistant Borough Treasurer – Beverly Geller
- Borough Manager and Borough Secretary as Right-to-Know Officers
- Vacancy Board - Council & Solicitor (If solicitor is a resident of the Borough). Solicitor to be chairperson of Board.
- Chief Administrative Officer of the Police Pension Plan and Fund (Heretofore the Borough Secretary.)

Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to designate the following depositories:

- “First National Bank of PA” as the depository for the Borough General Fund and Water/Sewer Operating Fund Checking Accounts.
- “Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust” (PLGIT) as the depository for the Liquid Fuels Fund Checking Account.
- “Altoona First” as the depository for the Capital Reserve Fund Checking Account.
- “Hometown Bank” as the depository for the Fort Bedford Museum Operating Fund Checking Account.

Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Turkovich, seconded by Council Member Blackburn, to authorize the Office Staff to pay the following: payroll, invoices coming due between meetings

and invoices on which a discount could be obtained if paid between meetings. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Rinscheid, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to approve Minutes from the December 5, 2022 Council Meeting and corrected Minutes from the December 20, 2022 Year-End Meeting. Correction for the Year-End meeting includes language that the Open Container Ordinance was discussed and forwarded to the Ordinance Review Committee for review. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to approve the list of bills from December 6, 2022 to January 3, 2023. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Bullington, seconded by Council Member Rinscheid, to approve the January 3, 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

One bid was received for a 2008 or older Tandem Dump Truck with less than 50,000 miles. The bid specifications included:

- LESS THAN 50,000 MILES
- STEEL BED, AIR GATE, VIBRATOR, FULLER TRANSMISSION
- COAL CHUTES, TARP, PINTLE HITCH
- MAIN LOCKING DIFFERENTIAL

Motion was made by Council Member Bullington, seconded by Council Member Blackburn, to accept the bid presented by Gordon Delozier for a 2007 International truck. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Mayor Leibfreid shared the Police statistics with Council.

Chief Bowman shared the anticipated hiring of two full time employees. The individuals are anticipated to begin class January 9<sup>th</sup> at California University and start training with the Borough in June.

Solicitor Crabtree shared that two zoning hearing applications were received and asked if Council would like representation at the hearings scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>. Council shared no objections on the two applications:

- 741 S. Juliana Street - Variance request is for relief from Chapter 27, Part 7, Section 701(A)(1) which states only single-family detached dwellings are permitted in the R-1 – Residential District – Single Family. Change of use is requested to convert a mother-in-law suite to a rental apartment.
- 301 W. Pitt Street - Variance request is for relief from Chapter 27, Part 11, Section 1101(A) which does not include a barber shop as a permitted use in the R-4 – Residential and Business/Professional Offices Zoning District. Proposed use is a barber shop.

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Council Member Rinscheid shared that the Fort Museum is now following their winter hours of Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and that construction of the Fort Era Exhibit and Whiskey Rebellion displays are underway.

Manager Diehl shared that she is working on dates for a meeting with DBI and Council.

Lorelle Steach shared that DBI will be taking down Christmas Lights on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> with the tree and garland on decorative light poles will be removed on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. \$30,000 was received for Christmas lights with \$100.00 used for repairs of the current lights. \$29,900.00 will be used for the purchase of new lights. Mrs. Steach shared that DBI received an Anchor Grant in the amount of \$96,000.00. The money will be awarded to Starved Rock LLC to purchase and update the Ford Garage at 145 E Pitt Street. The Anchor Grant will be used as a revolving loan. As money is repaid to DBI, the funds are then loaned to additional businesses.

Discussion on the Open Container Ordinance was entered. The Ordinance Review Committee will discuss the issue and return to Council with a suggestion. Council Member Rinscheid inquired about the steps to repeal an ordinance. Solicitor Crabtree shared that removing an ordinance still involves advertisement and adoption.

Council Member Blackburn shared that the Sign Ordinance was discussed by the Ordinance Review Committee, and they are suggesting it remain as is.

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to approve Ordinance 2023-01 to add a section to the Borough Code of Ordinances pursuant to Act 57 of 2022 – waiving fees due to failure to receive real estate tax notices. Motion was approved unanimously (6-0) by roll call vote --- Council Member Weaverling – aye, Council Member Turkovich – aye, Council Member Bullington – aye, Council Member Rinscheid – aye, Council Member Blackburn – aye, and Council Member Fetterman – aye.

Chief Bowman exited the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Manager Diehl reminded Council that William Callahan, Western PA Community Preservation Coordinator, will be onsite January 26, 2023 at 5:30 pm for a training session with the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB). Council Members are welcome to attend.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bullington and carried at 6:02 p.m.

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Borough Secretary