

October 5, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Bedford Borough Council was held on the above date. The following Council Members were in attendance, Tim Weaverling, Sharon Turkovich, Jeff Rinscheid, William Blackburn, and Kenny Fetterman. Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, Police Chief Craig Bowman and Solicitor Dean Crabtree were also in attendance.

Council Member John Cessna, Public Services Director Brad Foor, and Tim Cooper, PE, Stiffler McGraw & Associates, Inc. were absent.

Will Deshong, Bedford Gazette, and Gerald Grance, were in attendance.

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Rinscheid, to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting and the September 15, 2020 Council Workshop. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Turkovich, seconded by Council Member Neff, to approve the list of bills from September 9, 2020 through October 5, 2020. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn, seconded by Council Member Neff, to approve the October 5, 2020 Treasurers Report. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Gerald Grance shared with Council that he requested a Non-Parade Event Permit for Friday, October 9th to support First Responders. Mr. Grance shared that he was in support of the Police and all First Responders and he wanted to provide support by hosting an event and wanted to secure the proper paperwork. With the COVID-19 Governor's mandate on crowd size the cost of insurance to cover the event has increased and the cost of insurance is unreasonable at the current time.

Manager Diehl noted that the Borough Building renovation should be complete in early 2021 and suggested an event at that time to recognize First Responders. The Fire Department, Ambulance and Police will be located in the same area along W Penn Street. Chief Bowman thanked Mr. Grance for his support. Mr. Grance exited the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Valerie Schmidt, E. Penn Street, spoke to Council about amending the R-1 Zoning District to allow Bed and Breakfasts and Air B & Bs. Ms. Schmidt's property is located next door to a property recently purchased to be converted to a Bed and Breakfast. The houses are ten feet apart and Ms. Schmidt is concerned about parking, declining property values, noise, and the possibility of events being held at the property in the future. Ms. Schmidt noted that the Bed and Breakfast known as the Chancellors House at 341 S. Juliana Street borders the Memorial Park Cemetery and the setbacks between the neighbors are much larger.

Manager Diehl shared that the Ordinance is in the beginning stages of being amended and the Ordinance would have to be advertised and a meeting held for anyone who would like to share their thoughts on an amendment.

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Solicitor Crabtree shared that Ordinances cannot issue exceptions or variances but must be amended. An amended Ordinance would be borough wide.

Council Member Neff thanked Ms. Schmidt for approaching Council and sharing her concerns.

Mayor Leibfreid shared the Police Statistics.

Chief Bowman shared that Officer Haight has started training and the Police Department is staffed proactively. Chief Bowman requested an Executive Session regarding Personnel.

Solicitor Crabtree requested an Executive Session regarding Litigation.

Council Member Rinscheid shared that the Bedford Heritage Trust would be electing Officers on November 30, 2020.

Council President Weaverling updated Council that revenues for 2020 are ahead of last year's collections even with the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Weaverling shared that there would be no mid-month Workshop in November, but a Budget Work Session is scheduled for November 23, 2020 at 3 p.m. at the Ambulance Building. The Session is tentatively scheduled to last 3 hours.

Council Member Neff shared that discussion on recodification of Ordinances is ongoing.

Council Member Neff stated that notes need forwarded to Solicitor Crabtree for the Bed and Breakfast amendments. Solicitor Crabtree shared he would need direction on what to include in the draft including the maximum number of days a unit could be rented by a party and specifics on the physical availability of the owner/manager. The Ordinance amendment would need to be advertised (seven) 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting date and a Public Meeting is required to be held.

Motion was made by Councilman Blackburn, seconded by Councilman Fetterman, to draft and advertise an Ordinance amendment to remove the Purple Heart Handicapped Parking Space on W. Penn Street at the request of Debra Rose, Bedford County Veteran's Affairs Director. Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Manager Diehl shared that the September Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) meeting was cancelled since no applications were received.

Manager Diehl shared that the Fire Department and Contractors are working on punch list items for the Fire Department Building Project. Demolition has been completed on the Borough Building and construction has begun.

Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Turkovich, to approve a revised 2021 MMO for the Police Pension in the amount of \$102,669.00 (employee contributions of \$10,760.00 with the remaining balance of \$91,909.00 to be allocated against Borough General Fund 01). A mistake was made by the actuary when calculating the

Amortization Contribution Requirement (original amount \$147,436; corrected amount \$58,919). Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

On September 29, 2020, the Borough Office received the 2020 General Municipal Pension System State Aid in the amount of \$113,248.16. Motion was made by Council Member Neff, seconded by Council Member Rinscheid, to apply \$99,387.00 to the 2020 Police Pension MMO and the remaining \$13,861.16 to the 2020 Non-Uniform Pension. The remainder of \$150,343.84 must be paid to the Municipal Pension by December 31, 2020. Motion carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Motion was made by Council Member Rinscheid, seconded by Council Member Neff, to re-appoint:

- Jeremy Speicher – Municipal Authority of the Borough of Bedford – 5-year term (exp 1-2021)
- Larry McCahan -Zoning Hearing Board – 3-year term (exp 1-2021)
- Marcia Rogish – Tree Commission – 5-year term (exp 01-2021)

Motion was carried by unanimous vote (6-0).

Manager Diehl noted that there is a vacancy on the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Bedford and a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission that remain to be filled.

Discussion regarding the sidewalk sales held on October 3rd and 4th was entered. Due to COVID-19 the Fall Foliage Festival for 2020 was cancelled, but Bedford was busy with the Farmers Market on the Square and the Fire Department holding a Steak Sandwich and Firehouse Fries event at Olde Bedford Brewing. The parking lot of Wholesome Living and Olde Bedford Brewing was roped off and an Artisan Market was held with vendors from out of town set up on the weekend of October 3rd. Transient Licenses were not sought or issued to the vendors who set up for the event.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss litigation and a personnel issue.

Council exited Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Neff and carried at 8:43 p.m.

Borough Secretary