July 20, 2021

Borough Council

The Workshop Meeting of the Bedford Borough Council was held on the above date at 3:00 p.m. at the Bedford Ambulance Training Room. The following Council Members were in attendance, Tim Weaverling, Jeff Rinscheid, John Cessna, Bill Blackburn, Patrick Neff, and Kenny Fetterman. Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, and Timothy Cooper, P.E. of Stiffler, McGraw & Assoc., Inc. were in attendance.

Council Member Sharon Turkovich, Police Chief Craig Bowman, and Solicitor Dean Crabtree were absent.

Lloyd Roach of Cessna Communications along with visitors Timothy Clapper, James Rhodes and Richard Wilson were in attendance.

Timothy Cooper shared that he is a partner in TC Squared Plus, LLC which purchased the Saracino property along Green Lane and he along with Mr. Clapper and Mr. Rhodes were in attendance to request that the properties in a triangular section between Green Lane and Thomas Street to the southern border of the Borough line be reclassed from R-1 to R-3. The reclassification would allow Townhouses or Rowhouses to be built on the property.

Council Member Neff noted he was not convinced he could support the reclassification. Mr. Neff asked if neighbors in the area were polled on their thoughts of the reclassification. Manager Diehl noted the process for a request for reclassification of a Zoning District includes 1) the request would be presented to the Borough Planning Commission, 2) the request be presented to the County Planning Commission, 3) a public hearing would be held with notification of the meeting published twice in the local newspaper along with the property being posted 4) after the public hearing Council would need to approve to advertise the Ordinance amendment and 5) the Ordinance is presented for adoption at a public Council Meeting.

Council President Weaverling noted that the process is designed to allow residents to share their thoughts on the reclassification of a Zoning District and research is part of the evolution of an Ordinance. Mr. Cooper shared that there is an alternative plan to subdivide the property if the Zoning District is not changed.

Council Member Neff noted that Jim Wehling purchased a property and asked that the Zoning District be changed to allow the construction of a house with different setbacks and the request was denied. Manager Diehl noted that Mr. Wehling sought a Zoning Variance from the Zoning Hearing Board which was denied and then Mr. Wehling approached Council about a Zoning District Change.

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Rinscheid, to begin the process of reclassifying the Zoning District from R-1 to R-3 to allow Townhouses or Rowhouse to be built on the property purchased by TC Squared Plus, LLC. Motion carried (5-1) with Council Member Neff voting against the motion.

Mr. Clapper and Mr. Rhodes exited the meeting.

Richard Wilson, 235 S Bedford Street, spoke to Council about concerns of parking during school hours along the streets close to the High School. Ordinance 2019-04 was passed removing two-hour parking. Mr. Wilson noted that to pass through the area vehicles must zigzag down the street when school is in session. School buses and trucks do not have enough room to pass another vehicle in the area and damage has occurred to parked vehicles from a retractable arm on a school bus. Manager Diehl noted that the Ordinance would be forwarded to Council for review. Mayor Leibfreid noted that he counted 100 parking spaces in the High School parking lot. Students must pay for the reserved parking spots. Dr. Wilson thanked Council for looking at the Ordinance.

Dr. Wilson exited the meeting.

Mr. Cooper asked Council to approve the following for the Multimodal Transportation Grant for the Streetscape Phase IV Project

- Resolution 2021-02 – Seeking a Grant in the amount of $863,468.00
- Manager Diehl and Secretary Geller authority to execute any documents and the agreement
- Manager Diehl approval to sign the Funding Commitment Letter which shows a $30,000.00 Borough Match

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Fetterman, to approve the items. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Mr. Cooper shared information on posting and bonding of Borough roads/streets. Bedford Township is posting and bonding several roads that lead to Municipal Authority properties including Lake Drive and Fairlane Drive. Council would not like to move forward with posting and bonding at this time.

Council Member Rinscheid shared that the Fort Bedford Museum will host on Thursday July 22, 2021 a Chamber of Commerce After Hours event from 5 to 7 pm at the Museum. Council Member Rinscheid noted that the Board has started updating the five-year plan for the Museum.

Council President Weaverling shared an event request from the Fort Bedford Region Antique Auto Club for the Fall Foliage Festival Antique Auto Parade on October 9, 2021 beginning at 2 pm following the same route as prior years. Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Cessna, approving the parade. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Council President Weaverling shared funds in the amount of $140,099.74 were received on July 7, 2021 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA). The same amount is to be distributed in 2022.

Council Member Neff opened discussion on a request from the Bedford County Commissioners to close Lafayette Avenue between Penn Street and Vondersmith Avenue to increase safety at the entrance to the Courthouse. After discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Cessna, to ask Solicitor Crabtree to prepare the documents to vacate Lafayette Avenue as long as the Parking Garage agreement between the Borough and the County is not altered. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Neff, to approve Requisition #18 for the Borough Building Renovation Project in the amount of $22,180.09. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Cessna, seconded by Council Member Neff, to approve advertisement of the 2021 Paving Project. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Manager Diehl noted that she is meeting on Wednesday, July 21st with the Ambulance and Fire Department to plan an event for October. The preliminary plan is to close West Penn Street and provide tours of the new fire department, the renovated borough building and the ambulance building. The Bedford Area Ambulance is celebrating their 50th anniversary, The County is celebrating the 250th anniversary and the Borough's 225th Anniversary was in 2020. Sponsors will be sought to offset costs of food, beverages, and entertainment.

Council entered Executive Session to discuss litigation at 4:27 pm.

Council exited Executive Session at 4:43 pm.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and carried at 4:43 p.m.

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Borough Secretary