



WORK SESSION MEETING

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MAY 20, 2024

MINUTES

STATE OF OHIO

COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

TIME: 5:30 PM

165 CENTER ROAD BEDFORD, OH 44146

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, May 20, 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**

Council did not have any corrections to the minutes of the Work Sessions or Regular Meetings of May 6, 2024.

Council did not have any corrections to the minutes of the Ward Meeting for Wards 2 and 5 on May 13, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2613-24: Necessity for Street Lighting, Resolution No. 2614-24: Assessment of Garbage & Refuse Collection, and Ordinance No. 028-24: Proceed with Streetlighting and Ordinance No. 029-24: Assessment for improvements of Streetlights: Mrs. Howland: All of these can go on Second Reading this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Motions to reappoint Helen Briggs and Ceteria Williams to the Planning Commission.

Resolution No. 2616-24: Accepting the Tax Budget for the year January 1, 2025: Mrs. Howland: This is done annually to have the County Auditor accept the Tax Budget for the property taxes. We ask for as much as we can for property value. If we don't ask for it, then we won't get it. This can be placed on First Reading this evening.

Resolution No. 2617-24: Requesting from County Auditor Advances for Taxes Levies for the year 2024 collected in 2025: Mrs. Howland: This is asking the County Auditor to advance us the money early and if we could pass it this evening.

Ordinance No. 033-24: Contract between the City of Bedford and the Firefighters Local 1683 International Association of Firefighters: City Manager Mallis: The Firefighters Union accepted the proposal which is similar to what the Police Union and AFSCME ratified, which was 3% for three years. Their medical premiums are going up to 9% next year, and that is based on COBRA's rates. They modified the drug and alcohol testing and cleaned up the probationary period language. Union negotiations will start back in the Fall of 2026. This mirrors what the Police Union has, and the Life Insurance mirrors the Police Union as well.

- **DISCUSSION OF STATE OF THE CITY DATES**

City Manager Mallis: Last year, the State of the City was on August 29th. This year, it will be on August 27th, at 12:00 p.m., at Ellenwood Recreation Center.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **LITIGATION:**

17500 ROCKSIDE ROAD

UH BEDFORD MEDICAL CENTER/BEDFORD HOSPITAL

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Tony Longino to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:29 P.M. to discuss Litigation: 17500 Rockside Road and UH Bedford Medical Center/Bedford Hospital.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Tony Longino
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

MOTION:	Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Victor Fluharty to adjourn out of Executive Session at 6:55 P.M.
MOVER:	Jeff Asbury
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 6:56 P.M.


 Clerk of Council


 Mayor-President of Council

Date: June 3, 2024



REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

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

DATE: MAY 20, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bedford City Council met in a Regular Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, May 20, 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 May 6, 2024

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to approve.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

b Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 6, 2024

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

c Approval of Minutes of the Ward Meeting for Wards 2 and 5 of May 13, 2024

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to approve.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a **RESOLUTION NO. 2613-24:** A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO IMPROVE CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO BY LIGHTING THE SAME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (1st Rdg. 5/6/24)

MOTION:	Motion made by Smith and seconded by Jeff Asbury to place Resolution No. 2613-24 on Second Reading..
MOVER:	Frank Smith
SECONDER:	Jeff Asbury
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

- b **RESOLUTION NO. 2614-24:** A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ASSESSING THE EXPENSE OF GARBAGE/REFUSE COLLECTION, RECYCLING, AND DISPOSAL WITHIN THE CITY OF BEDFORD AND CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR THE COSTS DUE TO THE CITY OF BEDFORD FOR GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (1st Rdg. 5/6/24) Was read by title only.

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to place Resolution No. 2614-24 on Second Reading.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

Mayor Koci: Before we vote, I want to assure everybody that we are not raising garbage fee rates. This is to keep it on the books.

- c **ORDINANCE NO. 028-24:** AN ORDINANCE DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO BY LIGHTING THE SAME AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (1st Rdg. 5/6/24) Was read by title only.

MOTION:	Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Tony Longino to place Ordinance No. 028-24 on Second Reading.
MOVER:	Jeff Asbury
SECONDER:	Tony Longino
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

- d **ORDINANCE NO. 029-24:** BEING AN ORDINANCE LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STREET AND PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO BY LIGHTING OF THE SAME IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION NO. 2613-24 AND ORDINANCE NO. 028-24 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (1st Rdg. 5/6/24) Was read by title only.

MOTION:	Motion made by Fluharty and seconded by Sandy Spinks to place Ordinance No. 029-24 on Second Reading.
MOVER:	Victor Fluharty
SECONDER:	Sandy Spinks
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

6. REPORTS

- a. City Manager: First, I want to take a minute and congratulate Lieutenant Mike Stask. Lieutenant Stask was selected as the successful candidate to become the new Police Chief for the Bedford Police Department. He will take over when Chief Stemple retires later this year. The Economic Development Department and Service Department are working on a recently released Tree Canopy Grant offered through county planning. They are looking to secure funds that would allow us to purchase and plant between 100 to 150 trees. That is due in the next couple of weeks. So, we'll have that in and wait for the results. The Municipal Pool will open on June 7th. While we're talking about Parks and Recreation, I just wanted to touch on something that Mr. Callahan, Parks and Recreation Director, shared with me last week, and it's in regard to a program that we are a part of. The program is called the Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment Educational Savings Account Program (ACE). Basically, what that program does is it provides funds to children's parents or guardians for them to use for various enrichment educational programs. As Council and everyone knows, we've drastically expanded the programs being offered through the Parks and Recreation Department. We've been part of ACE for 11 months, and over the last 11 months, our staff have been able to get our families back \$33,567 for its programming. So, our families are signing the children up, and they're getting all of that covered through ACE. That's outstanding. That's not even one year, and we're providing educational and enrichment services to the children of Bedford. It's all kudos to Mr. Callahan and his staff down there dealing with that, really it's outstanding. Lastly, just a friendly reminder that the Memorial Day Parade is on Monday, May 27th at 10:00 A.M. sharp. It'll start here on Center Road and make our way to the Commons, and when we conclude at the Commons, we will make our way down to the cemetery.
- b. Law Director Montello had no report this evening.
- c. Finance Director Howland: Congratulated Lieutenant Stask for his promotion to Police Chief.
- d. Council Reports

Councilman Smith: Congratulated Lieutenant Stask for his promotion to Chief.

Councilman Asbury: Congratulations to Lieutenant Stask on becoming the next Police Chief. City Manager Mallis had mentioned that he scored 100% on the exam. The city event calendar has finally been posted on the city's website and Facebook pages. Chipper service is the week of June 3rd, so make sure you call the Service Department to get on the list. As far as Memorial Day, it is a solemn event. Last year, we were blessed to have a fly-over. I hear it might happen again this year, but you're going to have to come down and join us to make sure. And for anybody interested, this Friday, New Day Cleveland on Fox 8, Bedford's own Jimmy D'Angelo from Casa D'Angelo in Macedonia, and the family that owns D'Angelo's Ristorante in Twinsburg will be featured.

Councilman Longino: First, I want to say I'm sorry that I'm not going to be able to attend our Memorial Day parade because I'm a member of the Solon VFW and a member of the Honor Guard. Last week was Police Memorial Week, and the week started with a down officer in the City of Euclid and ended with his services this past Saturday, so God rest his soul and bless his family and all my brothers and sisters in blue. I'm happy to say that I didn't know it was out there like that, but as City Manager Mallis said at the Ward Meeting last week GetGo is in the process of being sold. I want to start by saying City Council does not go out and write warnings. Cut your grass and make sure you get standing water because of the mosquitoes, deer, ticks, and all those things that come along with it. Juneteenth is coming up, and we're going to have a celebration at the high school. I'm part of the committee that put together the Juneteenth Freedom 5K run/walk. I want to thank City Manager Mallis because anytime I've called him up, he's helped me out and taken care of all the problems I've had. I want to end by saying I'm here if you want to meet and talk to me, you can count on me being here. My father once told me, "Tony, you want everybody to like you." Get to know me, and you'll like me. If not, maybe you might get to know me and not like me. But at least get to know me, you know, rather than jumping on social media thinking something about me. But, like I said, I'm here; you can talk to me, and I'll answer all your questions.

Councilwoman Spinks: Talking about the loss of Police Officer Jacob Derbin. Being a police mom, my son, Drew Lewis is an officer in Lockhart, Texas. I've asked him several times, why do you want to continue to do this? And he said, "Because someone has to, and it's in my heart." On Monday, May 13th, at the high school, there were five young athletes who were signing their college papers for scholarships. We have five young people; one of them was a young lady; I had the pleasure of mentoring her at one time. She is going to Tri-C on a scholarship for track. A lot of people hear Tri-C, well Tri-C has really up their game, but she said, I didn't do this until later on my junior year. She says it's close to home, it accredited, and if I get hurt or something, I'm still getting a good education, and then I can go on and see what else I want to do. On Thursday, May 16th, I had the honor of being a part of the Program Evaluation Team for the Federal Funding Program for the National Automotive Technical Education Foundation. We have two young ladies who are in shop class. At one time, it wasn't

acceptable for women to be in shop class, but now there are women who are very successful in the business. I'm excited about what's going to be going on when the new high school comes in with the cosmetology department, and the culinary department is going to be moving, so there's some good stuff on the horizon. Thank you to a six-year-old young man who has been picking up trash with his dad in the morning before he goes to school. So kudos to him, and thanks to his dad for getting out there and helping Miss Sandy pick up some trash in Ward 1. Talk about the grass; we don't write tickets, and our police officers don't write tickets for grass either. But, when you do mow your grass, please remember, do not blow it out in the streets. If your landscaper does, please have them put it back up on the tree lawn because it gets in the catch basins. I did talk to City Manager Mallis because I had a couple of residents asking about the flashing stop signs that were at the end of Grand as you go onto Center Road. It was hit by a car, so it's not working and City Manager Mallis assured me that it's going to be up and running again. I also spoke to City Manager Mallis about the problem with parking at the Bedford AutoMile bar. This weekend not only were they parking in no parking places, but they were parking at the old Mazda place, and they were trying to park on Broadway. Last but not least, don't forget that the Strawberry Kickoff is the 60th year anniversary of the Bedford Historical Society Strawberry Festival. The kickoff is Sunday, June 2nd, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The actual Strawberry Festival is the weekend of June 7th, 8th and 9th. When it started out 60 years ago, it was on the first Sunday in June, and it was from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and it was just an ice cream social. This year we decided that we're going to do the car show with it from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 2nd. The car show will have a lot of cars coming in, and Broadway will be closed down. Businesses are closed on Sundays, so it's a good day to have it. There will be two bands; there will be hot dogs from the Bedford Historical Society. I hope that everybody has a blessed Memorial Day.

Councilman Salvi:

1. Columbus Rd. Concrete Repairs

Heads up to residents who live on Columbus Rd. or often use Columbus Rd. from I-271 and Bartlett Rd. The Bedford Heights side of Columbus Road is expected to be repaired sometime this summer. As a result, traffic on this section of Columbus is currently expected to be only westbound on Columbus during construction, and there will be an eastbound detour. Plan for travel delays.

2. Meadowbrook Market Square, 22277 Rockside Rd., Bedford, OH

I visited the Meadowbrook Market Square last Friday after being notified by a Bedford resident that there was a large number of police cruisers in the Meadowbrook parking lot. An officer explained that they had responded to a large number of Garfield Heights teenagers who had converged in the parking lot as part of an unauthorized Prom activity. My question is why do these teens seem to believe that they can do donuts on a major street in Bedford and illegally gather here and risk fewer consequences than if they did the same in Garfield Hts.?

3. Grass clippings in Bedford street sewers

Several residents complained about residents who cut their grass or use a landscaping

service, mowing grass clippings into city streets. Please remember it is a city violation to leave grass in the street. Grass washes into the city sewer system which helps cause blockages, flooding, and contributes to the overall cost of sewer infrastructure which comes out of tax payers pockets. Wet or dry grass clippings in a street can also cause motorcycles to lose traction and control and crash.

4. Bedford's water/sewer system

If you are on a tight budget, start budgeting for a likely future increase in your water/sewer bill. A substantial increase is due to the city's requirement to be in compliance with Federal and Ohio EPA administrative regulations. To achieve compliance, very expensive infrastructure must be designed, constructed, and installed. That cost is likely going to be reflected in my and your future city water-sewer bills.

5. Taft Park

Monitoring of Taft Park continues. I visit the park daily to keep an eye on park activity. Last Thursday, a concerned resident called the police after several cars were racing around the block and entering and exiting Taft Park. On another day this week, I also called BPD after finding a vehicle in the parking lot after closing time. The vehicle then left the park. As I mentioned last week, Taft Park is a 'no-go zone' for those who want to engage in illegal activity. You will eventually be caught.

6. Wrong-Way Drivers

I can verify resident complaints that some drivers are treating Darlington Rd. as a two-way street. Last Wednesday I observed a vehicle driving down the street going the wrong way. The solution is likely a combination of improved ONE-WAY signage and more police surveillance, especially during the time the High School students leave school.

7. Loitering for the purpose of illegal activity.

In order to make additional progress in bringing "normalcy" to some of the strip centers in Ward 2, I have begun legal research involving helpful Bedford Ordinances and the Ohio Revised Code, such as Section 2911.21 Criminal Trespassing. When legally permissible, individuals need to be arrested and prosecuted. If the laws are not enforced, the threat to public safety increases and the economic viability of Bedford businesses will likely decline, as will the quality of life for residents.

Cuyahoga County is reappraising properties you own this year, and they plan to substantially increase property values, which will increase your annual property tax. I suggest you contest the valuation if you believe the valuation is incorrect. On May 30, from 6-8 p.m., county officials will be at the Solon Community Center, 35000 Portz Parkway, in Solon, to answer your questions about how to contest your property value. You can also call 216-443-7000 if you can't make that presentation.

I would like to end by acknowledging Euclid Police Officer Derbin, whose young life of twenty-three years was unfortunately senselessly taken last Saturday

evening. According to news reports, Mr. Vaughn, 24, a known Cleveland criminal, murdered Officer Derbin. Mr. Vaughn had outstanding warrants and should have been locked up for the public's safety and that of this young police officer.

Pray for the safety of our police officers because Mr. Vaughn could have just as easily murdered an officer here. Unfortunately, there are other Mr. Vaughns with outstanding warrants, and these criminals are manipulators who only care about themselves.

Councilman Fluharty: The Palmetto Tot Lot will be renamed Paula Mizesak Park in honor of Councilwoman Paula Mizesak, who passed away in February 2022. This will take place on Saturday, June 1st at 11:00 A.M. For anybody that wants to come, get there a little earlier because it's going to be crowded. This has been in the makings for a while, and we're finally getting this all done, and she deserved it.

Mayor Koci: For the first two motions under New Business, we will be voting on reappointing two members of our planning commission. Before we do that, I just want to say thank you to all the people on our boards who came out and volunteered to help us out. We certainly appreciate it because if they didn't volunteer their time, we'd be sitting up here every day of the week doing this stuff. But they do a great job for us. And, these next two people we're going to vote on have been on planning for a while now and have both done commendable jobs there. And I personally want to recommend both of them for reappointment. We do have two vacancies on our Board of Building Standards and Zoning Appeals. So if anybody is interested in serving on that board or on any of the other boards, contact Mrs. Simons if you are interested. Write a short letter about why you would like to be on a board or commission, along with a resume. We count on our citizens to step up to do these jobs. And again, thanks to all of them.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion to re-appoint Helen Briggs to the Planning Commission

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to approve.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

b. Motion to re-appoint Ceteria Williams to the Planning Commission

MOTION:	Motion made by Longino and seconded by Jeff Asbury to approve.
MOVER:	Tony Longino
SECONDER:	Jeff Asbury
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

- c. **RESOLUTION NO. 2616-24:** A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE PROPOSED 2023 TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR JANUARY 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY **Was read by title only.**

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, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

Mrs. Howland: There are three purposes for the tax budget. It allows the county auditor to set the property tax rate for next year. It's still going to maintain at the \$21.7 Mills that it's been since November 3rd, 2009. Allows the City of Bedford to receive undivided local government revenue and local government revenue assistance in 2025. It also allows the County Auditor to provide the City of Bedford with a certificate of estimated resources, which limits the amount of money Council can appropriate for the year 2025. So this doesn't appropriate any funds. This mainly sets the amount of revenue that is going to be available next year in order to spend that matter.

- d. **RESOLUTION NO. 2617-24:** BEING A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO ADVANCE TAXES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF TAX LEVIES FOR THE YEAR 2024 COLLECTED IN 2025 PURSUANT TO SECTION NO. 321.34 OF THE REVISED CODE OF THE STATE OF OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY **Was read by title only.**

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, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Longino

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

Mrs. Howland: This resolution simply asks the County Auditor to send the property tax funds to the city in installments rather than in two separate lump sum payments for the two different halves of the years of property tax collections.

- e. **ORDINANCE NO. 033-24:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF

BEDFORD AND FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1683 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS ADOPTING THE TERMS OF THE ATTACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT AND ORDERING THEM INTO EFFECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Was read by title only.

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

City Manager Mallis: The city concluded contract negotiations with the Police Department and AFSCME Public Works staff at the end of 2023. We continued negotiating with the fire union, ultimately coming to an agreement approximately a month ago. The union ratified that agreement last week, and it did so unanimously. The new collective bargaining agreement is for 2024 through 2026. It does have wage increases that are equal to the other unions, as well as health care contributions and other contract amendments. It is the Administration recommendations that we approve this evening.

8. HEARING OF CITIZENS

Lisa Carter, 470 Taft Ave., Bedford, OH: I moved here from Canton eight months ago to be closer to my daughter and grandchildren. I chose the City because it's where I found a very nice home. I also chose the city because I did a lot of research on Bedford, and I felt that this was an appropriate city for me to live in. As I got older, I wanted somewhere that I thought I would be safe, somewhere that I thought would be a nice small community. You guys have a lot of activities to offer families. People have been super friendly, and I feel safe in my home. Councilman Salvi has been readily available to address any concerns. I am the resident who called the cops this week about Taft Park. I drive by there every day on my way home from work. I know what regular traffic should look like for that park. I don't feel like I can take my five-year-old granddaughter down there to play. At any point when I drive by, six vehicles are congregating in that park, and not a single one of them has a child. They're leaning into each other's vehicles. It was Thursday night between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. when I called the Bedford Police. I was asked, "Have you seen any illegal activity?" I worked in drug and alcohol for 20 years; I don't need to see illegal activity to know if something is wrong in that park. They just kind of fluff me off like I was unimportant. So I waited. I was in my front yard gardening. Pretty soon, the cars started coming and going out of the park, and they were drag racing up and down the street. I felt that was good enough for me, so I called a second time, and the lady said,

“Well, you didn't talk to me previously.” And I said, “Well, I'm talking to you now. I want an officer to come out and check out the park.” In the meantime, I saw Councilman Salvi come home, and I mentioned this to him because I know that he's working on some things with that park. While we were standing outside, a Bedford police officer drove down the street. They didn't even slow down. They didn't drive into the park. I'm not the type of person who's going to call the police every two seconds for nothing. That's not who I am. But I feel like if I call the police because I feel like something needs to be checked out, it needs to be checked out. Drive through the park. At least make the effort to pull into the parking lot and see what's going on. See if they're exchanging drugs and see if they're drinking. Neighbors should be able to go and take their children to that park and use that facility. We pay an 8% tax in Cuyahoga County. It is ridiculous for us to not be able to use the services here. And I want to feel safe in my neighborhood.

Councilman Salvi: If I may say something, I went down to the park and found a bottle of tequila in the parking lot, which was probably from the folks who were in those vehicles.

Cathy Williams, 491 Lamson Ave., Bedford, OH: I live by the Police Department, and that is the reason why, at the Ward Meeting, I said, "Is this new chief going to have our officers be more aggressive?" At 1:00 in the morning, there's a car parked on the wrong side of the street in front of my house. Music blasting neighbor calls dispatch. The officer pulls out Lee Court, drives around them, and keeps on going. They're on the wrong side of the street at 1:30 in the morning. Yesterday, twenty-five firecrackers were going off to celebrate somebody's death. Not one officer showed up. I doubt if anybody called because it does no good. I've complained about this before. I have heard an officer say it's not right. We live in a changing community and a changing society. You can't have people my age, older and younger paranoid and frightened. We need to have officers step up to the plate. Hopefully, with this new chief cracks, he the whip.

Nick Sullivan, 85 Best St., Bedford, OH: This regards a garage that's a disaster. It's ready to fall down and garbage all over the yard. The yard is 100 John Street, and this has been going on for years. It all began when my neighbor decided to sell his home right next door to me. We were conversing, sitting outside on the deck. She says, well, you know what? I wonder if I'm going to have trouble because of that. What? That dump. He says, “People are going to come and look at my house and think, what kind of neighborhood is this to allow a dump like that to exist?” Okay. He said, “Well, I'm going to call the city and issue a complaint,” which he did. Then he asked me to keep an eye out because the housing inspector was going to come out because he was going to be at work. I did invite the inspector onto the property, and we went in the back. He looked at all the garbage all over the backyard, and looked at the condition of the garage and took pictures. The roof on the garage is sagging in the center, there is moss all over the shingles, they're deteriorating, and there's a bulge in the side of the garage. So that entire year, nothing happened. The inspector did come out a couple of times to get her to clean up the grass, but nothing was done with the garage. So the next spring, 2023 I called again to get an update. The woman in the Public Works department answered, and when I asked about 100 John Street, she said that the city had a contract to get the garage demoed and the property cleaned. It will be done by the end of September. So April, May, June, July, August, September: I'm looking at a dump and garbage. I don't want to go in my backyard, sit on my deck, and look at the garbage. So September, I called and asked, "What's happening?" She said, "There are delays in things, and

I'm still working on it." They came out and took some more pictures. It's the same dump, so I waited again. I called the city around the middle of April this year. Again, the woman who answered the phone at the Public Works Department indicated that when I mentioned the address again, she said "That the housing inspector would be out there on May 1st. He's got issues that he's got to resolve with her." I said, "Okay, I'll wait until May 1st." A couple of weeks went by, I called him up, and he wasn't there. I left a message indicating who I was and my address and asked when that garage could be demolished. He didn't even have the courtesy to call me back. Obviously, the inspector is not doing his job. I got a request to issue the to the law director. I know the city can't issue fines or penalties, but the law director has the authority to do so. Maybe if you fine her the first of the month, \$500 for every month that garbage is existing. To stop thumbing her nose at the city and get it demolished. I mean, three years, who's not doing their job?

City Manager Mallis: Afterward, if you leave me your phone number, I'll call you and confirm. But I believe the individual has been cited and has to appear in court. We are required to send three notices before they're actually cited, and at that point, the matter ends up in court. I've worked with your Councilman Fluharty; he's brought it to my attention. I know they've been out there. I've seen the first notice and the second notice. I believe I've shared those with the council member, and I'm almost certain the individual was cited, at which point it's up to the court. I don't know if extensions have been granted, I'm not sure, but I can look into that and I can call you in the morning.

Mr. Sullivan: It's unfortunate when normal people are putting their garbage out; she's going up and down the street getting that garbage and bringing it to her yard. I don't want to look at that. I mean, three years; that's ridiculous.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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


Secretary


Mayor-President of Council

Date: June 3, 2024