

Beaver Falls City Council met in regular session on April 14, 2026 at 6PM in Council Chambers of the City Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dr. Kenya Johns. The prayer was offered by City Manager Charles Jones Jr. that was followed by the pledge to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Dr. Kenya Johns
Deputy Mayor Peggy Evans
Councilman Dean Dinell
Councilman John "Chuckie" Kirkland
Councilman Ian Johns
City Manager Charles Jones Jr.
Burdine
Solicitor Shannon Steele

City Clerk Paula Durish
Deputy City Clerk La Tonya Hodge
CFO Sandy Wilkins
Police Chief David Johnson
Fire Chief Mark Stowe
DPW Superintendent Patrick
BFBDB Nicole Sariochek
GC Intern Lucy Seese

A motion was made by Mr. Johns and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to approve the minutes for April 14, 2026 council meeting. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Motion Passed				

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA – NONE

Mayor Johns presented Chief Stowe with a certificate for 36 years of service. She said he's an amazing Fire Chief, he's great to work with, loves his city and community and is a lifelong resident of Beaver Falls. This was followed by a round of applause.

A motion was made by Mr. Johns and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to approve the promotion of Detective Stephen Ivan and K9 Officer Joshua Wetter to Sergeants in the police departments. Chief Johnson said the officers were given three to four months to study from six to eight books before taking the written and oral board examinations. The promotions will be effective Tuesday April 14, 2026. Chief Johnson and the families of Witter and Ivan's pinned both Sergeants after the promotion. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Motion Passed				

A motion was made by Mr. Johns and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1862 approving the general fund and payroll expenditures from March 24, 2026 to April 13, 2026 in the amount of \$238,358.85. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Motion Passed				

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Johns to adopt Resolution 1863 approving the employee agreement and the hiring of Michael Mason as the Financial Assistant. Mr. Mason was asked to give information regarding himself and he said he was raised in Beaver Falls and his family attended the council meeting for support. He worked with Mayor Johns on Juneteenth and he hopes to soon join the Recreation Board. Michael and his wife bought a house on 4th Avenue in Beaver Falls last year. He served in the Navy for four years. Mrs. Wilkins, CFO, said she was pleased with his interview process and he stuck out during the interview as a strong candidate. She recommends that we hire him. Mrs. Durish asked when his hire date is effective. Ms. Hodge said his effective date April 24, 2026. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to adopt Resolution 1864 approving an agreement between the City of Beaver Falls and Geneva College providing police security at commencement on May 9, 2026. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Johns and seconded by Mr. Dinell rescinding Resolution 1851, the agreement between the City of Beaver Falls and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater Inc. The parcel number and address were incorrect. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Johns to adopt Resolution 1865 approving the agreement between the City of Beaver Falls and Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater Inc. providing for a Sanitary Sewer Easement for Parcel No. 05-001-0100.001. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Johns to adopt Resolution 1866 approving the agreement between the City of Beaver Falls and the Big Beaver Falls Area School District to sell a 2018 Ford Interceptor police vehicle in the amount of \$13,500.00. The vote was:

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I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Johns to table item 9, the Repository Purchase at address 1303 9th Avenue, Beaver Falls, requested by Nathan L. Riggins and Aaron S. Riggins.

Chief Stowe said he has serious concerns about the poor conditions and how ownership keeps changing on this duplex. This needs to be tabled for a few weeks so we can get a better understanding of the situation. Mayor Johns asked Mr. Riggins if he's seen how bad the property is? Mr. Riggins said they plan to buy both sides. Mr. Kirkland said he agrees with Chief Stowe and unless some instant work is done, it's going to get worse than it is. Chief Stowe explained if the other side continues to deteriorate then they will be responsible for demolishing the whole duplex. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Johns to accept the letter of retirement from Paula Durish as City Clerk effective June 26, 2026 at 4:00PM. Mr. Kirkland said she has always been there to help him as an employee or as a councilman, it's going to be a sad day to see her go. Ms. Evans said we came in as fresh and newly elected officials and she was warm to us, I just love and appreciate her for everything she has done. Mayor Johns said she is a treasure and we are thankful for her. I can't wait to see what comes along on her next journey. Mr. Johns agreed with Ms. Evans on how quickly Mrs. Durish accepted them and showed them warmth and grace. Mrs. Durish is a big reason why he's sitting here on city council and on a personal level, embraced my family and you know how much we love you. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Johns to accept Kyleigh Wiggins on the Recreational Board. Mrs. Wiggins was asked by council to talk about herself, she said she was born and raised in Beaver Falls. She now has a husband and three children and wants to put back into the city and bring back soccer. Her daughter is on the Junior Council with the city. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

A motion was opened for discussion by Ms. Evans for Street Parking in mixed use areas.

Attorney Steele said Mayor Johns asked her how electoral or how a community can request a change in parking rules and regulations. In my research, if you wanted no parking pay by legislation, you could do that by ordinance. We would have to advertise but if you want your community to do it by democratic process, they can do it by referendum which would require 100 people to sign a petition that has to be submitted with an ordinance that we can either approve at city council or can be placed on a ballot which must be done in 90 days. This can be done for the primary for November's election. Mayor Johns said she wants it to go to the ballots, she wants people to vote for it. This would be a separate tax directly to parking enforcement instead of having parking meters. She wants council to have a full understanding and agreement of what this looks like. Mr. Johns said he would rather put the ball in the citizen's court. Doesn't know it's necessarily a change that needs to be made. If enough people express that they want to see the change, then we put it on the ballot. Mr. Dinell said what is required council can't make that change. Attorney Steele said we can make the change by submitting it to the election board, an ordinance or as a referendum and the citizens submit a petition. Ms. Evans said the citizens requested the meters be taken away, let them vote and show up at the polls. Mr. Dinell said we have heard from a lot of people regarding the meters, but a tax is going to affect the entire community. Mr. Dinell said I can't get behind and say we'll spare three blocks or whatever is at the expense of the entire community. Mayor Johns said that's exactly why she doesn't think council should vote on it and let the residents vote and decide. Mr. Dinell said if we have enough residents concerned about it, they can spread the word and here's how we solve it. Mr. Dinell said he's trying to think about the entire community and why they should incur that additional expense? Mr. Johns said for the four or five people that have come in with complaints about parking meters, we incur that tax on the entire city? How many more complaints are we going to hear? Mayor Johns asked Mr. Kirkland at previous meetings he was very vocal about parking meters. Mr. Kirkland said he was indeed. Mr. Kirkland said he was concerned about the lady who came to the council meeting twice. But he didn't fully know the whole circumstances where she lived and where our meters were. Mr. Kirkland agrees with Mr. Dinell that he can't see the whole community paying a meter tax for a few people and he has changed his mind. Mr. Dinell said we need to put this out there and make sure everyone understands what this is about. The voter turn out is abysmal so I would just say on the record everyone here has a lot to lose because the people who are affected by it disproportionately show up in favor of that. Mr. Dinell said if they are the ones affected by the parking meters, let them start the petitions. Come in here and address the concerns is certainly the first step but if you want to make a change, here's how you do it. Ms. Evans agreed with Mr. Dinell. Mr. Kirkland said the residents don't understand the situation. Mayor Johns said if this continues to be an issue, she's going to bring it right back to council and suggest it goes on the ballot box because it can't be a mayor decision, it must be a perspective of the city council. Mr. Kirkland said he doesn't think it makes sense for it to go on the ballot because the residents won't understand. Mr. Johns said he thinks the residents do understand and it should go on the ballot for the citizens to make the decision. Mayor Johns said we are all in agreement to not move forward but if it becomes an issue again, that as council, we've decided on a position. Together we're locked and people can change their opinion with new information. It won't be the mayor's decision, it will be council's decision.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Kirkland to approve Turnley Robertson & Associates LLC to start 2025 Audit. She said we got the request from Charlie Robinson to start the 2025 audit. She said she would like to get a jump start on this and get it done prior to and not the same way as 2024. Mr. Jones added the audit must be completed by April 1st and he expressed it to DCED, which is a state funding agency. It's important for that because he's already been flag on one grant. He's already been flagged on one grant. In other words, you can't draw down on grants until that has been corrected. The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Motion Passed

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Steele said a written report was given to the council members.

DEPARMENT REPORTS

DPW Superintendent Mr. Burdine gave council a copy of his monthly report for the month of March: Responded to 82 calls, conducted 50 property dye tests with code enforcement, 57 PA 1 calls, repaired citywide potholes, removed and disposed of dumped debris, trash and tires from Ing-Rich Road and loaded roll off boxes with leaves for DEP 904 Grant credit. Mr. Burdine said Ms. Seese has been doing a good job of distributing the recycling bins and working with one of his guys.

BFBDB Ms. Sariochek said Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22, 2026. There about 100 volunteers, and will be out in the city from 9AM – 4PM. The city will be sponsoring pizza for lunch and MTech will be sponsoring breakfast.

Mrs. Durish said The Larry Bruno Foundation is sponsoring a Draft Kickoff Open House from 12PM – 8PM with free food and anyone can walk through the museum. We're hoping for a big turnout.

Ms. Sees said recycling bin distribution is going well, gave out 300 bins so far and Junior Council started April 14, 2026.

Chief Stowe gave the Fire Department March Report: 159 calls for service, structure fire 14, EMS first responder 81 and total training hours 200. **CODE ENFORCEMENT** – total fees for the month \$24,892.50. The fire department responded to a fire at Geneva College last week on the first and second floor and had the fire under control and put the fire out quickly. Chief Stowe said Jaimee Cole transitioned the new reporting system and is doing great work.

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Mrs. Wilkins thanked council for hiring Mr. Mason. She's in need of help in the tax office and is looking forward to working with him. The 2026 real estate tax is now out of the discount period. The 2025 taxes will be sent over to tax claim next week.

Chief Johnson gave the Police Department March Report: **PARKING** – tickets issued 190, permits issued \$140, total money collected \$1,789.91 and magistrate fines (parking) \$412.41. **POLICE** – total calls for service 1,525, police fine revenue \$5,246.40 and police traffic/non-traffic citations 129. Courtesy tagging is still being done for street sweeping.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tracy Price – BFMA, Operations Manager, invited everyone over to take a tour of the Eastvale Plant. Mayor Johns asked for available dates and times for the next meeting from council.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Dinell to adjourn the meeting at 7:03PM.

The vote was:

I. Johns	Dinell	Evans	Kirkland	Mayor Johns
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Motion Passed				

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