

Borough Council

The Workshop Meeting of the Bedford Borough Council was held on the above date. The following Council Members were in attendance, Tim Weaverling, Patrick Neff, Jeff Rinscheid, Bill Blackburn, and Kenny Fetterman. Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, Public Services Director Brad Foor, Police Chief Craig Bowman, and Timothy Cooper, P.E., of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc. were also in attendance.

Council Members Sharon Turkovich and John Cessna were absent along with Solicitor Dean Crabtree.

Jeff Shyk was in attendance representing K & W Engineers for the Bedford High School Renovation Project. County Commissioner Josh Lang was in attendance regarding the Wall That Heals event proposed for July.

Council President Weaverling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Jeff Shyk shared information for the Bedford High School Renovation Project. The project will better connect the south side of the High School managing the different levels to meet ADA requirements. Athletic fields will be updated for soccer and football and possibly field hockey and lacrosse in the future. New parking lots will be added and a new "Main Entrance" on the east side of the school. The plan addresses storm water and sanitary sewer updates.

Discussion was entered by Council with Mr. Shyk verifying 15 parallel parking spaces will remain along Watson Street, the 20-foot stone wall will be removed, and the football field will be lowered 14 feet. Mr. Cooper noted the plan was reviewed in detail and the items of concern have simple fixes.

Motion was made by Mr. Rinscheid, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, to grant approval for recording the plan once Tim Cooper's comments are cleared. The motion includes Council and Borough officials signing as approvers and owners along with recording of the plan. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Mr. Shyk noted that construction will hopefully start in the Spring of 2021 with bidding taking place in December 2020 to January 2021.

County Commissioner Josh Lang spoke to Council regarding The Wall That Heals coming to Bedford on July 23 through July 26, 2020. Mr. Lang noted that the transport of the Wall will be accompanied by Patriot Guards, Legion Riders, Police, and local Fire Departments into Bedford along Route 30. Mr. Lang noted that a threshold will be watched to ensure that guests will not exceed 250 at a time. Mr. Lang also noted that hand sanitizing stations will be onsite, and the event will have more guidelines than the Governor has issued.

Mr. Lang noted that if PennDOT did not approve the escort that the event would proceed. The Wall coming to Bedford is one of thirty stops in 2020 and it is a distinct honor to host the Wall.

Mr. Lang noted that there are 21 individuals from Bedford County that died in Vietnam whose names are listed on the Wall.

Chief Bowman asked about special security with Mr. Lang responding that there were no security measures needed from the Police Department. Ambassadors will be onsite twenty-four hours daily to watch the Memorial.

Mr. Weaverling noted that the onus of enforcing the event to meet current directives due to COVID -19 is placed on the Veterans enforcing the event, not the Borough.

Motion was made by Councilman Neff, seconded by Councilman Rinscheid, to approve the request from Precious Life of Bedford County for the annual Walk for Life to be held on Saturday, September 19th beginning at 10 a.m. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (5-0).

Cameras removed from the Borough Building prior to the start of the Renovation Project will be installed at the Fort Bedford Museum. Wires will be run by Museum personnel (along with Aerial staff) with connection completed by Kevin Diehl of Aerial Communications.

A request from the Dalesmen Distillery was received for use of the Borough property at the rear of the old Ford Garage on E. Pitt Street. The request was discussed and approved if the work is coordinated with SAMA and PennDOT and nothing is parked or driven on the old Fort historical site.

Manager Diehl shared that the heating fuel tank was removed from the Borough Building property. The tank was empty of fuel, there was no site contamination and no problems with the removal.

Councilman Weaverling updated Council on the impacts to Revenue & Expenses due to COVID-19. Discussion followed with Mayor Leibfreid noting that if citizens questioned the Borough Building Renovation Project moving forward, the data supports the project continuing.

Mr. Blackburn shared that the concrete slabs are poured and inside floors are epoxied for the Fire Department building. A Code inspector is to be onsite at the new Firehall and hopefully issue a temporary Occupancy Permit on Wednesday, June 17th. An official walk through with Mid-State Construction is to occur on July 5th with the building turned over to the Fire Department on that date.

Manager Diehl shared the Borough Building was turned over to Mid-State Construction on June 5th with abatement to begin the week of June 22nd.

Paving for Lafayette, Indiana and Hammer Street was discussed. Quotes are being sought with two options for Lafayette with one having a better base.

Discussion on curbing was entered. It was noted that Ebensburg handles updating or replacing curbing as part of their paving process with the financial responsibility billed to the homeowner. Manager Diehl noted that she would discuss the process of adding curbing to paving projects with PennDOT representative, George Spinelli. The process of looking at curbing is currently

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occurring when property ownership is transferred. Mayor Leibfreid noted that Foxborough, MA handles maintenance, repair and replacement of the sidewalks and curbing. The cost would have to be expensed to taxpayers in some form.

Manager Diehl shared that the PennDOT turnback for W. Penn Street from West Street to Richard Street was discussed with the Public Works employees and they shared concerns for not having the proper equipment to maintain the street during snowstorms and the overall expense for the Borough. Manager Diehl noted she would like to scrap plans to take over W. Penn Street from PennDOT. Council agreed and felt this option could be pursued at a later time if so desired.

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

Borough Secretary