

February 6, 2023

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

Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, Police Chief Craig Bowman, Engineer Tim Cooper, and Solicitor Dean Crabtree were in attendance.

Council Member William Blackburn, Council Member Sharon Turkovich, Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, and Assistant Borough Secretary Misty Hizer were absent.

Erica Burkholder of the Bedford Gazette was in attendance along with Vicki Foor and Lindsay Salas of Downtown Bedford, Inc. (DBI). Also in attendance were Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, Chris Foster, Todd Holes, Skip Allen, Don Rowlett, and Bonnie May.

Motion was made by Council Member Rinscheid, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to approve Minutes from the January 3, 2023 Regular Meeting, the January 9, 2023 Special Meeting and the January 17, 2023 Council Workshop. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to approve the list of bills from January 4, 2023 to February 6, 2023. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to approve the February 6, 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy from American Rivers presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council. Within the presentation, Ms. Hollingsworth-Segedy shared a current view of the Paul Reighard Dam (at Fort Bedford Park), a proposed sketch of the river and area surrounding it if dam were to be removed as well as pictorial views of the floodplain area. During her presentation, she shared the estimated decrease in floodplain resulting from the lower dam removal and the effects on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River. Ms. Hollingsworth-Segedy also shared pictures of dam removal projects she directed in Grove City, Porters Cove, Ellwood City, Williamsburg, Johnsonburg, Cambria County and Butler County. American Rivers would cover all expense for removal of the Borough's two dams.

Council President Weaverling inquired about the current utilities that are of concern near both dams and was met with a response that American Rivers would cover all expense associated with engineering studies, removal, relocation, analysis, etc. that would be needed to determine such impact (if any) on these utilities. Council President Weaverling mentioned specifically the water lines, gas lines, ductal bank carrying high voltage electric lines, fiber optic communication lines and the abandoned sewer main. Ms. Hollingsworth-Segedy noted that engineering costs associated with the project would also be paid for by American Rivers. Council President Weaverling mentioned the previous concern of our Water Treatment Plant Operator (John Whitmore) pertaining to change in river elevation, however, Ms. Hollingsworth did not share the same concern but would definitely look into this with all the studies that would be performed prior to removal of dam.

Ms. Hollingsworth-Segedy was seeking approval from Council to start the process through American Rivers. If granted approval, she stated that design work could begin in September of 2023 and the overall project would take approximately three (3) years. Council thanked Ms. Hollingsworth-Segedy for her presentation and time. Ms. Hollingsworth-Segedy exited the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Borough resident Bonnie May was present to discuss handicap parking along Richard Street directly in front of the Catholic Church. Ms. May had received a ticket from the Police Department (which she paid) however, she felt the yellow line had recently been extended along Richard Street from the previous painting done two years ago and would like someone to investigate this. She also requested a designated handicap parking spot along Richard Street be considered. Borough Council advised Ms. May that the Ordinance Review Committee would look into this matter and make a recommendation to Borough Council.

DBI Manager Lindsay Salas shared that the order was placed for the new overhead Christmas lighting decorations on January 25, 2023. Penelec will be performing maintenance work on all utility poles that currently are in the footprint for the overhead decorations. This work will allow Penelec a 10-month lead time to repair/replace any of the electric boxes, etc.

Mayor Leibfreid shared the Police statistics with Council.

Chief Bowman shared that the department's new full-time employees (in training at the California University) are doing well in the academy and are currently top of their class.

Council Member Rinscheid presented the following event requests:

- Event Request form Brian Binder to hold a vow renewal on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 11 am to 12 noon at the Gazebo with 25 to 30 people in attendance.
- Abby's Angels requesting use of Fort Bedford Park on Saturday, June 17th and Saturday, July 15th. Requested dates are for cornhole tournaments from 10 am to 8 pm. A food truck and Olde Bedford Brewing and/or Bella Terra Vineyard will be onsite. Fenced in area will be set up for alcohol sales and consumption.

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to approve the events. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Council President Weaverling asked Council for further discussion on the Grant Writing proposals received and discussed during the January 17, 2023 Workshop Session. After further discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Fetterman, seconded by Council Member Neff, to accept the proposal from The KSA Group effective March 1, 2023 with a minimum commitment of six (6) months of fees proposed at \$5,500./month with no long-term contract commitment.

Council Member Bullington asked Council for further discussion on the presentation done earlier by Ms. Hollingsworth-Segedy (American Rivers). After much discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Fetterman, seconded by Council Member Rinscheid, to approve the design work and project requirements by American Rivers to determine whether both dams can be removed and if so, to move forward with such work.

Manager Diehl shared the following Historical Architecture Review Board (HARB) application: *A quorum was not present at the HARB meeting, however those in attendance recommended approval of the sign:*

- Barb Loshaw and Priscilla Koontz for The Brice Mansion Barber Shop, LLC, for signage at 301 E. Pitt Street.

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to approve the HARB Application. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Bullington, seconded by Council Member Neff, to approve the re-appointments of Steve George and Brian Sell to another 4-year term on the Borough Planning Commission. The motion also included the HARB appointment of William Blackburn to replace Carla Sturgis for the remainder of Ms. Sturgis' five-year term (expiring 06-2027). Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Manager Diehl stated that the Borough Planning Commission met on January 19, 2023, and have reviewed and now recommend Council's approval on the following requests:

- A request from TC Squared Plus, LLC to subdivide the lot shown on the attached Final Subdivision Plan. The applicant requested to divide E.09-E.06-304 into ten (10) lots intended for single-family residential homes. The properties will be served by public water and sewer. Driveways to each of the lots will connect to existing public streets. No new structures are currently proposed. The intent of this plan is only to subdivide the parent tract. The Bedford Borough Zoning Officer reviewed the request and found the proposal meets all ordinance requirements. The Bedford County Planning Commission reviewed the request and provided a review letter dated November 22, 2022. The EADS Group reviewed and provided a review letter dated December 22, 2022.
- A request from Don Rowlett to consolidate parcel E.09-E.06-099 with his existing parcel E.09-D.06-042, after purchase from Mr. Allen
- A request from James W. F. Allen to subdivide .54 acres of parcel E.09-E.06-053 for possible sale. Ownership will be retained by Mr. Allen. The Bedford Borough Zoning Officer reviewed the request and found the proposal meets all ordinance requirements. The Bedford County Planning Commission reviewed the request and provided a review letter dated December 13, 2022. Stiffler McGraw & Associates reviewed and provided a review letter dated December 9, 2022.

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to approve the Borough Planning Commission's recommendations on approval of above. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bullington and carried at 6:45 p.m.