

Mayor Koci: Good evening. I don't see anybody else pull in the parking lot, so we can get going. We want to respect your time. And the time, people setting up here. So, you can welcome Ward 1, Sandy Spinks, also our Vice Mayor, and Ward 6, Tony Longino. We will hear from them in just a minute. But again, I want to say hello and thank you for coming out on a beautiful night. I want to welcome a couple of our council people who are here: Councilman Asbury for Ward 5 and Councilman Smith for Ward 4. Also, former Council Member for Ward 6, Mr. Saunders, thanks for coming out. What we are going to do is you are going to hear from your Ward Members and from the Department Heads sitting behind me. We will have Councilwoman Spinks and Councilman Longino say a couple of words to start. Then, City Manager Mallis will give a short presentation, and then the important thing, we're going to open it up to the audience, because that's what we want to hear from. That's what this is for. We have our department heads here. You can ask them questions, and we'll get to that in just a little bit. So with that, Councilwoman Spinks.

Councilwoman Spinks: Good evening, everybody. Thanks for coming out on this beautiful night. And also, happy Earth Day, 54 years in the making. It started out in 1970, and the reason why that it is always on April 22nd is that it was between spring break and Easter, and college students started it. Excuse me if I cough; I'm getting over pneumonia, so I'm still getting a little winded. Thank you all for coming. Everything is blooming, the grass is growing, and it's time to start mowing. I just got my grass done today, and it'll probably need to be done again in two days. The first thing I will touch on is the deer population, and I do have handouts about the deer population. I've been talking to City Manager Mallis about this for a long time, and I've been doing some research. We are going to be having someone come from the Metro parks to talk about why it's so harmful to feed the deer. Again, like I said, I have handouts up here. I know there are kind-hearted people out there who think they're doing a good deed by feeding the deer; you're not; you're harming them. So when you're not home and you don't feed them, they will find food somewhere else. So now they're eating milkweed, bee bomb, and pollinators. We don't want that, because it's not good for them, and it's doing more harm than good. We do have a city ordinance, and it has a \$250 fine for first offenders, and it goes all the way up to \$1,000. I have a deer in my yard right now, and I don't know if she was hit by a car or what. She has a big, huge chunk out of her hind leg. The thing is, what some of you may not know is when you feed them, you're taming them, so they're not scared of anything. It's not just in Ward 1; it's all over. On my daily ward checks, I see probably 50 to 60 deer, and they're not scared. I'm out picking up trash; they'll come right up to my car, thinking I will feed them. With that being said, if they get hit and they come over and die in your yard, you're responsible for getting rid of that carcass, and I have handouts up here if you want one. So if you are feeding them again, stop; I know you mean that well, but it's not good for them. As I said, there will be someone coming in from the Metroparks, and City Manager Mallis will give us a date on when it'll be posted. And everybody's probably noticed that in the water bill, there talking about there is a fine for feeding deer. So please stop. I don't want you to rush out and go call on your neighbor. I don't want any bad stuff like that. But, if you do see your neighbor, ask them to stop doing it. Second on there is something, and it's a good day to talk about this, and everybody knows that this is another one of my passions is trash. I've asked City Manager Mallis to give me some more trash cans. I'd like to have one on Greencroft; Greencroft seems to be where everybody speeds through and seems to dump trash on a daily basis, and I can't always keep up with it. I've asked the businesses along there to help out because the tree lawns are their responsibility to keep clean. I've asked for a trash can to be put down where most bus stops are. You're not going to get people that are throwing it out. They're not going to stop and throw it in a trash can. But the people who are out walking and I appreciate the people who are out walking, and yesterday I saw a young man picking up trash on Center Rd., thank you. I see couples out, so if you are picking up trash. Thank you. Kinda give a challenge to the other wards. A lady in Akron did this thing, but she got an award in Akron, and of course, Akron's bigger than us, picking up over 1,000 pounds of trash. I know I pick up that much easily, but, so they gave her an award and stuff. So what she started doing was she did a

competition in the city to see who had the cleanest street. Just kind of like what the Garden Club does with the Bedford beauties. It's just a bragging right, but it makes you, you know, be aware of it. So, if you can, please do your part. I'm going to start working on the Bedford Clean again, working on getting biodegradable bags. I started thinking, okay, I'm picking up all this trash. Then what am I doing? I'm putting it in trash bags, and that's going to landfills. So I'm not doing my part to save the earth. So, I know Mrs. Kuzma is trying to help me find some companies to get biodegradable bags. So, the trash pick-up days in Ward One are going to be on Tuesdays and Saturdays in the summer, so if you're interested in Ward 1 and would like to help me out, we'll set a time once I get enough people signed up and doing that. And, not just the Greencroft area, but that is that's probably where I get the most trash. The next one is the speeding continues, and I know that our guys are out there given tickets. So if you see a car that you notice a lot speeding, try to get the time, day, and make of the car. Because I do it all the time with Police Chief Stemple and City Manager Mallis and they've called. That's common, of course, with Summer coming. It's dangerous with our kids out, walking and stuff. Let me see. Continue to call me. I am out every day and sometimes, I miss stuff out there. So I'm always available by phone, email, or text. I like getting texts the most in emails, mostly because I can get them quickly and get responses right back to them. So thank you again, Ward 1. Y'all are awesome, and it's a pleasure to represent y'all. And, like I said, I have handouts up here about feeding the deer if you'd like some afterward. Stay safe and help your neighbor.

Councilman Longino: Good evening and what a beautiful day. I want to start by saying God is good all the time. I'm the rookie, so I tell everybody that I'm learning to fly, but I have a pretty good learning curve from my military days and my days as a police officer. I got a call today and a lady, so I normally don't answer my phone because of telemarketers and things like that; you got to be leery. I answered it, and she started going on, and I said, okay, this is definitely a citizen, but how do I say you have the wrong number? So she started talking started talking, and talking. I said whoa, I think you have the wrong number. She didn't say is this Councilman? She just said okay your right and we left it at that. I've had the question posed to me, how is it? I say some days, it's like, why? And other day's it's like this is why? I always say as long as the good days outweigh the bad days, I won't complain. So far, my good days have been outweighing my bad days, so I'm not going to complain. I going to touch on a couple of things, like the garbage cans. I had somebody call me and talk about garbage cans being out, and I said it could not be that serious, and sure enough, these garbage cans were out so long that they didn't even take them in. They took their bags to the curb. I have to say that my hero, City Manager Mallis, has made me look like a superstar a lot. I've called him up several times and he is right on it. One of my neighbors called me and asked me about a blue line down on our street, on Tarbell Ave. We have cobblestones, and we want our cobblestones. He asked are they trying to pull them up? I called City Manager Mallis, and he said, "No." I had some issues with noise and it's not summer, and I know we're going to have a lot of people with their music and have things like that since the weather is starting to get nice outside. I'm going to tell you I had a neighbor across the street from me playing music, and another neighbor had an issue with the neighbor about the music. And he told me, he said, I'll call our police, and I said, okay, we'll see how that goes. By the time the police got there, the music had stopped. A little while later the music started up again, and he went over here; now this guy's a pastor. So I said, I got it. So I was honest, and I'll be honest with you, I told him, I heard your music. I didn't hear it, and to be honest, it didn't bother me. But guess what? Everybody else's problems in my Ward are now my problems. We got to take care of it. We worked it out to the point where he competes. He has competitions that he does with his motorcycle, and he cranked up to get the system to get everything right. I said, "Why don't you call and let your neighbor know what you're going to do?" We came to a conclusion. I was the devil's advocate, and we must come to a happy medium. It worked out because he called me the day that he was going to have it cranked. I called to let him know that I took care of it and there was no problem. But I wanted people to know

that I can't solve everybody's problems. But we might be able to. You might be able to come to me and say, "Councilman Longino, this is going on," like I was just telling the Police chief and City Manager Mallis, as a police officer, I knew that people came to the station and have issues and problems. I'll say, "What do you want me to do?" I said don't tell me what you want me to do. I'll then be able to tell you if we can do this, and I'll be able to tell you if we can't. I must say I'm learning and making calls to all of these different places. I gave a gentleman a number to call, and nothing happened he said, "I called five times," and when I called and said, "This is Councilman Longino", they called me back in about ten minutes, I said, so sometimes that call in that title helps. So like I said, I want us to work together. This Saturday, my fraternity and I will be in downtown Bedford doing some cleaning up, and Councilwoman Spinks will be there telling us where to go and what to do, and we all listen to her.

Councilwoman Spinks: You will be cleaning up the Dunham garden.

Councilman Longino: I know she said, be there, and we'll be there. I'm learning, and I don't want to fail because my failing pride is going to mean that my ward is failing, too. So help me succeed so we can succeed. Thank you.

Mayor Koci: We have one more person on our council team: Mrs. Simons, our Council Clerk. So when you call the council office, you talk to this person. She keeps us all in line and keeps us going.

At this time, City Manager Mallis introduced the Administration and presented a Mini State of the City Presentation.

Attendance from the Administration: Police Chief Stemple, Service Director Bellar, Fire Chief Nagy, Finance Director Howland, Parks and Recreation Director Callahan, and Economic Development Director Kuzma.

Mayor Koci: Now we are going to get to the resident's questions and what we're going to do is start with questions from one side and the other, keeping it moving, one question at a time. And if we go through and raise questions and open back up to individuals who want to ask another question?

Member of the Audience: What are you going to do to provide parking?

Mayor Koci: Well, that was one of the first things we thought of.

Member of the Audience: Because it's a convenient place for those of us who are seniors to park when we're going to the square.

City Manager Mallis: If you're in the post office parking lot and you're looking out into Willis St., let's say you're looking at that parking lot we're talking about right to the left. So there's more parking right there. On the left is an existing parking lot. The city owns that. After that is another property. It's kind of like a triangle. We were able to get a grant for land acquisition, and through that grant, we bought a majority of that parking lot. Okay, so that owner just needed the warehouse. He needed, like, 2 or 3 spots. So we utilize the grant funds. I think it cost the city or technically the county \$25,000, we acquired that parking lot, and we're going to be redesigning that to make it larger. We're still not there yet. If you're looking at it's a complete wash. It's not. The existing parking lot that you're referring to is. I think it's about 35 spaces give or take. When we're done there will be adding somewhere between 13 to 17. So we're still not exactly a wash, but we are looking at one other move that I think would solve that. But that's one of our concerns. We're aware

of it, and we want to make sure that we address parking. Yeah. I will say full disclosure. We looked across the street at the lot.

Member of the Audience: Who owns that grassy lot across the street?

City Manager Mallis: I believe by the son of the family. Yeah, we did look at that. Starting across Broadway wasn't as close as this opportunity. And then there was also one other opportunity that we're looking at that I think would be another big win. And, again, we were able to acquire that, and it didn't cost the city anything. Something we thought about right off the bat.

Member of the Audience: Did you take down the no parking signs? We're missing one on Ennis St.

City Manager Mallis: The only no-parking signs we removed were the temporary ones on Washington St. following the construction. We didn't take that down, but we can look at it. On the hill?

Member of the Audience: Further up right by Garden Dr.

Member of the Audience: When people turn down Garden Dr., you have people coming up the hill. That's where it is.

Mayor Koci: Chief Stemple took note of that and take a look.

Member of the Audience: Actually, these are right next to each other. So can I combine the two together?

Mayor Koci: One.

Member of the Audience: Well, there's 11 Broadway and then the Broadway dinner. I was just wondering what's happening with those.

Mayor Koci: 11 Broadway.

Member of the Audience: The old Mazda dealership and the Broadway Diner.

Mayor Koci: The Broadway Diner a guy bought The Broadway Diner with his brother and started rehabbing it into another restaurant. COVID came along and destroyed everything. They couldn't get enough help from the regular restaurant. He's been struggling to figure out how to open this one.

City Manager Mallis: The old Mazda building was purchased last year by National Used Car. They have not submitted any plans for that to go ahead and renovate it and open it yet. Last we spoke to them was right after the first of the year, so I don't have a status update.

Member of the Audience: I was staying on that same property behind the train depot. My concern is, has anyone looked at where that yield sign is, where people cut through on Los Gios? You know, coming down the street, people that are coming and aren't yielding. They don't know what yield means. They're coming the other way. Because I never go down that little street anymore because I've almost creamed several times, and you can't see if you're going one way. I just don't know if anybody looked into that or studied it because I know if there's a stop sign, people would just blow through it anyway. Which they do it all the time, but I didn't know if that was a study or if anybody looked at that situation.

Mr. Bellar: That's been looked at, and you cannot put a stop sign there. The railroad would not permit that; the solution was a yield sign.

Member of the Audience: I figured we couldn't just throw signs or change signs willy-nilly, but I know how to get away from it, and I take my life very seriously. And congratulations, Police Chief Stemple, on your retirement.

Member of the Audience: I was talking about the grassy area next to the Post Office across the street. Does the Post Office own that?

Mayor Koci: Yes, we've been after that property for years. It's owned by a doctor, and he wants \$100 million for it.

City Manager Mallis: In our last communication, we originally requested that he donate the land to the city. We acknowledge the donation. That didn't work. We made an offer. He said no, we did not counter. And that offer was close to the tax value of the appraised value; last communication was, what are you looking for? And he just didn't respond, so there's no interest. We made him take that sign down because it was there for 35 years. We ordered that down because he has no interest in selling that, unfortunately.

Mayor Koci: Mentioning that coming soon sign, you know, were Zaks Supercenter opened on Rockside and Northfield. Because when the guy bought the property, I said, I'll put something up that tells people you're going to be moving in here. And so he put a coming soon sign sign that was there for five years. Yeah, he's open now. It's an interesting store, and it's nice and clean. So wish him well up there.

Member of the Audience: What's going on with the purchase of the schools?

Mayor Koci: They're going to tear down seven schools and build four new ones. We don't have the population to put kids in them, and the schools are old.

Member of the Audience: So Central isn't considered historical because of the age?

Mayor Koci: That has come up to look at.

City Manager Mallis: Glendale and Central will be taken down. I don't know the answer about the historical piece, but what I do know, and the schools would be better at explaining this, is if a school vacates the building to build new schools and go to the new schools, and they did not take the old ones down, they would have to make it available. There's a law that they would have to make it available to charter schools. We'll check with them, but they have to make it available to charter schools, and they don't want to do that because it takes away from the Bedford City schools. Most likely and we're not the schools, but if I were a betting person, they're going to build the schools, Glendale, Central, and Carrollwood would come down. Those three locations in Bedford, there will be no buildings, it would be green space. Because if they kept those buildings, they could not deny another school to utilize them, and that takes away from the district, you know, they want the children. They would be able to better explain that, but it is something along those lines.

Member of the Audience: Is the city interested in buying the old part of Central School? Wasn't that the original high school?

Mayor Koci: No, the original one school building burned down years ago. What is there now is the second building.

City Manager Mallis: We wouldn't purchase. Would the city have an interest in, I guess, controlling the land? For the best use for residents here in public or residential districts? Sure. But I don't think we're going to outright purchase those.

Member of the Audience: Maybe the school would give it to you.

Member of the Audience: The reason they can't reuse Central is because the boiler system is in the school's basement, under the classroom. It can never be used as a school again, according to state regulations. It's potentially a bomb under the school, that is one of the reasons why it is going.

Member of the Audience: When we first moved to Ennis St. 36 years ago, every tree lawn had a tree. Now, we're probably 75% bare. And we just had a huge tree they took down on Snow's front lawn. Can we get trees that will grow on Ennis St.?

Mr. Bellar: Presently, there's no money budgeted for tree purchases. I know Mrs. Kuzman applies for, and we've received two grants already for tree planting. The next successful grant we'll definitely address this issue with the next successful grant.

Member of the Audience: If a resident purchases a tree, who do they contact?

Mr. Bellar: Call my office, and we'll approve it or not. I will tell you what you should plant there and the size to plant for survival.

Mayor Koci: We also have a Tree Board that decides all of that stuff.

Mr. Bellar: We have an arborist on staff.

Member of the Audience: Would that be a sidewalk issue?

City Manager Mallis: This year what we're looking at is we're waiting to see what the Turney Road Project comes in at. That's where the majority of our road program is going into. Typically, what we've done is when we have the funds we budget every year, around \$50,000, that will go towards the area of the road that's getting replaced. So I know that doesn't exactly answer your question. If you're asking, are we going to be on your street? I can tell you no, unfortunately. What we've been doing is utilizing, like last year, we did sections of Broadway that were addressed. The year before that, we walked along some of the other streets we were resurfacing there.

Member of the Audience: Some of the sidewalks are bad.

Member of the Audience: I want to thank the Service Department because I feel that they are the most underrated group in the city and do a phenomenal job.

Member of the Audience: And I just wanted to thank you for being nice to things.

Member of the Audience: We had a gutter blockage, which turned into more than a gutter and a pipe—it was the sewer. Whatever sanitary pipe that was blocked. And I did talk to Mr. Bellar and was able to get some answers. And he was trying to look up what was in my yard, the plans, and everything else. If you were able to replace part of the pipe, presumably, that's going where it's

supposed to go. But I know that people on Facebook can turn into a nasty thing that Bedford apparently doesn't come out and check inside your house anymore. And you know that it's too sad that we all have the memories that have lived there for a long time. Oh, they used to do that, and then life changes, and that everybody can do what you guys used to do, but you're still nice to work with, give suggestions, and are very helpful. So I think people need to realize that so thank you.

Member of the Audience: I just wanted to say that I appreciate the pool improvements and that you guys do a great job. It's a great staff, and I really appreciate all that you do and all the opportunities that are important to the residents.

Mr. Callahan: I appreciate that, and thank you. We have a great team, a very committed team that cares very much. So thank you for recognizing them.

City Manager Mallis: We and Parks and Recreation, Citywide, go on our website if you know Councilman Smith, Mr. Callahan, and I went to the high school and participated in a job fair for the students. We have a number of positions that were filled. If it's maintenance, if it's at service, if it's, it's parks and recreation at the pool, lifeguards will train lifeguards. You know, we were out there passing out applications, trying to get jobs so you can make good money in the summer. That's how a lot of our staff started. They went to Bedford High School, working part-time and full-time opens up. If you know students, send them our way, have them go on our website, and contact the departments. It's the same thing with my normal plug that I get, whether it's the Bedford Rotary Club, the Lions Club, or the Bedford Historical Society. All of these organizations do a lot of good events and activities, and it's all volunteer. You can use volunteers if you've got some time, and you know of individuals contact those community organizations. I'm sure they won't turn you away. Those are the types of things that I think will do the community good.

Member of the Audience: I've been responsible for decorating the cemetery on Memorial Day for the past 50 or so years. Mr. Spencer down at the cemetery has been wonderful to work with. As you look around the city of Bedford for Memorial Day, the square, the cemetery, everything is beautiful.

City Manager Mallis: Thank you for that.

Member of the Audience: What is going on with the house? She wants to talk about a specific property. She wants something done.

Mayor Koci: If you want to talk after, we can.

Member of the Audience: Okay.

Member of the Audience: I was wondering if you could point me in the right direction. Our house is over 100 years old, and I would like to get one of those Centennial plaques. And I don't know if there's someplace you get them or if you have to have somebody sign up.

Mayor Koci: We've been looking at a program now for a while, and, because my son's house is 100 years old.

City Manager Mallis: I will say two years ago, we put together a program, application everything, the parameters to where a resident can come in and basically apply, and have everything ready. What we wanted to do was secure. We wanted to look at how we have to design everything to where we'll be able to present it to your home and mount it outside, and believe it or not; we ran into huge issues trying to find a supplier. That's why we haven't rolled that out. There was some at

Home Depot. I don't think they would last. And then, when we went to some of the specialty places, it was right after the pandemic, the cost was insane. We were looking to see could it be something that the city can absorb to provide as a thank you? You know, obviously. We would also like to go out and ensure there's no violation. Look at it from the street like that the roofs not caved in or anything like that. We ran into issues with that, and we had the whole file literally ready to go. We haven't pinned down a provider of that plaque. We want to make sure that it's consistent. So it's going to be the same one for years.

Member of the Audience: I didn't know if I had to call the County.

City Manager Mallis: That will be on us, that's on me that it hasn't been rolled out yet. I will make a note, and we will try to get that going.

Member of the Audience: It's not really my ward, but I'm going to ask: are permits required when you have a march or parade on our streets?

Mayor Koci: Yes.

Member of the Audience: Our permits were granted on Saturday.

Mayor Koci: Can you address that one?

Chief Stemple: No, they were not permitted to. We were not aware of that prior to Saturday.

Member of the Audience: I'm sorry.

Chief Stemple: The parade and march on Saturday was a surprise to us. We had no knowledge of that ahead of time. We knew that the group was going to do an event, and we needed to work with them ahead of time to coordinate what they were going to do at Taft Park. They meant to start it on Broadway Ave. at the storefront, and they were going to go up to Taft Park. We were aware of those two events going on at the storefront and the children's event at Taft Park. We were aware of both of those and the city worked with them as far as what they can get into at the park. But we were not aware of the marching event at all. Our officers obviously got some calls about it, and they were already there. This group had traffic control and flaggers up with them, which helped, and it was a short parade. They did not go through the proper channels for that.

Member of the Audience: So I want to say to all council members that I appreciate you taking on wanting to be a council members. I realize it's not easy. I'm in Ward 6, but something seems to be occurring and I'm not seeing where it is being managed well and that is the speeding. I come from the high school and leaving the responsibility to go home, and generally, around the time of school, the signal is flashing occasionally, and I'm not trying to make it sound bad. There may be a police officer on the side of the road where Channel is. I'm going through there going to speed this car, just passing me and I'll see a police officer on the side of the road, and I'm saying "what about this guy over here? Why aren't you stopping this guy? So speeding and maintaining safety in our community, I've said it in a past meeting I'm just not seeing where it is being addressed. I see these new signs where the stop signs are. They're flashing but they don't stop. I could have told you that. They do not stop. What I would like to suggest is maybe all the council members get together and work with the police department because I'm hoping the council members can say I know my hot spots in my area. Can we set up stings? Whereas on any given day the public doesn't know it we're going to start cracking down. They don't know we come because I was hoping the ward represents would know where the hot spots are in their area. But the speeding is just ridiculous.

Mayor Koci: City Manager Mallis mentioned it in his presentation, it's everywhere not just here. And we're worried about here. I understand it's all over. You have to be careful how you set up all the speeds. The city department has to follow the laws; the speeders don't they have the edge. The bad people don't have to play by the rules, but we do.

Chief Stemple: I hear your concerns. Bedford' not immune to that problem its everywhere, everybody sees it and rarely see the police. There's only so many of us to go around and we do the best that we can. Just because you don't see us doesn't mean we aren't addressing it. We did a lot of traffic citations over the last year. There are more speeders and more traffic violations and everybody sees it. It's a chronic problem and we're doing the best that we can. You said that you saw a policeman outside, but I can't say what he was doing at that time. There are many times they're in a certain area for other reasons, not running traffic. As for the hotspots, our policemen are very aware of them, and we will work with Council Members to find out what they want in their Wards. And I'd love to get to a point where we could put a dedicated traffic unit to go out and addresses these spots at any given time, but we're not quite there yet. The officers get around 20,000 call services and any downtime; they're going to be watching stop signs and speeders.

City Manager Mallis: You've probably seen the speed sign that you may have seen it as a poll; it's moved around. One week, it's working; another week, it's not working, and nothing shows up at all; the signs are still working; they are working all the time. When that goes up we collect that data, and the department looks at that data and identifies what is a concern. These are the hours when there is a concern, and then we work to approach it that way. Sometimes when it's not showing, it's still collecting. When people see that it's 35 and they are going So when it's shut down, it's really not shut down. It's still collecting that data, and it'll allow us to they slow down and it doesn't exactly give an accurate information. So when it's shut down, it's really not shut down, it's collecting data and it will allow us to address it that way. It helps us identify certain hours of time. Sightings like that allow our guys the best chance of addressing it, there's a lot of times at a certain periods of time . Now I get it. There's the ones that happen. There is no rhyme or reason at times. I had a conversation with another councilman over here. I think it was last year, and there was one individual every morning, I think it was 7:00. She refused to stop at the stop sign. She ran it every day, and one day, our guys got her and ticketed her. You know what she did the very next morning after that? She ran right through it, and we ended up giving her two tickets. We understand and I think you know are there some things that if it's traffic enforcement for the unit. If we can get to that , you know that would be great, but we're not there yet. As far as the transition of hiring and training, the next few months are going to be a challenge on our staff, but we understand those concerns. And if there are hot spots, let us know. Shoot me an email or give a call me. We may be aware of those most likely, not because maybe there's a couple resident in the morning that, let us know.

Mayor Koci: Yeah, you get that chronic one that does it at the same time every day.

Chief Stemple: Thank you for bringing that up. I hear your concerns, and if anyone has concerns about speeders or the Police Department, call my office, call my secretary, send me an email. We want to hear from you because we are here for you. We're aware of many hot spots in the city not just for traffic but for crimes, but we want to hear everything, because we're here for you guys.

Member of the Audience: Adding to the list of hot spots and problems, in the last month I've been passed twice in the last month right in front of the police. I live on Center Rd. and this whole way is aggressive with passing, tailgating.

Chief Stemple: I was not aware of that hot spot.

Member of the Audience: I do understand, and I need to express the frustration, the automatic response. This is everywhere. That's not the response that any of us want to hear. With respect to everyone here; I'm tired of hearing this everywhere. You know I'm living here. So please refrain from that because it dismisses the person who spoke to you.

Chief Stemple: Like I said, this concerns me. And like I said it's not just in Bedford it's everywhere. I do want to hear from the residents and the neighborhood about what's going on.

Mayor Koci: So many people offer their driveways for the police to sit in, and I know where they could hide and all kinds of things. But again, we have to play by the rules.

Member of the Audience: At US Bank they don't have a parking lot, and that crosswalk is dangerous.

City Manager Mallis: There was some good feedback and good data from that study, and we're looking to implement one of its suggestions from that study. I think that when those were put up originally, they were steadily flashing 24/7. One of the things they're doing now is, you push the button where to activate it, and it'll be a strobe. We're looking at cost estimates for that, and that was a recommendation was directly out of the study we completed earlier this year.

Member of the Audience: I suggested this about 10 or 12 years ago. We put two spotlights up there at night, especially on a rainy night. You don't even see people standing on the sidewalk. Nobody did anything about it.

Mr. Bellar: The overhead sign has spot lights.

Member of the Audience: It's a spotlight on the side of the sign, and you can't see the pedestrians when they are crossing the street. I brought that up 12 or 15 years ago.

City Manager Mallis: We did change the original about three or four years ago. Originally, they were dim and like a yellowish light on the top. We did change those out directly so it lights the walk up. I think it did. It definitely improved.

Member of the Audience: There is electricity up here, and you've got two on the side. But what you're saying at the bottom, make them turn red.

Member of the Audience: So there is a problem in the downtown area where some of the businesses, where that Apothecary bought the storage building...

City Manager Mallis: I think that it is primarily used for storage, and under our current Zoning Ordinance, the distribution of medical marijuana is only permitted in the Mixed-Use District. That is how it is written now, which would be up in the air. Yeah. So it is not a permitted use in any other zoning district in Bedford. Can anybody apply for a variance through BZA for things like that? Sure. They would ultimately go to BZA and then City Council. But as of right now, it's only permitted in the Mixed-Use District, and I would say, who knows what is going on, you know, for years to come. It's not easy to get those licenses. And it is not like you apply, it's a process. You know, it's not as simple as submitting something down to Columbus and get that approval.

Member of the Audience: Is there anything being done about Grand Blvd. Speedway? It's terrible.

Mayor Koci: Councilwoman Spinks is up here every day talking about it.

Councilwoman Spinks: Everyday I turn something in and I call all the time.

Mayor Koci: How do we get people to be responsible for themselves is the age-old problem? And there is no parental control anymore? Very little. And it's just that society has turned into a Wild West. But we're trying to address that this, as we go within our rules that we have to obey

Member of the Audience: Are there any ordinances about parking in the grass.

Mayor Koci: Yes.

Member of the Audience: Are they enforced?

Mayor Koci: Yes.

Member of the Audience: Every single day they block the sidewalk, and you have to jump the path and walk on the grass. I want to say that I think it would be good to keep an address list.

Chief Stemple: Are you on Ennis St.?

City Manager Mallis: I'm familiar with that property and that's one of the ones I can't talk about, but I can tell you it's not been ignored.

Member of the Audience: Now that you've cracked down on not feeding the deer, we need to bring in some more wild ones again. Because our untamed deer are nice.

Member of the Audience: What's the procedure on high grass, because I ended up cutting my neighbor's grass.

City Manager Mallis: So what we do is in March we identified all the properties of zero water usage. And we're able to do it through the water. So that really helps us identify that, you know, if the house is vacant and what not. We send those notices out then because we're required to; obviously, it's just a friendly notice, as we call it, a requirement to put them on notice with that. Once that's done, our inspectors are out, and they were out today. We're really after it this week; I'll say last week was up early. That was a lot of rain before. Yeah. So it was tough. It was tough. But our procedure is we'll go out and we post the property, 24 hours, and we go back after that. If it is not, we got a measuring stick and if it is not addressed after that our staff cuts it. We used to contract that out. Clint and Shawn, they've really done a good job. We've got some staff very familiar with the community and their eyes. So we go out, we cut it, make it build. If they don't, they pay \$200 a cut. We take a before picture and we take it after that after picture, all that's filed, they get the bill. If they don't pay the bill, you see that we go through once a year and the assessor is assessed for the property taxes. I will tell you, every year, there are at least 2 or 3. We have the conversation and ultimately end up having an individual screaming mad, and we are looking for a picture, the after picture. And our response is we do not want to be in the lawn care business. We don't want to do that. You know, it takes away from our inspectors inspecting, inspecting other properties for other issues. Service could be doing other work. But we're asking, like, okay, some of the properties, like there are addresses in my head that I know, there are homes that we build them \$16,000 to \$1,800 and gets assessed that is capital. And because they don't pay the bill and the bill comes in, and they think something's going to happen, but it gets assessed. They have to be set up in 2024. Yeah. We go back out and our inspector, we have to verify that they have not cut that

grass. So now what they do is they work directly with the Public Works Department. They notify us when it's down because by the time we're out there, it might be 48 hours before our inspector gets out there, you know, late morning, gets a message over to service. That staff member may be doing other yard work. There is within 24 hours to address it, and we go back out. We have to do the reinspection because that's what we do, you know, the photos in that. So if there's a property, let us know. Now if you're cutting the neighbors grass all the time, he's probably not getting the notice.

Member of the Audience: Okay. That's fine. Yeah, I got he's a good guy. There's no. He broke down, and he's asking for a blanket. I just read the Lord because I don't want my long guy coming in with speeding, zero turbo, or tearing up my backyard. Yeah. So, anyhow, I didn't think I was going to have time to get it back to Home Depot, but I did. Okay. I do appreciate the two of you.

Member of the Audience: You're saying you know of certain properties from year to year. I mean, is there a more efficient way of tagging these homes? I mean, it was a website where the citizens just typed in the numbers, say this property and it comes to you that would make a whole lot easier. There are times, and I could say it, but more work on the police department if they're traveling in and say, hey, listen, this property over here, such and such, they call it that department say, hey, this, this, this property is in bad shape. They don't eventually have to get out of the car. I'm just simply saying, but not trying to put more work on the Police Department. But I think it makes sense because I look for the police department to be in my area circulating. Which comes to my next point there are cars parked on the street overnight, and I don't see the police tagging them and I've seen them in the street overnight. Now, I don't get long-winded now. Now what I want to come back to is that. Yeah, every communities got a problem. Okay. I'm here this story over and over again, but that story does not solve the problem. What I want to see if I can remember when 30 years, when I first came in, back when something that really impressed me was, I saw the police rolling through my neighborhood. I don't see that activity anymore. I don't see it. I'm sorry. I don't see it. You know, and I hear police say there's hotspots. You tell me you got a hotspot. I would expect the hotspots to be improved where it's no longer a hotspot. But these hotspots continue to be a hotspot. I'm not saying that I'm not being done, but I'm not being convinced. You may know the hotspots, but I'm not seeing that action taken care of these hotspots. You know, you know, there are grass, and there's this almost purely, you know, what I'm going through. And just from my journey from one place there, I'm seeing all these grass. Like I said, why is not something being done. And I'm going to tell you this. There are a lot of homes in Bedford, and it makes me want to leave because you look at some of these gutters they have a garden growing out. Someone who wants to maintain it still lives in Bedford. We have to put some teeth into what keeps Bedford better. And I'm not seeing anything.

City Manager Mallis: The reason we have to follow those rules or the postings, if we didn't follow those, we would not have the legal authority to assess the property taxes and we would never get paid. That's why they have to get sent the notice. That's why they have to get posted in that manner. We want love to be able to go down the street and not have to do that. But if that was the case, we would never be able to assess the property taxes. So there's a reason we have to follow that. Secondly, there is we do have a mechanism for people to notify. We get them for many different reasons. You can go on our website. It's right there. You can submit something. It goes directly to an individual or department. If you want us to learn something about high grass. Or. My neighbor's got a car that's in the backyard. Well, I want to say thank you. And that was challenging with the property. But my neighbor's got a car in his front yard up on jacks; it's been like that for a week. You could type that right in there. It goes right to the individual department. Obviously, you can always call, but if you want to do that, we do have a mechanism that you can do that. It goes right to break to the department, and it's on our website. We can go there and do that. But you know our number to the City Manager's office to report something, if you if you don't have access to a

computer or anything like that. We'll address it that way, too. But there's unfortunately, if things take a couple of days to get a yard cut, it's because we want to ensure we're following the proper protocol because we won't get it assessed. Yes. Some of those, you know, I can name. You know, when I say some properties, there's one we're dealing on the last one; I'll make sure you guys can look it up if you want. The gentleman was all under 15 plus properties years ago. I chalked it up, and walked away. They're all associated in an LLC. We're dealing with them now. One about 244 West Glendale we're they're cutting the grass. We've actually secured it. Yeah, it's a problem. One, but it's a hundred and some thousand back taxes. The Cuyahoga County was doing nothing. That girl right there was able to get the land bank involved to really push this issue and say we want it addressed. They moved something up to the top, and we're going to have that down in two months. Ultimately, I think they're going to look to build a home there. Those are those one-offs when I don't know, it's a one-off, but there are properties like that in town that, for some reason, if it's a probate issue if mom passed away and deeded it to somebody in California. If there's a lead on the property, what happens is Cuyahoga County, a couple of years ago, they came out. Correct me if I'm wrong, Jen. I think they had over \$10,000 in back taxes. There were like 40,000 or 50,000. So when they would get to a certain one, that was what we call complicated. They'd be like, move it down. We're going to put these ones through the sheriff's sale, move it down, move it down. So those are some of the challenges that when there's these ones that I talk about, we know that, that we're we address, you know, I wish they were all addressed, right. Absolutely. But I could tell you Powers Road had a house like that. That one was \$90,000.00 in back taxes. We were able to get it. The house got torn down. No charge to the city. The adjoining property owner acquired it. He's expanding his house. Center Rd. \$100,000.00, an individual was squatting in that house. We gotta tear it down; Land Bank took it and deeded it to the city. So now we own that kind of grassy space. How are we going to work to get it to a developer? A new home, kind of. I don't know. But there's been about over the last couple of years, there's been just under ten of those examples. But those are some of the things that, you know, it's working with the county to really push out these problem issues, complicated issues if you would say.

Member of the Audience: I want to say that I've called a couple of times, you know, to complain about my neighbor. They ask me for my name and address, and then a neighbor comes to my doorstep. I don't like to call anymore.

Member of the Audience: I have experienced the same kind of retaliation and what I have done is say it's not important who I am. I'm trying to say that there's a problem

Member of the Audience: He's talking about cars parked on the street. Okay. Now, I have no idea what we got. Okay, now I can move my car. Maybe I'll have a system set up here. Yeah, I have a system set up here. Where? It's at my car. I call City Hall. How do you know that? I can come across the street. It's not there, for whatever reason, that you have a car, and you have a car, and you have a car. So, you know, I don't know that you know. Right. So it's come back to my place, and they will know and that I pay. I really worry about this little tidbit, right? We have to give the parking permissions for so many cars in the driveway, like just overnight driving over a dispatch center, obviously aware of it. So you may see a car parked there for one, two, or three nights in a row, and they are not getting taken out, but they may have permission to go home.

Chief Stemple: Our officers are out there looking at every street every night to try. As far as your question, can we give it a citation? If three citations are unpaid, we can sell it at that point. When you talk about the grants and you are assessing the properties at \$200.00 per cut, I hope that they might simply say that we are making some money on this and maybe we can start to address this a whole lot more efficiently right now, because we're making money. Let's talk about the cars parked on the street overnight. Can't you just call a tow truck to tow it away?

City Manager Mallis: Unfortunately, no we can't do that.

Chief Stemple: We do give parking permissions when someone calls in saying that they are having a guest overnight and they don't have room in their driveway, goes to the dispatch center and the officers are made aware of it. You may see a car parked there for one, two, or three nights in a row not getting ticketed, but they may have permission. Our officers are out there looking; they can't get to every street every night. As far as your question, can we just tow it? We would love to. The way the ordinance reads, we have to give it a citation, and if three citations are unpaid, then we can tow it at that point. It may be there for a while before we are able to tow it.

Member of the Audience: And then my next question is when you find these cars on the sidewalk and, you know, obstructing the sidewalk. And this is every day. Some of them permanently; they never move them; they are obstructing the sidewalk. I mean, why isn't something done about that? This is every day. It appears that it's not important to deal with it at that time, maybe they want to deal with something else at that time. I walk in my neighborhood and have to keep walking off the sidewalk because this car is constantly there; it doesn't move. Why don't the police observe it?

Chief Stemple: If you are concerned about retaliation, you can remain anonymous whenever you call the police department.

Member of the Audience: They get to the point to where they want to know what race. So what you are telling me is not being followed

Chief Stemple: They try to ask questions and get as much information as they can to relate to the officers when they are approaching. They may ask what the suspect looks like, what race they are, and all that. But if you are concerned about your identity being revealed, you can remain anonymous. They may still ask for your name and phone number, but if you tell them that you want to remain anonymous, they will respect that.

Member of the Audience: Getting back to the car parked overnight, if I called you and said that I'm going to have to park my car. Why don't you give me a sticker that I put up? And my other question is, how does your officer know whether I have a permit or not? You brief them like that, you tell them there's going to be a car first.

Chief Stemple: When a resident calls in for permission to park overnight it goes into a....

Member of the Audience: If you tell me that I want to park overnight, I have to come get a sticker for the car.

Chief Stemple: We don't have stickers.

Member of the Audience: So that my neighbors know that I'm legal. Even though that officer comes by, he knows I'm legal. He doesn't have to check.

Chief Stemple: The police officers know who's got permission and who doesn't because when the dispatcher enters, that information is related to the officer. The officers are out there checking parking and they know which ones have permission.

Mayor Koci: It's 9:00 p.m., and we want to be cognizant of your time; we're going to do a quick wrap-up if, sorry. If you have a final word you want to say.

Councilman Longino: Don't hesitate to call me if I can do my part; I'm going to do my part. Like I said before, we're going to work together. Not just me and not just you. But this is our ward. This is our city. And whenever I try, I'm going to try. And sometimes I'm going to say that can go. Nothing can happen. Sometimes it might be a case like that. But let's hope it's not all case.

Councilwoman Spinks: Tony, Jeff, and Frank, I think he left. Every one of the councils can tell you it's not that easy of a job. I hear people are. Well, you know when I get elected, I'm going to do this. Well, I was one of those residents. When I get in there, I'll be able to stop speeding. I'll be able to stop and do this. There are so many laws and stuff that we have to go through. You see me out every day; I have a notebook; I'm writing down stuff and turning them in. There is a protocol. Get the call there's an empty building, why doesn't the business go in there so? I have a house on Thames Ave. that has been condemned and everything else. It's sold. We can't stop someone from selling a condemned property. It gets very aggravating. It's very aggravating. So if you think that we're just sitting up here and, you know, we're not doing anything, we turn in stuff. Mike, kudos to you, because I don't see how you do it sometimes. And it gets really aggravating when someone is sordid stuff they go to court usually is a citation is 30 days. They give them 30 days just out, which is a good thing. Okay. In 30 days, you should be able to get that gutter fixed, or you should be able to get the garage doors off. So people follow hard times, and they can do it. And then some people don't care. Well then, for you know it, that thing's been that way for years and years. I see it every day. It's aggravating. But believe me, it's not so simple as we're going to make someone do this. Every one of the council people here can tell you it's not an easy job, and sometimes you have to hold the phone back here because they're yelling at you. And a lot of times, it's not even your ward or your city, but you still listen to them. I can't tell you the amount of calls that I get that's not my ward. But, yeah. And like I said, kudos to Mike. And I know it's aggravating because I, like I said, I was I see speeding, my house has a stop sign right in front of it. Might have a big picture. Wanda, Chris, and Jim may live on my street in a drag strip. I mean, I call him a constant thing, and often times, our guys get there. Oh, I've called before and they've caught him at the other end, so they are trying. And you know, there's things when I can ownership. I have a house right now. Citizens living in the mom of their dad. Well, we can't go in there because that son, it's in the middle of something. So we can't get this moved in that move. And there are some things that we can't talk about on the floor, so just be patient. I know it's aggravating. Believe me, I get aggravated seeing houses, and then you're not doing your job. Well every one of us, it's, you know, it's not a part-time job for most of us. Thank you Ward 1 for being patient. And thank you, City Manager Mallis, for what you do.

Mayor Koci: Thank you all for coming in. We discuss these things and look for better ways to do stuff, and we're always open if you have a situation. If you have a council person, call me or call City Manager Mallis.


Clerk of Council


Mayor-President of Council

Date: May 6, 2024

COMMUNITY MEETING WARDS 1 & 6

COUNCILWOMAN SANDY SPINKS
COUNCILMAN TONY LONGINO



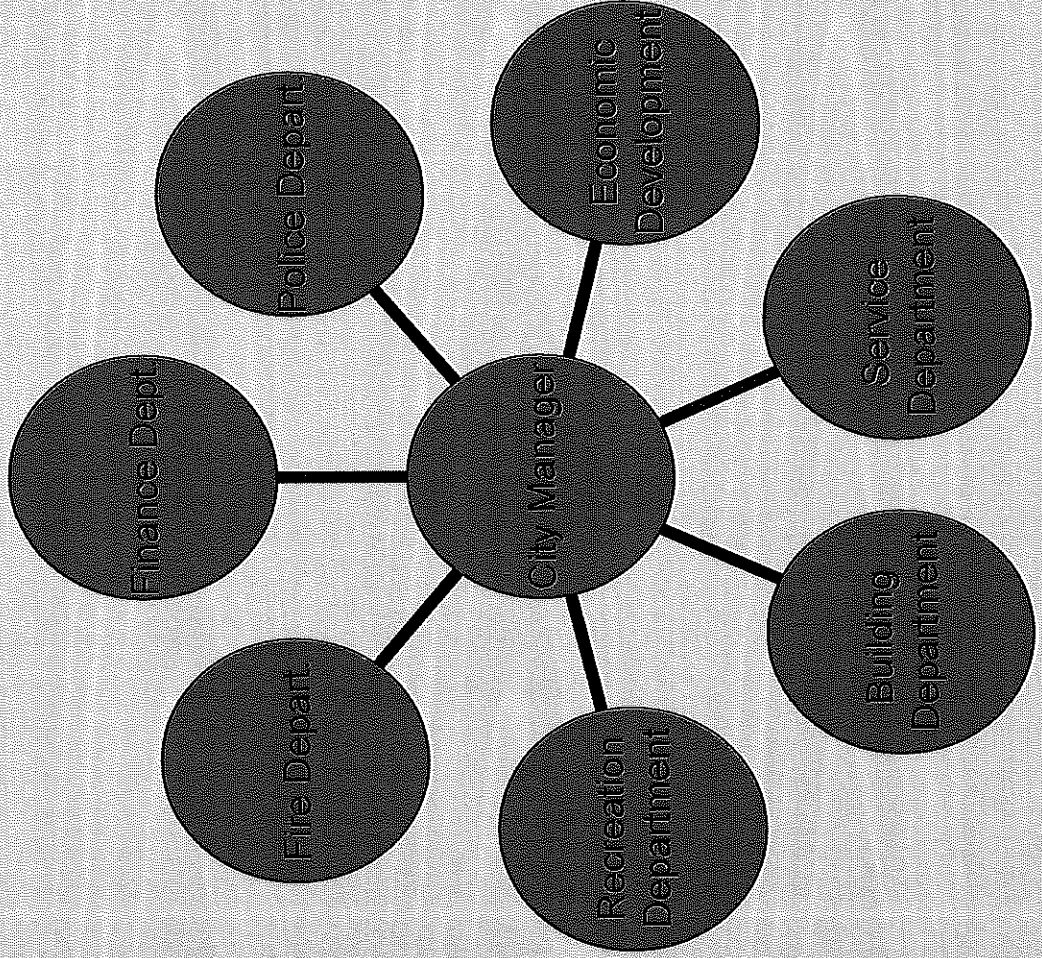
APRIL 22,
2024

PRESENTED BY: MAYOR STAN KOCCI &
CITY MANAGER MIKE MALLIS

CITY OF BEDFORD



*The achievements of
an organization are
the results of the
combined effort of
each individual.*



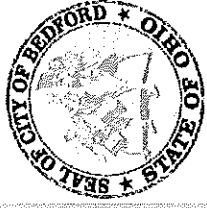
2023 YEAR END



- ❑ City concluded 2023 with over \$3 million in general fund cash balance
 - ❑ \$5.8 million reserve currently in place
- ❑ 2024 Budget will experience a loss.
 - ❑ Direct result of Bedford Hospital – UH responsible for over \$1 million dollars in income tax collections
 - ❑ Currently in litigation – stay granted is continued.
 - ❑ Medical Building will remain with Doctors, labs, etc..
 - ❑ Primary focus is to reestablish 24 hr. emergency room operations
- ❑ Administration will continue to review operations and staffing in order to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible



2024 NEWS AND INITIATIVES



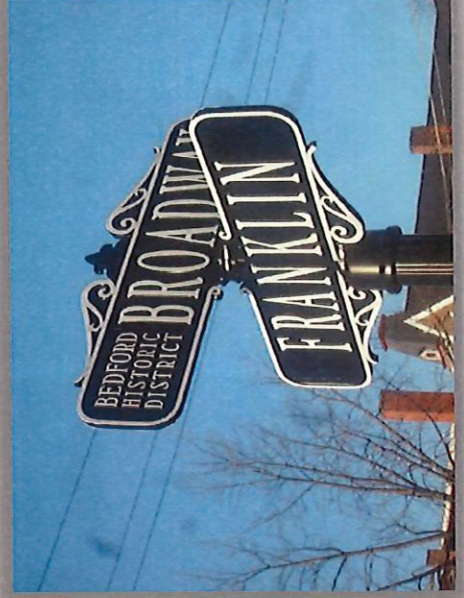
- Tinkers Creek Commerce Park
- Fire Dept.:
 - Received \$1 million grant for new ladder truck
- Police Dept.:
 - Flock cameras installed
 - Body & Dash Cameras upgrades
- Parks & Recreation:
 - Facility upgrades
 - Programming
 - Grant awards – senior and CCDDD
- Infrastructure Improvements:
 - Union St. Bridge replacement 2025
 - Northfield Rd. Bridge upgrades 2024
 - Turney Road Resurfacing 2024
 - Greencroft Culvert replacement
 - \$500,000.00 - 2024
 - Storm & Sanitary Sewer Program
 - \$10,000 annually
 - Upcoming Opportunities
 - Community Groups

CITY OF BEDFORD

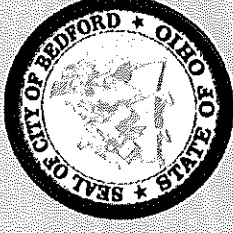


Grant Awards

- ❑ Received a \$250,000.00 for the Turney Road Resurfacing Project
- ❑ Through a 50/50 County grant, \$70,000.00 for crack sealing and striping
- ❑ \$150,000.00 for the purchase of police cruisers
- ❑ \$700,000.00 for the Bedford Commons Expansion Project
- ❑ \$50,000.00 for Historic District Improvements



CITY OF BEDFORD



Maintaining our Neighborhoods

- The City of Bedford has partnered with the County Landbank to demolish blighted commercial and residential properties and to explore redevelopment opportunities.
- The number of vacant homes, which includes bank owned, and estate owned has continued to decline.
- Quality of life concerns such as traffic enforcement - speeding and parking citations on doubled between 2022 and 2023

XELLIA CLEVELAND



- ❑ Xellia Cleveland & Hikma continues to build the foundation for Xellia's future
- ❑ Committed to a future in Bedford (300+ FTE)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Business Investment

- Lake Shore Electric – 100,000 sq. ft. facility
- Cleveland Tank & Supply – 50+ employees
- APEC Engineering remaining in Bedford



CITY OF BEDFORD



Bedford's Partnership with The Auto Mile

- Collectively City's largest employer and has invested roughly \$40 million into Bedford with various dealer renovations and improvements over the last 9 years.
- Substantial donation to the security of Bedford.
 - Funding for cameras, K-9 and improvement to Commons.
- Honda of Bedford site update.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



2024 & Beyond

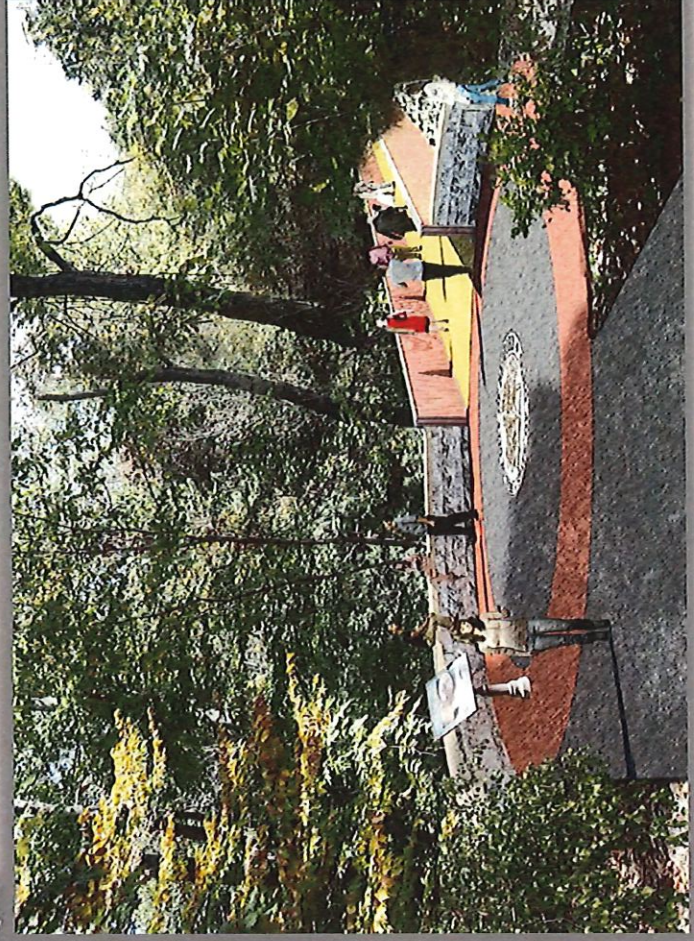
- Tinkers Creek Commerce Park
- CDSG award
 - Small business grants
- Partnership with County Landbank - residential lots
- NOACA TLCI Study recommendations; grant applications
- Taylor & Willis property developments; Cleveland Metroparks & Bedford Reservation master plan.



CITY OF BEDFORD



TLCI Study Completion





CITY OF BEDFORD

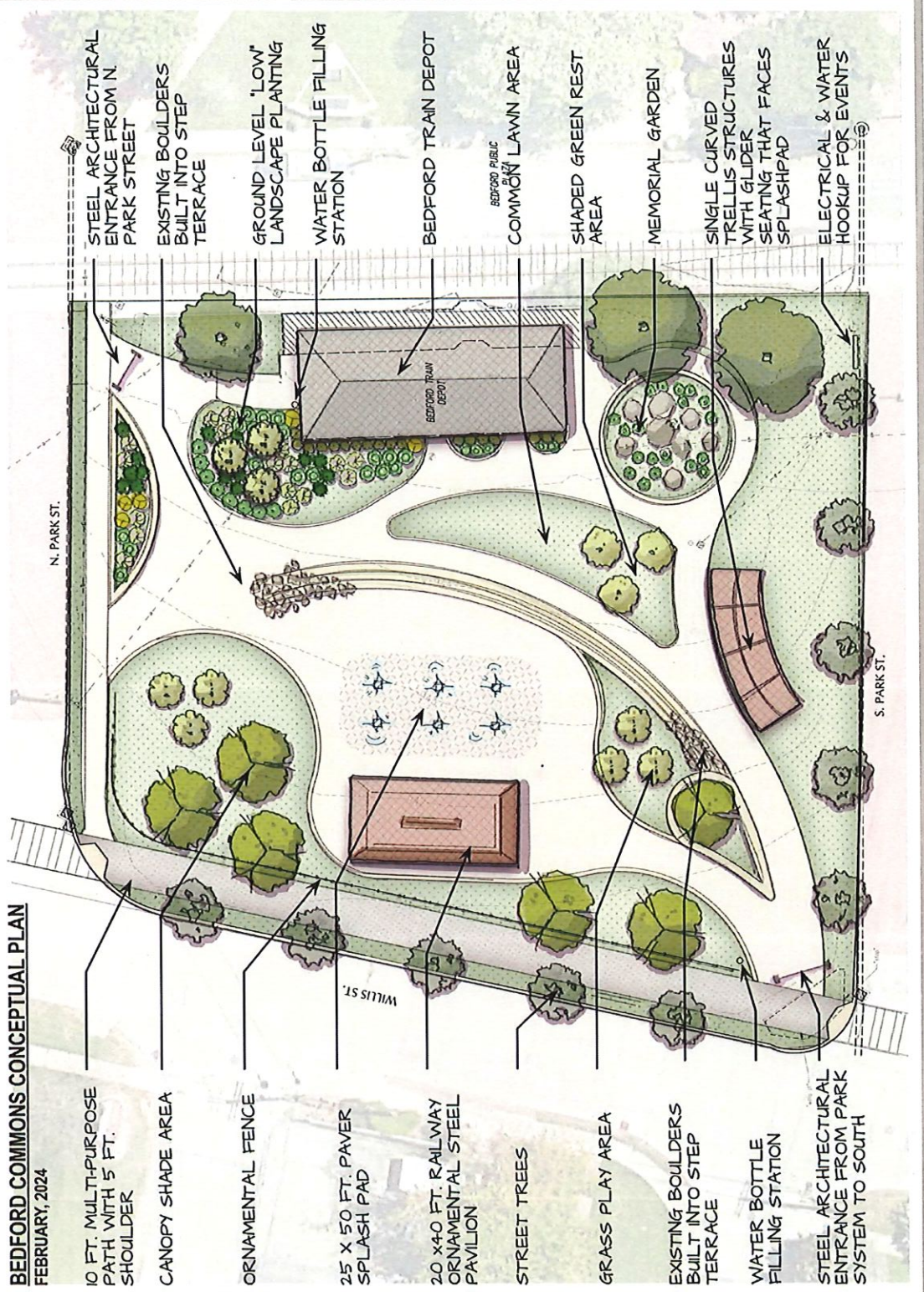




CITY OF BEDFORD

BEDFORD COMMONS CONCEPTUAL PLAN

FEBRUARY, 2024



- STEEL ARCHITECTURAL ENTRANCE FROM N PARK STREET
- EXISTING BOULDERS BUILT INTO STEP TERRACE
- GROUND LEVEL "LOW" LANDSCAPE PLANTING
- WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION
- BEDFORD TRAIN DEPOT
- BEDFORD PUBLIC COMMON LAWN AREA
- SHADED GREEN REST AREA
- MEMORIAL GARDEN
- SINGLE CURVED TRELLIS STRUCTURES WITH GLIDER SEATING THAT FACES SPLASHPAD
- ELECTRICAL & WATER HOOKUP FOR EVENTS

- 10 FT. MULTI-PURPOSE PATH WITH 5 FT. SHOULDER
- CANOPY SHADE AREA
- ORNAMENTAL FENCE
- 25 X 50 FT. PAVER SPLASH PAD
- 20 X 40 FT. RAILWAY ORNAMENTAL STEEL PAVILION
- STREET TREES
- GRASS PLAY AREA
- EXISTING BOULDERS BUILT INTO STEP TERRACE
- WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION
- STEEL ARCHITECTURAL ENTRANCE FROM PARK SYSTEM TO SOUTH



CITY OF BEDFORD

BEDFORD COMMONS PRECEDENTS JANUARY, 2024

LARGE SHADED SEATING



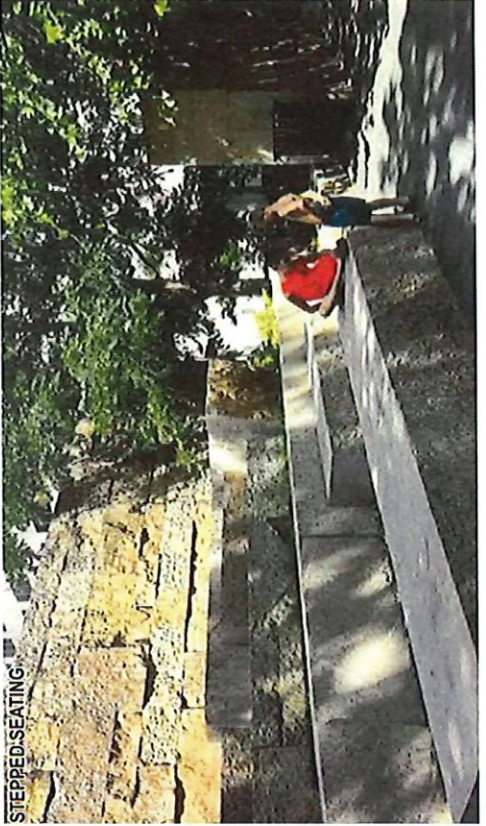
CURVED TRELLIS GLIDER SEATING



DECORATIVE SPLASH PAD



STEPPED SEATING





QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

