



WORK SESSION MEETING
MINUTES

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL
STATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA
165 CENTER ROAD BEDFORD, OH 44146

DATE: APRIL 15, 2024
TIME: 5:30 PM

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Stanley Koci, Sandy Spinks, Steve Salvi, Victor Fluharty, Frank Smith, Jeff Asbury, and Tony Longino. Absent: None.

Also present: Clerk of Council Tracy Simons. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Jennifer Howland.

• **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA**

Mayor Koci: Minutes were not completed, and the Council does not have them at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 024-24: Contract with Nation Pump: City Manager Mallis: we worked with National Pump before, and they will rebuild the pump. The last time the pump system was installed was in 2003.

Ordinance No. 025-24: Contract with AXON: City Manager Mallis: the current software with Axon does not do any redaction, and the new software will.

Ordinance No. 026-24: Amending Section 351.18: City Manager Mallis: This is to address the parking in municipal parking lots and other city owned properties and similar to other legislation previously modified.

Ordinance No. 027-24: 2024-2025 Salt Contract: City Manager Mallis: we are part of a consortium who provides ODOT with a total request amount annually.. We put in a request to decline the 25% from last years order. We have exercised that clause this year and need to guess the amount of salt we will use each year. Last year we were under 3,000 tons. We have to take 90% of the salt; if we don't take the delivery, they bill the City for storage. We have expressed concerns over the storage fees and have been the only city that fought this.

• **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

• **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

CITY OF BEDFORD LAND REUTILIZATION PROPERTY (PPN 812-16-003)

- **LITIGATION:**
17500 ROCKSIDE ROAD
UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS
- **PERSONNEL:**
THE OHIO PLAN

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Tony Longino to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:21 P.M. to discuss Economic Development: City of Bedford Land Reutilization Property (PPN 812-16-003), Litigation: 17500 Rockside Road and University Hospitals, and Personnel: The Ohio Plan.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Tony Longino
RESULT:	Pass [6 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Longino

MOTION:	Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Victor Fluharty to adjourn out of Executive Session at 6:56 P.M.
MOVER:	Jeff Asbury
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [6 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Longino

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 6:57 P.M.


Clerk of Council


Mayor-President of Council

Date: May 6, 2024



REGULAR MEETING

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL

DATE: APRIL 15, 2024

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COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

TIME: 7:00 PM

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Bedford City Council met in a Regular Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 15, 2024. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of April 1, 2024
Mayor Koci: We will skip the minutes. We don't have those ready tonight.
- b. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2024
Mayor Koci: We will skip the minutes. We don't have those ready tonight.

5. PRESENTATION

- a. Swearing in of Lieutenant Mark Witkiewicz and Sergeant James Stolarik
- b. Presentation by J.C. Commander, Director of Athletics for the Bedford City School District

Mr. Commander: My name is Jason Commander, the Athletic Director at Bedford High School. This is year one, and tomorrow is my first spring dual-track meet. I survived fall and winter, so I'm hoping this spring there will be just as much of a success and a positive learning experience for me as the first two seasons. The reason for this presentation is one of the things that I wanted to do when I took this job was make sure that I did my best job to make sure that all four cities stay in the loop with the things that we do. And I believe, honestly, that we're doing a lot of great things across the district athletically and academically. I want to start off by saying that this is definitely a department of more than one person, myself being the K-12 Director of Athletics. But I also had a ton of help from Dan Brinson, Assistant Athletic Director, and Heather Layton, the Athletic Secretary. And that whole rise of the Bearcats thing. That's just the tagline that I throw on the end of everything. So, if you follow us on Instagram or Twitter, you'll see that many of my posts are in with that. One of my major focuses with the entire program this year is to make sure that grades are in emphasis. Having coaches having those conversations with certain kids when I see them in the hallway. Spring athletics are underway: baseball, softball, track and field,



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girls' flag, and boys' volleyball. That concludes my winter athletics report for Bedford High School.

Councilman Smith: For the swimming program, is the pool functioning?

Mr. Commander: No, it is not, unfortunately, and that was before the start of my tenure, I believe. So I can't tell you exactly what happened. All I know is that, for whatever reason, it is out of commission. And with the building coming down now, we are really going to be leaning on the Bedford Heights Recreation Department in terms of a practice facility, obviously not allowed to hold meets there, because of the size of the pool. Our coach has no problem going on the road and competing.

Councilman Smith: That was part of my next question. There is no pool on the plans for the new facility.

Mr. Commander: So what's going to happen with the program? We plan on doing exactly what we did this year. We plan on trying to utilize Bedford Heights Recreation Department for practices in the middle school and high school, and then we'll be at invitational wherever we can get in.

6. REPORTS

- a. City Manager: First up, we have been advertising for the Turney Road resurfacing project. That's going to start from Lee Road and go all the way just past Button Road down at the dip on West Grace. That bid opening is scheduled for the end of April, and we will most likely be looking to start the project in June, following when school is out. So there's no inconvenience for the schools in Glendale. So, that bid opening will be taking place at the end of this month, and we'll have a recommendation to the City Council for the May 6th council meeting. Also, in June, there will be some information going out on the water bill, but June is free permit month for owner-occupied properties within the city. Looking to do work? Please get in touch with the building department. Save a little bit of dollars there. Shred day is scheduled for May 18th. That will take place right out here in the municipal parking lot. That's from 9 to 12. And that is being provided through a grant from the Solid Waste District. We are



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working with both property owners, the land bank, and staff internally to address some of the homes that were recently condemned by the city council. One of them is 97 Northfield Road. There's also a property on West Glendale and Nordham Dr. The goal is to have all those down by the summertime. So we are working on that. And lastly, just a friendly reminder that we're going to be conducting the ward meetings and those start next Monday, April 22nd. Wards one and six and on April 29th, Wards two and four, and on May 13th, Wards three and five. Feel free to stop by. The administration will provide a brief overview of some large projects taking place and then we'll open it up for Q&A, and we'll have department heads present as well. So you can ask any of those questions, or if you need assistance with anything, we'll help in any way we can.

- b. Law Director Montello: Congratulated Lieutenant Witkiewicz and Sergeant Stolarik on their promotions. He also congratulated Athletic Director Commander and his student-athletes for a successful season.
- c. Finance Director Howland: Congratulations to Lieutenant Witkiewicz and Sergeant Stolarik on their promotions. The Civil Service Commission is establishing a list of candidates for the position of fire medic for the City of Bedford Fire Department. The written tests are being administered right now through the National Testing Network's website at <http://nationaltestingnetwork.com>. The deadline at this time is May 6th at 4:00 p.m.
- d. Council Reports
Councilwoman Spinks: Congratulated both of the officers on their promotions. Well deserved. We've got an amazing team in our police department and our fire department. There will be a lot of changes coming up, so we're very secure of the guys that we've got in there and the ladies that we have. And both teams. So very lucky to have them. As Mike said. Next week starts award meetings it's going to be Ward One, myself, and Mr. Longino for Ward Six. also, I know that the chipper just picked up last Tuesday. Correct. That's usually the first Tuesday of the month. I know the last time we had a lot of tree limbs down on the tree lawns and stuff. Mike, matter of fact, I need to turn him, but I have a rather large one in town. Dewhurst Ave. and I spoke to the gentleman, that lives there, and he has no way of putting it up. It's a large



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limb blocking the sidewalk, so we pulled it off. If you do have limbs down make sure that you call the service department. and let them know that you need them picked up. Also, trash cans are being left out again. I did notice that they are being tagged when the cans are left out. It is usually a Council person or whoever will them if they leave out a certain amount of time, and the city does tag them. So, give them a warning, or they'll be fined. So please, if you have an elderly neighbor or somebody that you know works a lot and if you can help them out with those trash cans, please do so. Help out your neighbor. Be a good neighbor. Same thing with picking up trash. If you see trash on your tree lawn, please pick it up. I'll be going over some stuff that, programs and stuff that I'm working on. At the meeting, next, we can also have a garden club meeting if you're interested in something. It's a great club. It's, the first one was last month. It's going to be April 18th. It's always the 3rd Thursday of the month at Ellenwood in Room 4, and it starts at 6: 30 p.m. Don't forget the Strawberry Festival this year is the 60th Anniversary, it will be on June 7th, 8th, and 9th. This year we will have fresh strawberry pies, they are preorder only, so you have to order them ahead of time. I've got information here to preorder them, and they are already pretty popular. So make sure you get that preorder.

Councilman Salvi: Since the last city council meeting, I have met with a number of ward residents at their homes, as well as responding to incoming phone calls. One concern that was brought to my attention was that the tornado warning siren, located on Solon Road, did not allegedly activate the sound during the past two scheduled tornado drills. In response to the resident's concerns. I called Mark Christie, who is the Director of the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management, to make him aware that there might be a process or equipment failure. With the severe weather we've had recently, and we'll have again, it is important for this equipment to work. The Office of Emergency Management is to follow up on this inquiry. And, the director did return my call. I also responded to a resident's home after a tree fell on her tree line and fell over the, sidewalk and onto our front lawn. Perhaps the City manager can give a brief explanation of how the city handles such incidents pertaining to Ohio statutes, common law, and any Bedford ordinances. After my report, I would like to thank the city manager and our city workers for cleaning up that tree. My. The resident was very appreciative. My plan to improve the quality and cleanliness of commercial buildings in Ward Two is progressing. The strip center at Northfield and



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Columbus has been an eyesore for many years. This neighborhood strip center was once a very well-maintained and inviting place to shop for local residents. Long-time residents will remember Lawson's The Pharmacy, Genius Pizza, and other stable service providers. Since that time, the property has been neglected, and standards have fallen to an unacceptable level. I approached the market about two months ago to request that the owner voluntarily clean up the store, which has since closed. I have spoken with the city manager. The City Manager emailed us about this property and appreciates the administration is following up with the landlord and tenants who need to comply with Bedford ordinances to return the strip center to the condition and cleanliness of the 1970s will take the perseverance of the city and residents to meet, to demand higher standards from landlords and commercial tenants who want to do business in Bedford. To conclude a quick reminder, I believe it is by city ordinance. Please correct me if I'm wrong. Trash cans must now not be put out on your tree lawn before 6 p.m., the night before your scheduled trash pickup, and cans must be removed from your tree, lawn, or curb by 6 p.m. on trash day. Cooperation with this policy limits trash and cans from being blown into the streets by high winds.

Councilman Fluharty: Congratulated the two new officers. As the Police Chief said, there's a lot of turnover coming. Guys are retiring, so we're getting a whole new group of guys coming in here. The Ward Meeting for Wards 3 and 4 is Monday, April 29th. Grass cutting it's that time of year, everybody. Whether it's changing, we're getting a few good days, and the grass is growing, please get out there and start cutting your lawn. They look terrible, and I know it's because of the weather, but when you get a chance, catch up on the yard work because it's that time of year we'll be out. We want the city to look nice. It's a bad thing that goes on more and more in this city every year. We need to start really concentrating on keeping up with the grass and yards.

Councilman Smith: First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who came out tonight, especially those who have never been to a city council meeting like this last time. It's always good to see the youth come to our meetings. I like to say that you are our future. One day, you will be sitting where I'm sitting and, hopefully, running the city. I'd like to also say congratulations to Lieutenant Witkiewicz and Sergeant Stolarik on their promotions.



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Councilman Asbury: Congratulated Lieutenant Witkiewicz and Sergeant Stolarik. The Ward Meeting for Wards 5 and 2 will be on May 13th at 7 p.m. here. I know we talked about it briefly a couple of meetings ago, but Palmetto Woods, the road leading up to it, do we have any plans for it?

City Manager: We're looking to address that. What we were waiting on was the report which we did get for the culvert. So that culvert is okay. It's not in the condition that the culvert is on Greencroft. Now that we had that we're looking at a way to address the roadway.

Councilman Asbury: So residents that that are living in Palmetto Woods, we are going to fix that road. It's crumbling. We know that we're going to do some repairs, I'm sure, in the meantime, but it will be corrected. I want to go over the noise ordinance. A resident sent me a video over the weekend, and it was actually, it was fairly early on a Sunday morning, of her neighbor playing extremely loud music. And even after she sent me the video and then I downgraded it or whatever the heck you do to send it in a text message to myself because it was in a different format. I still had to turn the volume down on my phone because the music was loud. Some people think that because it's during the day, it's okay to be extremely loud, and we all enjoy music, I'm sure, at rational volumes. A couple of sections of our ordinance, 511 .03 noise from persons or stationary noise sources in the residential zoning district or affecting residential or commercial property. Basically, what it says is no, no person shall create or cause to be emitted from his person or from any stationary noise source, any noise which causes or results in a noise level equal to or exceeding 55dB, measured in any at any lot line located in a residential zoning district, 55dB is normal. Conversation level 55 to 60 dB. 60dB is also about the an office setting volume. So it seems like a low bar, right? But like I said, the the volume of the music that was on the video that was sent to me, it was just, you know, I'm an old heavy metal hat. I like my music, but I don't want to disturb my neighbors. So if if what I'm trying to say is, please don't be that neighbor, even though it's during the day, play your music, have fun, but try and keep it a little a little lower than, you know, blasting. That's all I hear.

Councilman Longino: I want to send a shout-out to Mr. Commander, and his team said we have a contact. We have another relationship besides him working with the



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school district. Kids go to Beachwood Schools, where I'm a police officer at the schools where I'm a resource officer. I'd known him for a year before he took on the job. As a track official. I do work with his kids at track meets, from Bedford. So I see kids around. So I want to definitely touch on that. I know he said he had to get out of here, but I tell him to make sure he waits till we finish talking because I definitely want to tell him thank you. And I'll be seeing him even though I'm not working. You meet tomorrow. I was supposed to be, but I'm going to be at Lawrence. I want to say that cause I'm not going to beat that. I did have notes to say something about that, but I won't say anything else about the cars. Some are out talking about grass. They get that. Come on, man, I was going to say that Vick said that. I wanted to touch on that, too. Definitely. Congratulations to our new lieutenant and new sergeant. I wanted to be the first to call him out as a police officer. And the person who was on the Civil Service Commission. It's always good because I think this is my first one, the first promotion I wasn't part of in the last five years. So. And my first promotion as a member of a city council. So, I definitely want to talk about that. I want to talk about Juneteenth because we have three more meetings before the celebration. And we're going to have a fun run. There's going to be a, I'm part of that part of that committee. So it's going to be a freedom run. It's what it's called. And then it's going to be a function at the high school with Rowlett College. Surrounding communities are involved in it. So not just Bedford, even though it's at the high school. I want to talk about, once again, stepping on a ward, but he was cool with it. Mr. D.A. Ford opened up a business. He had a soft opening on Saturday. I went and saw that, and that was a great thing. But I want to touch base. I told him I sent him a shout-out. He's going to have the grand opening next month. But thank you for not getting upset about that. I have a young man who is going to be speaking later. I'm not going to get to say anything about him then, but I wanted to say something about him. I've been talking about this young man as he accidentally called me thing, and I was in his ward. I was this ward command, commander in my head, ward, council person, but I wasn't. But I talked to her for about five minutes, and I stopped him, and I said, this is not going to come across right on the phone. I got to meet you. And, when I left speaking to this guy, I'm not even going to tell you much about this program because I asked him to come today, and he's here. Dynamic is the only adjective I could come up with. And once you meet this young man, if you got to hear him talk here. But you need to go and talk to him later. After this dynamic is the only adjective. When I told my father



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about him, he said, oh, he reminds you of you when you were supposed to know. I say, he reminds me what I wanted to be at his age, I told him, I said, if you weren't happily married, you would be the perfect fit to be my son in law. But he's sitting right up there. He's going to he's going to say a few words that I say he got his posse with him. So he's going to talk later on once we have, once everybody gets to come up here, once we go through all these ordinances, he's going to come up to and tell you a little bit about his program and what he's got going on. But like I say, if you don't use the word dynamic to describe this young man, something's wrong with you. So. Well, I shouldn't have said that might be a little personal. Personally, that's the way I feel.

Mayor Koci: Next Wednesday, the 24th, the Rotary Club and Bedford High School are going to have their CTE blank banquet, career and technical, just another partnership between our civic groups and the schools. And it's always a good thing to, acknowledge these kids doing some special stuff in their classes at the high school. We celebrate our athletics as you have, which is good for our academics. They are the working guys and girls up there. They're taking classes in cosmetology, computers and all these technical stuff, which. And they're really fascinating kids that do this. And a lot of them are on the other part of their academics, also athletics, but just another partnership to acknowledge that we have some really good kids up this high school. I've said that time and time again; another good example of that was last Wednesday at the senior luncheon when the Haskett Senior High Jazz Band played for our seniors. And it and these kids are talented. Oh, yeah. It was. I could have sat there all afternoon, listening to that music. It's just another example of the good kids we got there. And you and, you know, commander, Mr. Commander, that, a lot of good kids and, they need to be shouted out more often, that the good stuff. These kids are doing, and there's so many things they're doing in the school. It's amazing, and it's all good stuff. So I just wanted to mention that.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **ORDINANCE NO. 024-24: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL PUMP AND PROCESS INC. FOR REPAIRS TO THE TOWER INFLUENT PUMP AT THE**



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WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to suspend the rules requiring the reading of said ordinance/resolution on three different days.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
MOTION:	Motion made by Smith and seconded by Tony Longino to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
MOVER:	Frank Smith
SECONDER:	Tony Longino
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	

City Manager: This is for a repair to the influent pumping system at the plant. This pumping system is required to operate continuously to meet our permit requirements. This pump was initially installed in 2003 and is past its normal useful life. The city did get three separate quotes, and National Pump and Process was the lowest of the three quotes provided. We have worked with them in the past, and they do good work.

- b. **ORDINANCE NO. 025-24:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. FOR UPGRADES TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BODY CAMERAS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY



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MOTION:	Motion made by Longino and seconded by Jeff Asbury to suspend the rules requiring the reading of said ordinance/resolution on three different days.
MOVER:	Tony Longino
SECONDER:	Jeff Asbury
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
MOTION:	Motion made by Fluharty and seconded by Sandy Spinks to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
MOVER:	Victor Fluharty
SECONDER:	Sandy Spinks
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	

City Manager: As mentioned, this is for a number of different software upgrades to our existing technology that we use. A couple of the primary features is a redaction software that is going to do all the redaction when we work to fulfill public records requests. It'll obviously lighten the workload for staff who currently have to spend manually redacting all of this video to comply with the request. Also, they will it will work. The other software will allow the body cam footage and the videos to directly link to our CAD system. And that it'll pair up all of the calls for service, the report numbers, and everything will all be linked within the system. What is the best feature of or the best benefit of this? It is all funded 100% through a grant through the Office of Criminal Justice. Once we, make this purchase, we'll be able to submit for reimbursement.

- c. **ORDINANCE NO. 026-24:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 351.18
"TRUCK, TRAILER AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING IN



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RESIDENTIAL AREAS” OF THE TRAFFIC CODE OF THE BEDFORD CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO READ AS SECTION 351.18 “TRUCK, TRAILER AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PARKING LOTS” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to suspend the rules requiring the reading of said ordinance/resolution on three different days.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
MOTION:	Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Frank Smith to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
MOVER:	Jeff Asbury
SECONDER:	Frank Smith
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	

City Manager Mallis: We amended a separate ordinance a couple of months ago, cleaning up some of the parking languages and restricting certain parking on municipal properties, and within municipal parking lots. This is another section of the code. We're simply making sure this language mirrors what was already passed as well. And that is obviously prohibiting equipment like car haulers, tractor-trailers, and things of that nature from being left on city-owned property.

- d. **ORDINANCE NO. 027-24:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ODOT WINTER CONTRACT (2024-25) FOR ROAD SALT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY



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MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
MOTION:	Motion made by Smith and seconded by Jeff Asbury to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
MOVER:	Frank Smith
SECONDER:	Jeff Asbury
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	

City Manager Mallis: The city is part of a consortium when it comes to purchasing our salt. This time every year, we try to determine the amount that we can hold at the city of Bedford, but also the amount that we plan to use in the upcoming year based on what we have already stored; Whatever the number that we determine, if it's 2,000, 3,000 tons, we are required to purchase and take delivery of 90% of that. So, yes, it is somewhat of a guessing game, but we also take into account what we currently have on order and what we currently have stored in our garage. And then we put this in, all of the communities that are part of the consortium, provide an estimate. This estimate goes with ODOT, and then they work to bid and get the lowest cost per ton for all the communities that are part of that consortium. So this is authorizing us, giving us that number that we're going to be sharing with ODOT and what we're looking to obtain next year.

8. HEARING OF CITIZENS



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Antoine Tolbert: I go by Chairman Faheem and I am the chairman of an organization by the name of New Era Cleveland. We are the number one community organization in the country. Our range of services is unlimited, from food distribution to youth mentoring to safety concepts. You name it, we do it. There really aren't many limitations on what we're willing to do to provide services to families in need. I'm here today by invitation of Councilman Longino; I appreciate you. This is my honorary uncle. I met him about a week and a half ago. Great guy. So, specifically, what I wanted to touch on is violence prevention, right? That's the nucleus of our organization. We really the past few years, since 2016, we've been based in the city of Cleveland, the Woodhill, woodland, Buckeye, kinsman neighborhood, addressing gun violence, especially amongst our youth. We're looking to blend our services right here in Bedford. We are currently located in downtown Bedford, 659 Broadway. We call it the Cave of Wood. Dunham Academy. On December 21st, we graduated 15 young men and women from our Durham Academy. They went through a 15 to 16 weeks right of passage. So we talk about youth development, developing our leaders. Accountability I know a lot of our youth today struggle with accountability themselves. Accountable. This is so much, I think, about the larger spectrum of gun violence and how we address it. And our focus is always on prevention. I also want to heighten the awareness that gun violence that's happening in Cleveland is directly correlated to Bedford, Maple, and Garfield. So why we're watching these atrocities happen abroad? I'm often reminded that these things are right here on our doorsteps as well. I want to say, like, we love being in the city of Bedford. We love taking advantage of all the amenities. Tinkers Creek, a lot of the businesses that surround our academy have welcomed us. Embrace our youth with open arms. We have a partnership with the Reference Library. They have done a phenomenal job of providing resources that we need, such as books, with cultural and cultural capital, confidence, and cultural competency. That's an important thing for our youth to be able to see themselves reflected not only with the artist, but the characters that are illustrated in these books. What else? This is so much. Right now, what you're really witnessing as you see. Are you here? The last few weeks, we've been going down the Cleveland City Council speaking on gun violence in the State of the Union address. So these youth have been able to watch me develop and cultivate speeches, go down, and make public comments. So this is their turn now. So I don't want to take up too much time, but they're going to get up here. They're going to tell you what they want to see from their perspective. As you've been impacted by gun violence, what is it going to take to prevent gun violence? I know a few weeks ago we seen a young, we witnessed a young man murdered not too far from here. Libby gas station. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe he was shot 25 times. When, I'm not mistaken, 19 years old. And so things like that, is that what we



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really want to get ahead of addressing the things influencing the behavior? Because, again, our stance is always prevention. Right? And we want to do this in partnership with the city of Bedford, not in opposition to the City of Bedford partnership, that sort of thing. Right. So how can we take a systematic approach and also take a community approach? A holistic approach to addressing gun violence and being preventative, especially when it regards our youth. And I suppose the question is, how are they getting their hands on these automatic weapons with extended clips and laser beams and what seems to be an unlimited amount of ammunition? Right. So again, it's about addressing addressing some of those issues. Also, in addition to that, we got two things that we have coming up here. We're doing a community engagement event where we're going to be; we're going to be distributing outdoor toys, outdoor recreational toys, encouraging these children to get outside to be kids again. So I want to talk hula hoops, basketballs, footballs, jump ropes, put down those devices, get off social media, detach away from the things that are negatively influencing them, and get outside and be children again like we used to do back in my day. I know some of you are a little bit older than me, but I grew up in a neighborhood where it was okay to go outside and play in your front yard, and to know your neighbors and to know the kids that lived on in on this next read-over. And we didn't view each other as what they call now APS, which is short for opposition. So they're going to get up. They're going to speak to us. I'm gonna leave it at that to get off my soapbox. So first up, they are very nervous. I'll let you all know right now. So please embrace them with a smile. And like, Councilman Smith said, these are our leaders of tomorrow, and 80 to 85% of our kids live in the city of Bedford. The majority of them are system-impacted, meaning foster care or the juvenile detention center in some way, shape or form, or some capacity. All right. So thank you. First I'll have Marty and Savannah come up. They're both ten years old.

Savannah: I am stating my opinion of how it is traumatizing and wrong for people to murder and shoot. I feel that it is really unfair that little kids and older kids get killed, stabbed, or shot. And I just want to say that all of this killing and violence is really wrong. Other people don't care who they killed. And sometimes, people just kill people for no reason at all. And nobody needs to do that because what's the point of killing people? What if people were walking around shooting people for no reason? People would kill women, men, and even women who are pregnant, and they don't even care. Thank you for listening to my. And. Their city council.

Marty Murray: My public speaking is about youth violence. I will now begin. First, I will start with my issue. You. Violence is a problem in our community. Moms can't even wake up without



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knowing their son is being gone. I hate to have this in our community. Now, I want everybody to think if you saw or heard your son's life was gone. It's bad. That's what moms have to suffer with in court. You're saying we did this only to find out this kid is about 16 or 15? Now we'll talk about my affecting fewer kids in our lives. So kids are even scared to step outside because of what's happening out there. It's not fair that they can't go outside because every day on the news, it's saying shots fired at five-year-olds or over. Yes, I saw my solution. Maybe a way we can stop. This is the music kids listen to about rappers killing another rapper. Is this the way God or Jesus raised this world? No. Another solution is an academy located in Bedford six, five, nine. If anyone has been through some things, I know this because we have helped other people who saw loved ones die due to gun violence. Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Michelle Harris: I'm here to speak about gun violence. The way I feel about gun violence is important because, based on my own experience, I used to think it was cool to own a gun influenced by the music because people who had guns were just praised. But it wasn't cool until I saw one of my family members get shot over and literally nothing. And what did you do about something about this gun violence? How will you how would you feel if you watched a family member of yours get shot? You'll be hurt, right? You want to. You'd want to have some justice. Right? Right, right. Exactly. You have the you have the power in the part to make things right. So why not do so? There are programs for children to stay off the street, specifically the cave of a dome. And, so what we all do about this is we just sit back and continue to turn on channel eight news every morning and see how we lost another life due to gun violence. The news of Cleveland has helped me a lot. I used to have lots of free time until I joined the football team, but I still had lots of free time afterward. I spend some of my time doing and being one of the things that a 16-year-old girl shouldn't partake in. I don't have free time anymore because my free time is spent working out, working, and developing myself in my new life because I have plenty of years ahead. I don't want to become one of those kids who died due to gun violence. Make a change because you have the power to do so. Use it. Is being 72 homicides maybe more in this only April. All these problems come to a peak. The problem before it comes too late.

Israel Jeffries-Good: The problem with gun violence in my community is that it can be easily influenced and encouraged by music that encourages gun violence. And on the topic of music, music has influenced me in a number of ways. Music has influenced me emotionally. It has made me feel sad, mad, ecstatic, etc. what you say can affect and impact how another person can feel. You have the power to make a difference. Gun violence can also be caused by helplessness



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and lack of communication. Gun violence was highest in Cleveland, Ohio, during June, July, and August of 2022. Children and men may not know who to communicate to. During summer break months, June, July, and early August. My solution for this is to allow your child to speak about peer pressure and how they are feeling emotionally. In conclusion, this is the problem and solution to gun violence in my community. We got just two more. Two more. I'm sorry.

Christopher Johnson: I'm a member of New Era Cleveland Troops. I am in ninth grade, and I rap about positivity. Today I will be telling the details about the problem solving and the causes of violence. Firstly, the cause of gang violence is because it's easy access of guns. Also, more people are easily influenced by the music and by the music and music videos. People love to listen to their peers and surroundings. They are from somewhere that normalized these things. To think that all of these things are cool and these things are resonating in these kids here, and they sit there and think like, these things are cool. And then all the bad things like guns, drugs, and violence start to fall into place. We can't just blame them. It's the parents and the friends, and you don't really see anybody doing this in the suburbs. It's the places where it's a bad environment, bad houses and bandits, abandoned houses. We can help by putting people and organizations numerically lay aside these cities and homes and show them that they have more power than they think. And I know that this will work because I have seen the internet myself. I am a 15-year-old falling in love with these raps and rapping like that myself until I went to the. I programmed the cable with them so you can put these programs in place and provide more entertainment for the kids.

Dwayne Wade: I am the chairman of New Era Cleveland Groups. I really think that we shouldn't be locking kids up for just doing little things like robbing a store or not. But, like, I can see, like, these kids are out here killing other kids, but we're not getting justice for it. If the kids killed the cop, we would have had justice, and that kid would have been locked up behind bars and sentenced to life behind bars. But I really think we shouldn't do that. Because kids matter, and everybody makes mistakes. So I really think you all should, like, invest in Cleveland because when I joined there like I was, I was headed down the wrong path, and I couldn't go to jail because I was a poor little baby girl at the park. And somebody called the police, and I had my jail blaster, and somebody called the police, and none of my friends was there that was there. But they all said that was when they were, and nobody tried to help me or anything. So when I went to the newer Cleveland, it changed my life because, like, I was really headed out on the path and following after my big brother's injury. He taught me something else.



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Mr. Tolbert: Ultimately, what it boils down to is the ability to influence change. Behavior is moral shape. All right. We can talk all day about what needs to be done, but are we modeling those behaviors that we want to see? Right. And that's what we are able to offer in this environment matters that most of our children come from single-parent homes, meaning there's no father there. And they're striving to be a man but with no positive representation of what a man is. How does a man conduct himself? Like, what is a man's obligation to his family and to his community at large? So that's what we're embedding in their heads day in and day out. Again, like you heard them say, rap music, they're looking up to rappers. That's their ideology of what a man is, and that's what they're trying to obtain. So again, it's about replacing that with something that's going to be as influential but in a positive way and bring this last.

Member of New Era Cleveland: Good evening kings and queens. I ask you, speaking on behalf of New York troops, and today I'll be addressing the bias amongst the youth. Were also given a solution to prevent the ban, as most of you know. Before I get to all that. Honestly, one thing. I am somebody who is a mother. And I know that because I'm 18 and I could vote. Well, let's get to it. In the past two years, I myself have lost four friends to gun violence. Two six beating wander into a car, sweating in jail right now. And in this year alone, we, the people, have lost more teens to be cut our fingers. One is too many. Now, I believe we have some much better-smoked youth because we, the youth, are misunderstood. We, the youth, are naturally curious. But would you feel that curiosity would be towards all reality? So that being said, I hate going off script, but I also agree with a script which I go from the heart when you were naturally curious and would you feed our curiosity because, in reality, we are not taught to be killers and murderers. We are sorry we're not born to be killers or murderers. We are taught that. We are taught that, show that, and we hear that from music. We listen to the things we are exposed to on social media and the things we're exposed to on television. Now, my solution for this is no, we were Cleveland, New York, Cleveland. The organization is innovative. It has a personal arts program to build you one day, engage in community work, understand you, and teach you about Mansa Musa, the Moors, Huey Newton, the school, and the school in prison pipeline. How easily make \$1 million over Hamas? And that's not counting the victims that survive. Now, the data shows his work with the young men and women you see before you today. Yellow. We're not six feet under. Who's that incarcerated? Who's that? The social norms of it have become a new code for our generation. The woman you see before you today, our new era troops, you never know who believe in ambition, optimism, strength, and unity together. And if we come



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together, we can build a community that of all liking unity, that to prosper, we love the prosperity of the community. What a great year for him. And I say great because he's great to me. So before him I'll be exposed to athletics, playing football. That's the only way for us to get out there. But she may show there could be more than the athlete, more to say. They want me to be it. That's the king. And if you all think this on the day of the day, I challenge you all to come down to New York. We were off Broadway Avenue from Monday to Thursday from 4 to 8. And also, if y'all can make it there, make it a Saturday for 20. We will be there at 11:00. Six miles an hour will be out. We'll be distributing toys and appliances to victims' families that have been impacted by gun violence. So thank you all. Have a blessed.

Mr. Tolbert: Thank you all for listening to them. I also would like to add that, in regards to severe community violence intervention, our program hours are 4 to 8, but I've gotten phone calls at 2 a.m. to address something going on in these households. A lot of you, our patrol officers, are very familiar with me and very familiar with our academy because those youth are just finding their ways of getting into things. They brought them to me as well, and the library has referred children to us that have, you know, been getting into things in the neighborhood. So, you know, I remember it is the devil's playground. All right. So, what are we seeing in that voice? Where. And that's what we specialize in. So thank you all.

Jerry Petty, 647 Lincoln Blvd., Bedford, OH: First, I want to give Mr. Commander's love. I dealt with him through the years, and he's doing a great job. Moving forward, we're doing a great job up there. I've been in Bedford since 2005. Oakwood, Bedford, and I moved to Lincoln Boulevard in 2011. What I want to discuss is the water issue that's going on behind many houses behind there. He's basically, I reached out to him and he said, yeah, you could get caught contact this number. So I called the water department. No reply. No reply to the city, the city of Cleveland. Oh. This gentleman made one call. They call me right away. So they came out, and they looked at the backyards and everything. And they said, the way the, houses are built, our level is high versus the lower level that that that business is, is high in our house is, is low. That's why we're getting all the water in our backyard. We have a lot of damaged basements. I said at least six, seven houses around here. And it's continually happening, and we're trying to figure out what can we do or could you guys do to help us out as far as grant money or anything that's available to help us call the lady at the water department said, we have to de-escalate the foundation back there in our backyards to see what that there's like some kind of problem back there. And all the neighbors were supposed to come out, but they were tied up. So, as I said, I'm



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just trying to get a solution to this problem and see what we can do as far as, you know, residents and you guys can do to help us. And like I always said, I commend all the young people who are doing this because I dealt with young people. I don't coach at the high school, at the rec. Actually, my son gave out football scholarships to a lot of kids at, high school. And we try and give back to the community, and I'm happy with what these gentlemen are doing. And I'm definitely going to be there Saturday and check them out and see what's going on. But I appreciate your time, and you guys have a blessed day.


Mayor Koci: We will look into that.

Councilman Longino: By the way, that was the regional sewage. Because I don't want people to think that you called the Water Department is what you call on right now.

Christopher Johnson: If anyone decides to come on Saturday, I will be performing, and there will be poetry. So come out and hear a new genre of music called "The Culture" because kids are influenced by music. My thought was to change all that negative into something positive and make it sound good.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:	Motion made by Longino and seconded by Frank Smith to adjourn the meeting.
MOVER:	Tony Longino
SECONDER:	Frank Smith
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Salvi, Longino
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	


Clerk of Council
Date: May 6, 2024


Mayor-President of Council

Bedford High School Athletic Department 2023-24 Winter Athletics Report

**K-12 Director of Athletics: J.C. Commander
Assistant Athletic Director: Dan Brinson II
Athletic Department Secretary: Heather Layton**

#riseofthebearcats

B.H.S. Girls "Lady Bearcat" Basketball

Total Participants: 23 student-athletes

Teams: JV/Varsity

Head Coach: Jeff Green

Season Record: 5 wins 18 losses (5th in Lake Erie League Conference)

Season (Athletic) Accolades: Three student-athletes selected to all-conference teams (Sa'Nah Flowers-Payne - 3rd Team, Kailynn Shaw - 2nd Team, India Woodson - 1st Team)

Season (Academic) Accolades: 9 Postseason Academic All-Americans (3.0 G.P.A. or better) with an overall team G.P.A. of 2.8

Season Synopsis: Team is losing three seniors, but will return two all-conference performers (Kailynn & Sa'Nah).

Goal(s): Off-season including strength/conditioning and skill development. (TIME IN GYM!)

B.H.S. Boys Basketball

Total Participants: 40 student-athletes

Teams: Varsity / J.V. / Freshman

Head Coach: Pete Priola

Season Record: 11 wins 13 losses (5th in Lake Erie League Conference)

Season (Athletic) Accolades: Three student-athletes selected to all-conference teams (Kam Bybee - 3rd Team, Terrell Pollard - 2nd Team, Jaivon Hudson - 1st Team)

Season (Academic) Accolades: 10 Postseason Academic All-Americans (3.0 G.P.A. or better) with an overall team G.P.A. of 2.5

Season Synopsis: Team will lose six seniors, but all three all-conference performers (see above) will return next season. Boys won a home sectional playoff game before eventually falling to Medina in round 2.

Goal(s): Strength and conditioning, skill development, summer leagues, and showcases.

B.H.S. Wrestling

Total Participants: 12 student-athletes

Teams: Varsity (Boys)

Head Coach: Adam Hoon

Season Record: 3-6 (Dual Meets)

Season (Athletic) Accolades: Tristan Jackson (So.) and Phillip Malone (Sr.) both qualified for the OHSA State Tournament down at THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. Neither made the podium, but Tristan will be back next season and Phillip will serve as a model for years to come.

Season (Academic) Accolades: 4 Postseason Academic All-Americans (3.0 G.P.A. or better) with an overall team G.P.A. of 2.4

Season Synopsis: Outstanding season for Coach Hoon's program. Plenty of young talent waiting in the wings for their opportunity to join Tristan at OSU for the state meet next season.

Goal(s): Strength and conditioning, skill development through open mat opportunities over the summer, and increasing numbers at the middle school level.

B.H.S. Swimming & Diving

Total Participants: 11 student-athletes

Teams: Varsity (Boys & Girls)

Head Coach: Tim Kallay

Season Record: 0-3 (Dual Meets)

Season (Athletic) Accolades: Joey Ferencie narrowly missed OHSA districts by mere points.

Season (Academic) Accolades: 8 Postseason Academic All-Americans (3.0 G.P.A. or better) with an overall team G.P.A. of 3.3 (73%)

Season Synopsis: Losing four seniors, but key returners such as Danny Bridgeforth and Joey Ferencie (3rd in 100m free at Orville Invite) will lead the way in 2024-25.

Goal(s): Strength and conditioning, increased numbers of participation, and skill development through earlier access to a pool in the off-season.

B.H.S. Bowling

Total Participants: 19 student-athletes

Teams: JV (Boys)/Varsity (Boys & Girls)

Head Coach: Krista Thomas (Girls) / Steve Schuster (Boys)

Season Record: Girls (2-11) / Boys (JV - 3-3) (Varsity 10-7)

Season (Athletic) Accolades: L.E.L. (Girls) Bowler of the Year - LaTia Grimes, L.E.L. (Boys) Bowler of the Year - Tony Frankenberg, L.E.L. Coach of the Year - Steve Schuster

Season (Academic) Accolades: 12 Postseason Academic All-Americans (3.0 G.P.A. or better) with an overall team G.P.A. of 3.1

Season Synopsis: Team loses five great seniors, but will return key kids like Danny Bridgeforth, Steve James, Aminah Fosh, and Inez Norman who were all key contributors this season.

Goal(s): Strength and conditioning and skill development

B.H.S. Indoor Track

Total Participants: 24 student-athletes

Teams: Varsity (Boys/Girls)

Head Coach: Eugene Sanders

Season (Athletic) Accolades: O.A.T.C.C.C. State Meet Results: Trinity Pollard (4th in Triple Jump) Girls 4x200 placed 9th (Amiyah Hardimon, Kyndall Worthy, Iyannah Lawson, Trinity Pollard), Boys 4x200 placed 9th (Kah'Mare Calloway, Dsani Donaldson, Clayton Carmichael, Daren Morrow), and Daren Morrow (13th in 200m)

Season (Academic) Accolades: 13 Postseason Academic All-Americans (3.0 G.P.A. or better) with an overall team G.P.A. of 3.1

Season Synopsis: Young team (only one senior in names above), so we expect an even better performance during outdoor.

Goal(s): Strength and conditioning are PIVOTAL, skill/technique development

B.H.S. (Winter - Basketball) Cheerleading

Total Participants: 26 student-athletes

Teams: Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity

Head Coach: Jasmine McCalister

Season (Athletic) Accolades: Alanna Brooks had the opportunity to participate in the HBCU Combine (hosted by CAO Elite) in Atlanta, Georgia where she was able to be recruited by various HBCU's in attendance.

Season (Academic) Accolades: 11 Postseason Academic All-Americans (3.0 G.P.A. or better) with an overall team G.P.A. of 2.8

Season Synopsis: Outstanding year (football and basketball) for the B.H.S. cheerleaders which included multiple alumni nights and countless hours of support for our athletic programs.

Goal(s): Competition Season in 2025

Pre/Postseason B.H.S. Academic All-Americans

All student-athletes with G.P.A. of 3.0 or better are named as Pre/Postseason Academic All-Americans. (*All academic all-americans get into games for FREE!) *The Mr. Brinson Policy!*

Emphasis on being a STUDENT-athlete

Fall Athletics:

- 88 Preseason Academic All-Americans
- 91 Postseason Academic All-Americans

Winter Athletics:

- 120 Preseason Academic All-Americans
- 66 Postseason Academic All-Americans (55%)
- **Drop shows possible need to address the grades of our winter student-athletes more frequently throughout the season by both the athletic department and coaches.**

Spring Athletics: (Baseball, Softball, Track & Field, Girls Flag Football, Boys Volleyball)

