



WORK SESSION MEETING

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JUNE 3, 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, and 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 20, 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 be passed this evening.

Resolution No. 2616-24: Accepting the Tax Budget for the year January 1, 2025: Mrs. Howland: This can be placed on Second Reading this evening, and we have the Public Hearing for it this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to accept the Board of Zoning Appeals denial of Bernard Motley's appeal of the Building Commissioner's determination of noncompliance of the proposed business located at 776 Broadway Ave., Bedford, OH 44146 for Parking Deficiencies: City Manager Mallis: This was refused due to the amount of parking required per the State Building Code. Based on the square foot calculations, they would need a minimum of 25 parking spaces. There is currently space for 8. We did meet with the Ohio Department Of Liquor Control, and as far as we know, the State has not granted the liquor license. In the meantime, they went to BZA seeking a variance on the required parking. Their initial thought was to use the neighbor/adjointing parking at the plaza next door and the property behind him. The owners of the plaza and the property owner behind him were not in favor of them using their property and against the

requested variance. Mr. Mottley indicated he may appeal to the state to be able to park on Broadway Ave.

Motions to reappoint John Treziak to the Board of Zoning and Appeals.

Resolution No. 2618-24: Apply for a Tree Canopy Grant through the County: City Manager Mallis: This is a requirement for the Tree Canopy Grant, and we are going for the maximum amount of \$50,000.00. This will be for 150 trees. When the trees are being planted the County and the arborist must be present.

• **DISCUSSION OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Mrs. Simons: Mrs. Speights has not been to a BZA Meeting since March of 2021. The Board of Building Standards and Appeals has two openings.

• **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 6:06 P.M. to discuss Economic Development: Cleveland Metroparks and Historic District and Litigation: 17500 Rockside Road.
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 6:28 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 6:29 P.M.


Clerk of Council


Mayor-President of Council

Date: July 1, 2024



REGULAR MEETING

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JUNE 03, 2024

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

TIME: 7:00 PM

165 CENTER ROAD BEDFORD, OH 44146

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bedford City Council met in a Regular Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, June 3, 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 20, 2024

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to approve the minutes of the Work Session of May 20, 2024.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, and Longino

b Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2024

MOTION:	Motion made by Smith and seconded by Jeff Asbury to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2024.
MOVER:	Frank Smith
SECONDER:	Jeff Asbury
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, and Longino

5. PRESENTATIONS

a Presentation of Proclamation

At this time, a proclamation was presented to Spinks Graphic Business, commemorating 30 years in business.

Mayor Koci: It's important to recognize people, and if anybody out there knows of a business, big or small, that's reaching a particular milestone, let us know. I would be very happy to recognize them also. The small business is the backbone of America. There are more small businesses in the country than large businesses and more people are employed collectively in small businesses than in large businesses. So it's very

important to all our communities. We have some homegrown work right here. I always like to recognize that.

6. 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, 2nd Rdg. 5/20/24) Was read by title only**

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, and Longino
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, and Longino

Mr. Montello: The next three pieces of legislation are to assess the cost of lighting, to declare that there's a necessity for lighting, and to order the City to proceed with lighting the streets. We also permit the city to levy the cost of the streets and public lighting.

- b **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, 2nd Rdg. 5/20/24) Was read by title only**

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

- c. **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, 2nd Rdg. 5/20/24) 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, and 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, and Longino

Mayor Koci: And just to reiterate here that nobody's getting individual bills for the street lighting. It comes out of your taxes.

- d. **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, 2nd Rdg.: 5/20/24) Was read by title only

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

Mr. Montello: This is to have residents who have not paid their garbage bill to have it assessed on their tax bill to make sure it gets paid. If we had to do some additional work that people haven't paid for, it may increase the normal charge. Nothing's been increased. Every year we have to certify in order to put it on the taxes, we do this annually.

- e. **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 (1st Rdg. 5/20/24, Published: 5/22/24, Public Hearing: 6/3/24) Was read by title only**

MOTION:	Motion made by Longino and seconded by Jeff Asbury to place Resolution No. 2616-24 on Second Reading.
MOVER:	Tony Longino
SECONDER:	Jeff Asbury
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, and Longino

7. **REPORTS**

a. City Manager

b. Law Director Montello had no report this evening.

c. Finance Director Howland had no report this evening.

d. Council Reports

Councilman Asbury: If you are having any exterior work done on your home that you need permits for, the permit fee is waived for the month of June. Chipper services is this week and if you didn't get on the list, make sure to call the Service Department and get put on the list for the week of July 1st. Our next meeting is July 1st. We are going to start our summer concert series on Wednesday, June 12th, down at the square from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Brian Pappas's party band. Then, on Wednesday, June 26th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., there will be Tyrone Blues Sensation, so bring your chairs, come down, and listen to some good music. Always a good time. We did have a couple of water main issues in Ward 5 in the last week or so. They were at Wandale and Center and at Ellenwood, near Kenyon. Independence Day parade applications are available. If you've got a float, and you want to be in the parade call City Hall. Turney Road Paving Project was originally going to start at the beginning of June, but it looks like it's going to start on July 8th. Traffic will be maintained heading westbound, but eastbound will be shut down. I would like to talk about an issue a couple of years ago, about the Orbeez guns that the kids had. They are like water pellets, where they freeze them, and then they shoot them out of the gun. I would imagine that's fine if you are in your yard with a group of friends playing and all. But what's happened is there are some teens that are walking around town, and they're shooting people that don't want to be shot at, and that's just not a good idea. So parents, grandparents, and guardians keep an eye on your kids. If you notice that they're doing something with these or big guns, question

them. Make them stay in their yard, okay? Because we don't need people getting hit that don't want to be hit. And as always, keep your music at a rest level. Keep your dogs on a leash and pick up after them.

Councilman Longino: First, I want to say congratulations to Mr. Spinks. Juneteenth is coming up, and it will be at the high school. We're going to have the Freedom Run that morning. I also want to say congratulations to the Bedford High School girls' four-by-one relay that made it to the state finals in Columbus. I'll talk about keeping your dog on a leash because there was an accident with a neighbor of mine and when someone else was walking their dog. It wasn't so much the dog wasn't on a leash; she just couldn't handle the dog. The dog got loose, and the dogs went at it, and her dog ended up getting pretty messed up. So just be careful about your dogs. If you can't handle your dog on a leash, you know, just be aware. Being mindful when you see other dogs is basically what you need to do. Summertime is when a lot of people are going to want to get a fence put up, so make sure when you come to City Hall to get a permit, call beforehand and make sure you have everything in order.

Councilwoman Spinks: Congrats to my husband. Small businesses are very important, and the taxes that they pay to our city are very important. Congratulations to the Parks and Recreation Department; they were on Channel 8, Cleveland's own. They work very hard down there and they are doing an excellent job, so they deserve that award big time. This past Saturday, we had the renaming of the Palmetto Tot Lot to Paula Mizsak Park. Yesterday was the Car Show. There were about 20 cars that came out. The Strawberry Festival be Friday, June 7th, Saturday, June 8th, and Sunday, June 9th. The Director of the museum is here tonight, so she can talk a little bit more regarding Sunday. The best dessert contest. If you have some lost family recipes that have anything with strawberries in it, baked cookies or whatever, there is going to be the Best Dessert Contest on Sunday, June 9th. The judging is going to be at 1:20 p.m. by Mrs. Paris, Judge Papa, and Mayor Koci. A big thank you to the Mayor and his wife for all that they do for the Historical Society and everything that we have around here. She has done all the pies for the fundraiser for the Historical Society. A big thank you to her. Thank you to the Bedford High School Automotive students who came out and helped out yesterday in the rain. We couldn't have done it without them. When the concert series starts, our museum will be open on Wednesdays selling popcorn, as we always do. We're open at the same time as the Gazebo Entertainment's going on. If you are a senior or somebody with a disability and you're having trouble with getting your lawn mowed, please feel free to call me because I have a list. And a lot of the neighbors help out and my church helps out. Most of the lawn services cannot do it for free, because of a liability issue. Most of them do charge a fee of \$20 to \$25 fee. And I know some of the churches out there that can help you out if you're having trouble getting your lawn cut. The citations that you're usually given are for 72 hours, so there are services out there. If you're in Ward 1 and having trouble feel free to call me because I have some connections.

Councilman Salvi:

1. Saturday morning, I participated in the dedication of the renaming of the Palmetto

Tot Lot to the Paula Mizesak Park. Paula was a long-time Bedford Councilwoman, volunteer, and Bedford resident. I was happy to support this recognition of her positive contributions to our community.

2. Memorial Day Parade:

Thank you to the Memorial Day Committee Members, city workers, community volunteers, and the BCSD bands, that once again did a great job in preparing the parade route, Square, Bedford Cemetery, and provide the music, so Bedford's century-long Memorial Day tradition, honoring our local soldiers, who died in service to our nation, could continue.

The Memorial Day service included a War Monument dedication for Chief Warrant Officer Hal Hooper Reichle who was KIA in Iraq in 1991 and PFC Brandon Sloan who was KIA in Iraq in 2003. Both soldiers names were added to the Memorial.

3. Meadowbrook Market Square, 22277 Rockside Rd., Bedford, OH:

I spoke with one of the owners of Zak's Superstore after a large number of Garfield Heights teens trespassed on their property, as well as illegally and recklessly violate traffic laws on heavily trafficked Northfield Rd. in Bedford.

Zak's owner agreed to work with the city and I to proactively address any future illegal activity on the property. This will maximize the successful criminal prosecution of any individuals who trespasses or commit any other criminal code violations on that large property. This will send a message that the City of Bedford will not tolerate or be passive about the criminal behavior of residents or outsiders.

4. Taft Park:

Monitoring of Taft Park continues. I visit the park daily, sometimes twice, once while the park is open and after closing hours. I am happy to report that incidents of after-hour activity at the park appear to be on the decline as the result of persistent monitoring. Evidence suggests graffiti and illegal alcohol use at the park is continuing, and since the park is primarily for the use of children, more work needs to be done to ensure parents, especially mothers and grandmothers feel safe taking young children to the park.

5. Grass clippings in Bedford streets:

I spoke with a Giant Eagle representative requesting that their lawn service stop mowing or blowing grass in the street, which I personally observed. Since then, Northfield and Solon roadways adjacent to Giant Eagle have been grass-free. I have also stopped and advised several residential landscaping services to please refrain from mowing grass clippings into city streets. I informed them that the grass helps clog the sewer system, can cause motorcycles to crash due to lack of road traction caused by the clippings, and it violates a city ordinance.

6. Loitering:

I am glad to report that the parking lots located at Northfield & Columbus Rds. have

been generally free of the loiterers who had been hanging around this strip center's businesses and parking lots. I have been monitoring the lots daily and calling the BPD to report violations. I appreciate the assistance of the city manager and BPD in bringing about the substantial improvement. Residents and staff of these businesses feel much safer when people are not hanging around these businesses and parking lots, panhandling or involved in other questionable or illegal activities.

7. 607 Northfield Rd., Bedford, Ohio:

This past week I called the Successor Trustee who controls the property via the Trust that holds Parcel 813-08-020, a/k/a 607 Northfield Rd., Bedford, Ohio, 44146. You may be more familiar with this parcel as where the Speedy Mart and Baye Market did business prior to closing.

I was unable to speak with the Trustee but left the reason for my call, contact information, and requested a return call. I will call again if my call is not returned and perhaps take a drive to Beachwood and knock on the Trustee's door.

I wonder if the City of Beachwood would allow one of its commercial properties to degrade to the extent that 607 Northfield has achieved through neglect, without a demand for immediate remediation.

8. 776 Broadway Avenue:

I visited the property at 776 Broadway Avenue this weekend to better understand the layout of the existing buildings and parking lot of this property and adjacent strip center, since council may be asked to approve or override the recent Board of Zoning Appeals decision to deny the property owner's request for a variance due to a lack of parking spaces. I also attended the BZA meeting last Tuesday evening and listened to both proponent and opponent testimony prior to the BZA vote.

Councilman Fluharty: Congratulations to Mr. Spinks. I just want to say that I got a call from Paula Mizesak's daughter, Angela. She wanted to thank everybody up here for doing what we did for her and the Mizesak family. They enjoyed themselves tremendously, and they are very appreciative of everything we did.

Councilman Smith: Congratulations to Mr. Spinks on celebrating 30 years of business and to the Mizesak family on renaming Palmetto Tot Lot to Paula Mizesak Park. As you might know, I took Paula's place on Council. She actually asked me to do it, and I said, "No, Paula, I can't do it." Then I got a call from the Mayor, and I said give me a couple of days to think about it. Lord knows that I'm not a politician. I wasn't cut out for this, but I've stepped in and serving my community, which is something that I've always done. I've always been a servant of the community in which I live in. And so, once again, thank you to Paula. I know you're watching over me at this time.

Mayor Koci: That was a nice event on Saturday and something nice that we could do for Paula. She was just a special lady.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a Motion to accept the Board of Zoning Appeals denial of Bernard Motley’s appeal of the Building Commissioner’s determination of noncompliance of the proposed business located at 776 Broadway Ave., Bedford, OH 44146 for Parking Deficiencies

MOTION:	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to accept the Board of Zoning Appeals denial of Benard Motley's appeal of the Building Commissioner’s determination of noncompliance of the proposed business located at 776 Broadway Ave., Bedford, OH, for Parking Deficiencies.
MOVER:	Sandy Spinks
SECONDER:	Victor Fluharty
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, and Longino

- b. Motion to re-appoint John Trzeciak to the Board of Zoning Appeals

MOTION:	Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Tony Longino to approve the appointment of John Trzeciak to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
MOVER:	Jeff Asbury
SECONDER:	Tony Longino
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, and Longino

- c. **RESOLUTION NO. 2618-24: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY AND ACCEPT A GRANT THROUGH CUYAHOGA COUNTY PURSUANT TO ITS HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT PROGRAM 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, and 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, and Longino

Mr. Montello: The county has pledged over \$5 million over the last five years to plant thousands of trees across the county to create a tree canopy; we were successful last year in receiving the grant. We have to reapply this year for the 2024 Replanting Program in the amount of \$50,000. If we are awarded the grant our match of the program would be \$7,500

if we got the whole \$50,000. So not a bad deal to get, from 100 to 150 trees. If we do get the award, then 50 trees will be planted this year perhaps 50 in the spring of 2025, and 50 by the end of 2025.

9. HEARING OF CITIZENS

Michael Fontana, 609 Bell Court, Bedford, OH: Most people know that I'm having problems with my property. It sits on my Belcourt. My property is completely trashed. It's all wide open, and it has eight-foot holes in the ground. I'm just wondering when it's going to be taken care of. The City is supposed to be coming in here to tear up the road and fix the pipes. The 25th was the last time, and it didn't work the first time someone did anything there.

Mr. Montello: I think the city's aware of it. Is the builder's name Mr. Amato? Mr. Amato. Apparently, there was an error in the installation of the pipe some time ago. And, when he built the new structure they discover that it was installed incorrectly and that we believe it was Spectrum's fault. They're trying to negotiate a resolution where everybody pitches in for the cost just to resolve it for you. We did discuss that about a week or so ago, and then, Memorial Day came, and it was a short week last week. But I'll bring it to City Manager Mallis's attention.

Mr. Fontana: Because Spectrum was going to pay an amount of \$13,000 to fix it. They had to stop when the inspector came over because the pipes weren't right. They had to stop working on the 24th because the inspector came and he stopped them from working. So everything is wide open, and all the ditches are eight or nine feet deep. Councilman Ashbury has seen it; it's really a mess. My wife is handicapped. I have to walk her up from the street. She's on oxygen and dialysis; it's a mess for us.

Mayor Koci: It was determined that they were at fault. They said they would fix it, but they haven't.

Mr. Fontana: Spectrum is willing to pay the money.

Mr. Montello: I don't know what the holdup is, then. The last thing I heard, they were close to reaching a settlement. I'll bring it to City Manager Mallis's attention first thing in the morning.

Mr. Montello: I'm saying that the City is the one that stopped them from working.

Mr. Fontana: Our Building Inspector stopped them from working because of the pipes. There is supposed to be a five-inch drop and there is no drop. Mr. Greer said that they were going to tear up the road.

Councilman Asbury: The last thing I heard on Friday was that the plans had to be submitted to Cuni for approval. They have to go from the road across the street on the left-hand side where the cul-de-sac starts. They've got to open that up and redo the pipe. So there's a five-inch pitch from where the yards are to the pipe.

Mr. Fontana: It's a big mess.

Betsy Lee, 76 Palmetto and 30 South Park, Bedford, OH: I hope everybody comes to the Strawberry Festival this weekend. We have more than 50 crafters, and we have eight artists in the museum. We have fresh strawberries, strawberry shortcakes, and strawberry sundaes. Entertainment the whole time. We're celebrating 60 years of the Strawberry Festival. It started on a Sunday afternoon from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and now it's three days long. So please, come and have fun with us.

Sabrina Mitchell, 39 Willard Ave., Bedford, OH: I wanted to invite you guys in the community to help me promote my son's book launch party. It will be at Allenwood, at the rec center. So he goes to Carrollwood. He wrote a book, and I published it. So if you guys could come support, it would be good for the community. I'm going to invite the Treehouse and some other community businesses to come. That way we can branch the school, community, and parents to build up this community together and join together as a family.

Mayor Koci: What time and when?

Ms. Mitchell: It is June 30th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Ellenwood Recreation Center. My son just turned nine, and his book is called "Dream It. Then Build It." It's very inspirational but fantasy. We have slime cars and stuff that's not real, but neither were cars that drove themselves many years ago. It's building on your imagination and creating stuff that has never been created before, but giving kids hope and inspire them to just dream big and to work hard.

Steve Shaw, owner of the property at 790-804 Broadway Ave., Bedford, OH: I spoke at the BZA Meeting last week, and we heard everyone this evening. My hope is that the Marley's, who own the building next to our property, are able to put something in there. Obviously, the issue was taking our parking spaces. The reason I want to stand up here is, number one, to introduce myself and to meet the Council. My dad bought the property probably 35 years ago. He passed away, and now we operate it and lease it. I just wanted to share and ask the Council and the Mayor if there's a business that the City is looking for; I'll be glad to give you my cell phone number. We're about 50% occupied, and what I want to ask the city here is, what is the occupancy right now in the downtown area?

Mr. Montello: We could connect you with our Economic Development Director if you'd like.

Mayor Koci: If you want to give us your number after the meeting, we will make sure that Mrs. Kuzma, our Economic Development Director, and City Manager Mallis get it so they can talk. We are always looking for places or for businesses to move into places.

Jay Wattson, 40 Berwyn Dr., Bedford, OH: I wanted to let City Manager Mallis know that I appreciate his response to my messages regarding the homes that I saw with the high grass. He encouraged me to give him a call, and I was averaging on a two week period at least four homes a day. I saw that they were being addressed, and I wanted to let him know that I appreciate it, but I also wanted to question when he received the call or if he's addressing the need for these homes going to the Building Department. Within the last couple of days, I gave him a couple of homes on Solon Road across the street from the Building Department where the grass is high. And I was curious if that department is to address that particular need. Why don't they do it

before I say something?

Mr. Montello: They go, but they have to give notice to the people before we cut it. Sometimes, they've already given the notice, or sometimes, we do miss it. All of the Council Members, as is the mayor and everyone, are very active in that regard, reporting high grass when it's in their Wards. They're very active in trying to keep the lots cut.

Mr. Watson: I'm not disputing it. I just find it kind of questionable if that's the department and you can look across the street.

Mayor Koci: The Building Department is right here at City Hall. We have one person who cut City property and the delinquent ones.

Mr. Watson: Because I'm concerned and that's why I wanted some clarification. I thought they were located over there on Solon Road. I want to let them know that I appreciate that when I called, he was responding, and I just wanted to personally thank you. I came to a meeting, and during that meeting, they were talking about how the stop signs were being illuminated to encourage people to stop. I have not seen success in that regard, but I'm not out there 24 hours a day. I'm hoping it is working to some degree. But what I have noticed is that if you go through many of the communities where there are stop signs, you could be a block away and you don't see a stop sign because it is obstructed by tree limbs or whatever. And that is concerning to me. It's not just one or two; there are quite a few stop signs that are obstructed until you actually get right up on it. Then you may see it.

Mayor Koci: Are you talking about in town here?

Mr. Watson: Oh yes, in town. I can go out and start sending pictures on it like I did on the homes. I'm not imagining this; in fact, I tell you a really good example. You come down Northfield, heading towards the school, where the traffic lights will be blinking for the school; you can't see it. If you've been there recently, and it's flashing, you don't see it until you are right up on it because there are tree branches hanging down. But my point is that there are many stop signs that are obstructed mostly by tree limbs. My street has some beautiful streetlights, but the trees are obstructing the lights. What can be done regarding that?

Mayor Koci: FirstEnergy takes care of most of that. It's their responsibility to trim them back, which is when they're really butchering the trees. Then people complain because they're butchering the trees, but supposedly, they do it safely and correctly for the tree, even though it looks bad.

Mr. Watson: I can tell you right now that on Berwyn, trees are obstructing the lights, and I have seen other streets as well.

Councilman Salvi: Mr. Watson, at our recent meeting prior to the council meeting, I mentioned problems in Ward Two, perhaps the canopy. The trees are blocking the street lights, and they need to be trimmed.

Mr. Watson: As we're wrapping up, I anticipate that there will be some gathering down at the square this summer. I would like to encourage that we are proactive in addressing and trying to prevent something like a fight or some disagreement because it seems to happen very easily in today's world. Last year I brought to Council's attention that when I went to a gathering, people were just crossing the street anywhere. No one was managing the crosswalk. There was no courtesy or consideration for pedestrians when they were crossing the street. My next concern is for the youth in our community. I have noticed a lot of the youth have toy guns, and they are jumping out of cars and chasing one another. And I guess they squirt water. There is a group of teenagers across the street from me that chase one another in cars; when the car stops, they all jump out and squirt water. Then they jump back into the car, and they just keep going on until they get to the next place. I've heard that the youth have toy guns, and if someone doesn't know, it's a toy gun. We have a big issue in our community that I hope that we can try to somehow prevent. I don't have an answer in terms of how it could be done. This is what I'm observing quite a bit, and I'm very concerned.

Brenda Motscow, Bedford, OH: I don't find myself to be special. This evening I will introduce myself as Doctor Brenda Motscow. I'm leaving this community in a couple of months. I was born and raised here. I came back because my father left his house to me. So I thought I'd give it a go. I've had really great interactions with Councilman Asbury, and he cares. I'll give Councilman Salvi a quick first impression that I really feel that he cares, and he wants to make a difference as well. For those of you who I have not had interactions with, I withhold this from you. For those of you who I have and who I've observed, there's so much dismissive behavior on this council, so much defensive, leading into almost aggressive behavior and responses. At times, I'm ashamed of it. For those of you who care and want to keep citizens like me here and again, I'm just going to let it fly. I don't think I'm special. I blew the median income of this community out of water, and you get good tax money from me. Born and raised came back and I've had people try and help me. And in spite of that, I'm leaving. I'm told by my mayor when I address concerns of murders and crimes "happens everywhere." Yes, sir you did to my face, you did. This happens everywhere. And in fact, I asked you to please not respond that way.


Mayor Koci: And then I went on to say, well, we are very concerned here. I wasn't dismissing the whole idea; you make it sound like I could care less.

Ms. Motscow: You're correct, you did go on to say that. That's an example from the highest position of leadership in this community. To illustrate that for those of us who are in positions of addressing others' concerns all day, every day, your first job is to withhold your emotion, hear out that person in front of you, not dismiss them, not become defensive, and don't let that defensive/aggressive vibe come through. Because sirs and madams, I have a personality that can be guilty of that. So I use myself as an example. For everyone who cares and who continues to try, thank you. I can't do it anymore. Councilman Asbury, I thank you for your care and concern. I've tried to show up when I can, even if I have nothing to say because I know to keep my aggressive personality, defensive personality, and dismissive personality in check; I've not said a lot, most of the times that I'm here, this is the last time I'll speak. It might be the last time I'm here. The Motscow family have been longtime citizens; I am the last one, and I say goodbye to my town.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:	Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Tony Longino to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 P.M.
MOVER:	Jeff Asbury
SECONDER:	Tony Longino
RESULT:	Pass [7 TO 0]
YEAS:	Koci, Spinks, Salvi, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, and Longino


Secretary


Mayor-President of Council

Date: July 1, 2024