

The Regular Meeting of the Bedford Borough Council was held via a Zoom Voice call on the above date due to COVID – 19. The following Council Members were on the call, Tim Weaverling, Sharon Turkovich, Jeff Rinscheid, John Cessna, William Blackburn, Patrick Neff and Kenny Fetterman. Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, Assistant Borough Secretary Misty Hizer, Police Chief Craig Bowman, Public Services Director Brad Foor, Solicitor Dean Crabtree and Borough Engineer Timothy Cooper were also on the call.

Members of the Press on the call included Randy Delozier, Lloyd Roach and Will Deshong.

Individuals on the call included Bill Wise (Somerset Trust), Al Harr (Altoona First), Jens Damgaard, Esquire (Eckert Seamans) and an individual that Zoom identified as Jim.

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Cessna, to approve:

the Minutes of the March 2, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes,
the March 17, 2020 Council Workshop Minutes,
the list of bills from March 3, 2020 through April 6, 2020,
the list of bills from April 7, 2020 through May 4, 2020,
Treasurers Report for April 6, 2020,
Treasurers Report for May 4, 2020,
Transfer of \$17,550.00 from Fund 01 to Fund 40 for Operating Expenses and
Transfer of \$23,150.00 from Fund 01 to Capital Reserve Fund 31

Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, Councilman Weaverling – aye, Councilwoman Turkovich – aye, Councilman Neff – aye, Councilman Cessna – aye, Councilman Rinscheid – aye, Councilman Blackburn – aye, and Councilman Fetterman – aye.

Mayor Leibfreid shared that Ethan Yohn was the newest Police Officer who started on April 27, 2020.

Chief Bowman shared that there were 161 incidents in the past month. Fines are down with \$350.00 collected. \$1,650.00 is the normal amount for fines. Councilman Rinscheid inquired about the Stay at Home Order due to COVID – 19 with Chief Bowman responding that there have been a few problems, but no citations.

Solicitor Crabtree informed Council of two zoning hearing application that were received:

- Neel and Barbara Row at 102 King Street scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2020 has been postponed to Monday, June 8, 2020. *Variance request is for relief from Chapter 27, Part 7, Section 701(E)(1)(a) and Section 701(E)(2)(b), which required thirty-five (35') foot setbacks for front and rear yards in the R-1 zoning district. The Rows demolished the previous structure due to a vehicle accident that rendered it a total loss and would like to build a new house with a twenty-four (24') foot front setback and fifteen (15') foot rear setback. It should be noted that the recently demolished structure had the same setbacks and that the application is to enlarge the non-conforming structure.*
- A Zoning Hearing Application was received for Donald Luke Bowser, owner of 251 N. Richard Street and 102 Mann Street. Variance request is for relief from Chapter 27, Part

15, Section 1501(D)(3), which requires a twenty-five (25') foot rear yard setback for the CMR district. Currently there are two dwellings on one parcel. Mr. Bowser would like to subdivide into two parcels and the proposed subdivision would only provide a fourteen (14') foot rear yard setback for the 251 N. Richard Street dwelling.

Council declined representation for the two applications to be presented to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Councilman Rinscheid noted that the Heritage Trust has applied for the COVID -19 Payroll Protection Program for operation of the Fort Museum.

Council Member Turkovich presented the following event requests:

- Request received from PA Consort Musical Association of Bedford for use of the Gazebo for their “Summer on the Square” concerts held on Sundays beginning June 21st through July 26th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches have approved the dates.
- Request from the League of Pretty Good Guys for the Vietnam War Monument Dedication on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Setup will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the ceremony beginning at 11:00 a.m. Requesting street closures between 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for Penn Street between Huntingdon and Lafayette Avenues and Juliana Street between Penn and John Streets. Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches have approved the date.
- David Miller for installation of yard signs in the Bedford High School lawn honoring Bedford HS 2020 Graduates since the graduation ceremony has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Motion was made by Council Member Cessna, seconded by Council Member Rinscheid, to approve the events as presented. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, Councilman Weaverling – aye, Councilwoman Turkovich – aye, Councilman Neff – aye, Councilman Cessna – aye, Councilman Rinscheid – aye, Councilman Blackburn – aye, and Councilman Fetterman – aye.

President Weaverling formally recommended hiring of Ethan Yohn as a full time Police Officer pending satisfactory completion of psychological and physical examinations. Motion was made by Council Member Turkovich, seconded by Council Member Cessna, to approve the hiring. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, Councilman Weaverling – aye, Councilwoman Turkovich – aye, Councilman Neff – aye, Councilman Cessna – aye, Councilman Rinscheid – aye, Councilman Blackburn – aye, and Councilman Fetterman – aye.

Motion was made by Councilman Blackburn, seconded by Councilman Cessna, to adopt Ordinance 2020-01, authorizing and securing the issuance of a General Obligation Note, in the maximum principal amount of \$3,330,000, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Local Government Unit Debt Act, to (1) refund the Borough’s 2019 Interim Note, (2) design and construct improvements to the Borough’s Municipal Building, and (3) pay related expenses; Accepting a bank loan proposal to purchase the Note; Setting forth the terms and containing the form of the Note; Creating a Sinking Fund and appointing a sinking Fund depository for the note; Pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of the Borough to secure the Note; And authorizing related actions and documents. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, Councilman Weaverling – aye,

Councilwoman Turkovich – aye, Councilman Neff – aye, Councilman Cessna - aye, Councilman Rinscheid – aye, Councilman Blackburn – aye and Councilman Fetterman – aye.

Councilman Rinscheid noted that the Dr. Markwood Wall has been stabilized. Councilman Rinscheid suggested that the Borough Property, Infrastructure and Equipment Committee be combined with the Recreation and Parks Committee. Hearing no objections, Manager Diehl noted that the Committees List would be updated and distributed.

Mr. Cooper received permission from Council to apply for a Streetscape grant through DCED utilizing information previously prepared. Deadline to submit is July 31, 2020 and there is no match required.

Manager Diehl requested action on the following HARB Permit Application:

- Brian Burke – 329 E Pitt Street for the installation of a fence (approved by HARB and Council via email previously).

Motion was made by Council Member Rinscheid, seconded by Council Member Cessna, to approve the HARB Permit Application as presented. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, Councilman Weaverling – aye, Councilwoman Turkovich – aye, Councilman Neff – aye, Councilman Cessna, Councilman Rinscheid – aye, Councilman Blackburn – aye, and Councilman Fetterman – aye.

Manager Diehl shared that letters were sent from Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance, Inc. (PMCA) and/or the Police Department to property owners on Pitt, John, Preston, Richard, Thomas, Penn, and Juliana Streets along with Sunnyside Road and Central Way.

Manager Diehl shared that Borough employees will be working on mulching, trimming, and cleaning of the Squares over the next few weeks. The Fort Museum and Richard Street entrance at the rear of the Ford Garage will be contracted out for completion. Due to COVID-19 a “Town Work Day” will not be held to install flower brackets and banners along with the planting and mulching of tree boxes, etc. DBI will coordinate the project amongst their staff and volunteers.

Motion was made by Councilman Cessna, seconded by Councilman Blackburn, to approve Resolution 2020-03 authorizing the disposition of public records. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, Councilman Weaverling – aye, Councilwoman Turkovich – aye, Councilman Neff – aye, Councilman Cessna – aye, Councilman Rinscheid – aye, Councilman Blackburn – aye, and Councilman Fetterman – aye.

Motion was made by Councilman Cessna, seconded by Councilman Blackburn, to renew the UPMC Contract for Healthcare for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The costs decreased for coverage over the current year. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote, Councilwoman Turkovich – aye, Councilman Neff – aye, Councilman Cessna – aye, Councilman Rinscheid – aye, Councilman Blackburn – aye, and Councilman Fetterman – aye. Councilman Weaverling abstained as a Partner of Reed, Wertz, and Roadman.

May 4, 2020

Lloyd Roach inquired to see if residents could purchase on the bond for the Municipal Building. Jens Damgaard shared that the Municipal Bond is a loan from three area banks – Altoona First Bank, Hometown Bank and Somerset Trust Bank.

Councilman Rinscheid asked if the Emergency Declaration issued on March 18th due to COVID -19 would go in perpetuity or would have an end date. Solicitor Crabtree noted that no action was needed at this point regarding the Emergency Declaration.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Cessna and carried at 7:38 p.m.

Borough Secretary