January 19, 2021

Borough Council

The Workshop Meeting of the Bedford Borough Council was held on the above date at 3 p.m. at the Bedford Ambulance Meeting Room. The following Council Members were in attendance, Tim Weaverling, Sharon Turkovich, Jeff Rinscheid, John Cessna, and Kenny Fetterman. Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, Public Services Director Brad Foor, Public Works Superintendent Bo Ford and Tim Cooper, PE, Stiffler, McGraw & Assoc., Inc. were also in attendance.

Council Members William Blackburn and Patrick Neff were absent along with Solicitor Dean Crabtree and Police Chief Craig Bowman.

Will Deshong, Bedford Gazette, Stacey Gould, Downtown Bedford, Inc. (DBI) Manager, and Zac Brouse, Brouse Forestry & Tree Care, were in attendance.

Mr. Brouse spoke to Council about planting a permanent tree in the Presbyterian Square to be utilized instead of a temporary tree during the Christmas season. Mr. Brouse offered to plant and maintain the tree suggesting a Norway Spruce or a White Fir. Mr. Brouse suggested centering the tree after removing a large dying Maple tree and a smaller dogwood tree in the Presbyterian Church Square. Placement in the described area would allow the tree to grow for 30 to 40 years.

Manager Diehl asked Mr. Brouse to mark the location for Council to visualize placement so a vote can occur at the February Council Meeting scheduled for February 1, 2021.

Council Member Cessna shared that as a Member of the Tree Commission he is in favor of the removal of the Maple and Dogwood and planting of either a Norway Spruce or White Fir.

Council Member Fetterman who is a member of the Fall Festival Committee noted that the tree should not interfere with the annual Festival.

Council Member Rinscheid noted that the Bedford Heritage Trust has not signed a new annual agreement with the Borough for operation of the Museum. Manager Diehl will forward the agreement for signatures.

DBI Manager Gould shared that a Press Release from the Dalesmen Distillery noted that due to higher-than-expected costs the distillery will be constructed in the Business Park in Bedford Township instead of at the Ford Garage located at 145 E Pitt Street. The Anchor Grant is linked to the Ford Garage, but DBI Manager Gould was hoping there is still potential for the $350,000.00 grant can be used to construct a tasting room for the Dalesmen at the Pitt Street address. The Anchor Grant funds when repaid by the Dalesmen would be reinvested by DBI as loans to other businesses in Downtown Bedford.

Mr. Cooper suggested that the Dalesmen demolish the current Ford Garage building and rebuild on the site. The Anchor Grant can be utilized for demolition.

Motion was made by Council Member Rinscheid, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to approve Requisition #9 for the Borough Building Renovation Project in the amount of $23,022.00. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Manager Diehl shared that the Borough Building Renovation Project was 40% completed and invited Council Members to tour the building after adjournment of the Workshop.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and carried at 3:33 p.m.

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Borough Secretary