

March 6, 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, Patrick Neff, Kenny Fetterman, Bill J. Blackburn, 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.

Assistant Borough Secretary Misty Hizer and Tim Cooper, P.E. of Stiffler, McGraw & Assoc. Inc, were absent.

Lloyd Roach of Cessna Communications, Erica Burkholder of the Bedford Gazette, Bill R. Blackburn, John Maxwell, Shawn Stiffler, and Les Clark were in attendance along Gary Cooper and Keenan Fink of the Bedford Fire Department and Alex Delia, Bedford County Emergency Management Director.

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to amend the agenda to add discussion and action on a Handicapped space on S. Richard Street between State Representative Jesse Topper's office and St. Thomas Church. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Rinscheid, seconded by Council Member Neff, to approve Minutes from the February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Bullington, seconded by Council Member Blackburn, to approve the list of bills from February 7, 2023 to March 6, 2023. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Neff, to approve the March 6, 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Shawn Stiffler, 607 S. Thomas Street, spoke to Council about a Notice of Violation he received for removing the sidewalk in front of his property. Mr. Stiffler noted that of the 13 houses on his block only 3 properties have sidewalks. Solicitor Crabtree shared that the current ordinance states that sidewalks need maintained regardless of how the sidewalk was put in (required or voluntary). Discussion was entered on the Borough taking over sidewalks, inspections only occurring when a property is sold and changing the ordinance to address this and similar sidewalk issues. It was shared with Mr. Stiffler that changing an Ordinance can take several months. The Ordinance Review Committee will review the issue.

John Maxwell, Pennsylvania Hotel resident, offered praise for the fire department's response to a recent kitchen fire at the Pennsylvania Hotel apartments. Mr. Maxwell noted that he was representing himself only and was in attendance not to criticize. Mr. Maxwell noted that the Hotel Pennsylvania evacuation plan is to meet in the parking lot at the rear of the building next to Central Way and was concerned if the parking lot was not accessible where an alternative location would be. Mr. Maxwell noted that he shared ideas with Alex Delia from the County and the Fire

March 6, 2023

Department and would be attending the Fire Department's next meeting to offer ideas. Mr. Maxwell would like to propose an idea for discussion.

Gary Cooper, Bedford Fire Department Chief, noted that an evacuation for Hotel Pennsylvania on the night of the fire at Pigeon Hill Properties on the 100 block of S. Juliana Street was not needed. Mr. Cooper noted that plans are in place.

Alex Delia, Bedford County's Emergency Management Director, noted that plans are stored in his office. Mr. Delia noted that he works and partners with groups to handle emergency situations. Mr. Delia noted that avenues are in place, and he defers to the Site Commander in emergency situations. Mr. Delia suggested that Mr. Maxwell discuss his concerns with the Hotel Pennsylvania Building Manager.

Gary Cooper and Keenan Fink exited the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor Leibfreid shared the Police statistics with Council.

Chief Bowman shared that the Bedford Police Department sent letters to or filed citations for property owners at W. Pitt, S. Thomas, S. Bedford, and Spring Streets.

Council President Weaverling shared that a new Grant/Finance Opportunities Committee was being created to work with Keystone Strategic Advocacy (KSA) to apply for grants and funding for various projects. Members of the Committee will be Council Member Rinscheid, Council Member Fetterman and Council President Weaverling.

Council Member Rinscheid shared that the new Whiskey Rebellion exhibit is under way. The Heritage Trust received a small amount of funds from a grant written by Michael Taylor for the Museum.

Council Member Rinscheid presented the following event requests:

- Request from In One Accord Ministries (formerly Love INC) to use the Gazebo on Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 12 noon to approximately 1 p.m. to hold a National Day of Prayer service with the expectation of fifty individuals in attendance. Electric for a sound system is requested.
- Request from In One Accord Ministries to collect funds and ring bells on Fridays and Saturdays in April from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner of Pitt and Juliana Streets outside Juli's Wearable Arts. Funds collected will be used to assist Bedford County families.

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to approve the events. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Council Member Bullington shared that a request was received from the Bedford County Garden Club to place a Gold Star Marker in the Federal Square close to the water spigot. Motion was made by Council Member Fetterman, seconded by Council Member Bullington, to approve the request. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Turkovich, seconded by Council Member Neff, to advertise the addition of a Handicapped space on S. Richard Street between State Representative Topper's office and St. Thomas Church. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Council Member Fetterman noted that there have been multiple occasions where vehicles make right turns outside of traffic lanes and have almost caused accidents. Discussion followed on adding paint markings to discourage turns from the curb.

Manager Diehl shared the following Historical Architecture Review Board (HARB) applications were recommended by HARB Members for approval unanimously (5-0):

- Mike Mortimore – 234-236 W. Pitt Street – Paint Brick to match siding – Pebble-stone Clay (siding previously approved)
- MariPat Beene/Chelsea Kerr – 117-1/2 S. Juliana Street – Add Signage – Kerr's
- Mark and Alisa Clark – 233 S. Richard Street – Paint Home Exterior
- Adam Wiley – Bedford Candies – 135 W. Pitt Street – Exterior Renovations
- ReVamp'd LLC / Sean Bardell – 220 S. Richard St – Replace Windows – **HARB suggests that gridwork be replicated.**

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to approve the HARB Applications. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Council President Weaverling thanked the local Fire Departments for the quick, professional response to the fire at Pigeon Hill Properties on S. Juliana Street on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Along S. Juliana Street little damage is visible to the front of the Pigeon Hill property or the neighboring buildings.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bullington and carried at 6:25 p.m.

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Borough Secretary