

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**JANUARY 17, 2017**

**6:00 P.M. PROMPT**

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- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – (Personnel / Economic Development / Litigation) (6:00 pm to 7:30 pm)
- **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA**
- **DISCUSSION OF EQUALIZATION OF WARDS** – (Charter Art. II, Section 1 (c)) (11/21/16-12/5/16-12/19/16-1/3/17)
- **DISCUSSION OF ARTS AND CULTURAL BOARD** – (§149 / Ord. #9252-15 w/Bylaws) (10/17/16-11/7/16-11/21/16-12/5/16-12/19/16-1/3/17)
- **DISCUSSION OF WARD MEETING DATES**
- **DISCUSSION OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TOWERS, ANTENNAS & EQUIPMENT** (Ref: §1959)

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES BEFORE MEETING**  
**(Council Minutes and Agendas posted at [www.bedfordoh.gov](http://www.bedfordoh.gov))**

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Marilyn Zolata, Donald Saunders, Greg Pozar and Paula Mizesak. Absent: None. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Law Director John Montello. Tom Speaks and Krista Rodriguez from The Impact Group. Residents: Beth Housiaux-Stewart, 93 Avalon and Joyce Daunch, 86 Harriman Street, Ralph King and several others.

Tom Speaks and Krista Rodriguez from Impact Group was present to give an update from the open forum meeting at Ellenwood on January 10, 2017 regarding the income tax increase levy. They explained the phone based poll/survey was not complete and it was best not to comment because they did not have concrete results. Council had some questions/concerns regarding the phone poll and focus group meetings as it was somewhat confusing for some of the residents. The hiring of Impact Group was to provide marketing and strategic services to promote all aspects of the income tax levy which was determined by: registered voters, age, and gender in order to create a demographic bucket. There were in attendance 46 residents at the first meeting and 56 at the later meeting. Ms. Rodriguez listed the common themes/items gathered from the two focus group meetings as follows: lack of information/poor communication, perceived increase in crime, concerns with vacant residential homes and commercial store fronts, many concerns regarding the Dispatch Center, the need for more Officer visibility/presence throughout the City, the "types" located in the Historical District, the Administration/Council need to stop hiring within for available positions, Bedford government still had the Good Ole' Boy mentality, the need to hire an Economic Director, poor restaurant selections, pay cuts for all employees before proposing a levy, Police and Fire safety forces top priority; then sewer with the recreation and pool being the lowest, the City Manager, all Officers and all Firefighters should be required to live in the City regardless of the residency requirement, and there are too many residential rentals. Mr. Mallis and Mayor Koci explained many of these items were already being addressed and if residents attended Council meetings regularly they would already know the Administration/Council were addressing such important concerns. For many years at Council meetings the Administration and Council have urged the residents to call the Police if something seemed suspicious. Discussion was held that social media was a great way to get out information but it was only helpful if the information was factual. Some of the information on the newly resident created websites/Facebook could do more harm because some of the stuff being stated was not the facts but rather opinions and/or personal complaints. Some residents felt an interaction type website could be helpful; however, again not everyone used a computer. Mr. Pozar said the common theme to all this was the City needed more money for the continuation of services, safety forces and infrastructure projects. The levy was necessary at a ¾% increase and the bottom line it would be up to the voters. Mr. Mallis explained the increase was not about just "balancing the budget" it was about maintaining services, hiring three additional Officers and focusing on the infrastructure of the City. The waterlines, streets and sidewalks were not fixing themselves so there was a need for the City to reinstate programs to do such projects. He stressed it took money to maintain a City and the City's finances had severely changed since 2008 with the loss of businesses and State cuts plus the City couldn't borrow any more money. It was crucial the City be proactive to maintain the current services and work toward the future needs in trying to position the finances for projects for the next 8-10 years. Mayor Koci assured the income tax increase also affected their personal budgets and those who lived elsewhere and worked in Bedford. Mrs. Zolata stated the troubling finances was not new news and others needed to realize the Administration/Council had been addressing/discussing the situation. Mr. Gambosi briefly explained the financial concern was because of revenue cuts, State cuts, the decrease in home values, and loss of a few major businesses. Mr. Mallis explained it sometimes took months before the City knew or felt the total impact of certain situations such as the loss of Ben Venue Laboratories (BVL). The closing of BVL was complex; however, the City immediately addressed as many concerns as it could in preparation of all the major financial cuts.

Mr. Speaks noted the residents wanted to know the “whys” for the income tax increase. Ms. Rodriguez mentioned the January 10<sup>th</sup> open forum meeting was appreciated by the residents. She understood the best way to get the information out to the residents was through the eNewsletter. She noted some of the residents have joined together to show their pride in their community by picking up rubbish in their neighborhoods and calling the Police if something seemed suspicious in hopes to keep Bedford a nice community. It was determined The Impact Group would report their findings at the January 26, 2017 Special Council meeting.

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Council had no changes to the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2017 and the Work Session of January 3, 2017.

ORDINANCE NO. 9467-17 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 178.012 “PURPOSES OF TAX; RATE” AND 178.013 “ALLOCATION OF FUNDS” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES INCREASING THE INCOME TAX RATE BY THREE QUARTER PERCENT (3/4%) TO THREE PERCENT (3%) EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2017 IN THE CITY BEDFORD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Items being considered were: the not yet determined levy percentage of 1/2% or 3/4%, the \$700,000 residential rubbish assessment, the restructuring of some of the employee positions and hiring at a lower rate to avoid possible lay-offs. The goal at 3/4% was to bring back the road and sidewalk programs and hire three additional Police Officers. He stressed the additional Officers could only be hired if the tax increase was at 3/4% not 1/2% because three additional Officers would cost \$350,000. If the residents wanted the 1/2% then other avenues would have to be considered. It was determined this ordinance would be read as a second reading this evening.

RESOLUTION NO. 2509-17 A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE UPON THE BALLOT OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 2, 2017, A QUESTION TO THE BEDFORD ELECTORATE TO INCREASE THE RATE OF THE BEDFORD CITY INCOME TAX BY THREE QUARTERS PERCENT (3/4%) TO A TOTAL OF THREE PERCENT (3%) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYMENT OF CURRENT EXPENSES AND THE GENERAL OPERATION OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Mallis explained the amount of taxes raised at the current Income Tax rate would be insufficient to provide an adequate amount of the necessary requirements, basic City services and a balanced budget. It was necessary to increase the City Income Tax for the purpose of the payment of current expenses and general operation of the City. The wording for the ballot specifically included increasing Police personnel to make it clear the City was going to increase Police Officers. It was determined this ordinance would be read as a second reading this evening.

**Motion to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation of January 4, 2017 for Christopher Thomas owner of 350 Columbus Road who is seeking relief from 1935.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bedford for a Child Care Center, 7 days a week / 2 shifts / 5:00 a.m. to midnight**

Mr. Mallis explained this location had a previous child day care and the Commission did not have any issues with the application. Council had no concerns and agreed with the Planning Commission.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Mizsak to go into executive session to discuss Personnel / Economic Development / Litigation. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:00 p.m., Bedford City Council, City Manager Mike Mallis, Law Director John Montello and Finance Director Frank Gambosi went into an executive session to discuss Personnel / Economic Development / Litigation.

Motion by Saunders seconded by Spinks to adjourn executive session. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**DISCUSSION OF EQUALIZATION OF WARDS** – (Charter Art. II, Section 1 (c)) (11/21/16-12/19/16-1/3/17)

Mr. Saunders previously requested the City needed to address the Wards after the Presidential election per the Charter. Mr. Montello contacted the Board of Elections and believed it was going to be based per population of each Ward; however, he was waiting for a response. Mr. Montello would follow up with Council at the next Work Session.

**DISCUSSION OF ARTS AND CULTURAL BOARD** – (§149 / Ord. #9252-15 w/Bylaws) (10/17/16-11/7/16-11/21/16-12/19/16-1/3/17)

Mayor Koci moved this item to the next Work Session because Council ran out of time this evening.

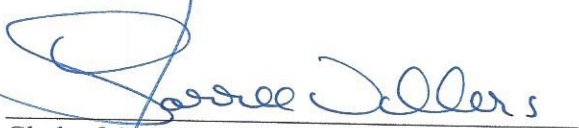
**DISCUSSION OF WARD MEETING DATES**

Mr. Mallis suggested the following dates: February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> to get the word out about the need for the income tax increase. Council decided: February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TOWERS, ANTENNAS & EQUIPMENT** - (Ref: §1959)

Mr. Montello felt this item needed more research. Council chose to move it to the next Work Session.

Work Session adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor – President of Council

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of January 3, 2017
  - b. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2017
5. **PRESENTATIONS**
6. **OLD BUSINESS** – (1<sup>st</sup> Rdg: 1/3/17)
  - a. Ordinance No. 9467-17 amend §178.012 “Purpose of Tax; Rate” / §178.013 “Allocation of Funds”
  - b. Resolution No. 2509-17 directing Board of Elections to place upon the May ballot the question of whether the rate of Income Tax shall be increased by three-quarters percent (3/4%) to three percent (3%)
7. **REPORTS**
  - a. City Manager
  - b. Law Director
  - c. Finance Director
  - d. Council Reports
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Motion to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation of January 4, 2017 for Christopher Thomas owner of 350 Columbus Road who is seeking relief from 1935.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bedford for a Child Care Center, 7 days a week / 2 shifts / 5:00 a.m. to midnight (roll call)
9. **HEARING OF CITIZENS**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Bedford City Council met in Regular Session at Bedford City Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 8:02 P.M. The meeting was opened by pledging allegiance to the flag. The roll was called. Present: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Absent: None.

Motion made by Zolata and seconded by Genutis to approve the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of January 3, 2017. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizsak and seconded by Pozar to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2017. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Koci explained Ordinance No. 9467-17 and Resolution No. 2509-17 were in preparation of the proposed income tax increase. He said if the City actually put the tax increase on the ballot the steps in doing so needed to be completed prior to February 1, 2017 to place this issue on the May 2, 2017 ballot. He said the third and final reading would be next week and the language currently in the legislation did not mean that was what the City was actually proposing. The City had not decided 100% if there was going to be an income tax increase. It was likely but not decided until the third and final vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 9467-17 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 178.012 “PURPOSES OF TAX; RATE” AND 178.013 “ALLOCATION OF FUNDS” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES INCREASING THE INCOME TAX RATE BY THREE QUARTER PERCENT (3/4%) TO THREE PERCENT (3%) EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2018 IN THE CITY BEDFORD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WAS READ BY TITLE ONLY

Motion made by Pozar seconded by Saunders to place Ordinance No. **9467-17** on second reading.

Mr. Montello said this was a proposal at this point but it was more than likely going to happen.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2509-17 A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE UPON THE BALLOT OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 2, 2017, A QUESTION TO THE BEDFORD ELECTORATE TO INCREASE THE RATE OF THE BEDFORD CITY INCOME TAX BY THREE QUARTERS PERCENT (3/4%) TO A TOTAL OF THREE PERCENT (3%) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYMENT OF CURRENT EXPENSES AND THE GENERAL OPERATION OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD INCLUDING INCREASING POLICE PERSONNEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WAS READ BY TITLE ONLY

Motion made by Spinks seconded by Zolata to place Resolution No. **2509-17** on second reading.

Mr. Montello explained this was directing the Board of Elections to place the question on the ballot as to whether or not to increase the rate of the City income tax currently at 2 ¼% by ¾% to a total of 3% which included police personnel.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Koci announced the State of the City address at LOHV on January 18th at noon and encouraged everyone to attend. He announced the Special Council meeting for the third and final reading of the above mentioned legislation this evening would be Thursday, January 26, 2016; Work Session at 6:00 p.m. and Special meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Bedford City Hall. The Ward meetings were as follows: Wards 1 & 2 on February 27, 2017, Wards 3 & 4 on March 16, 2017 and Wards 5 & 6 on March 27, 2017 all at 7:00 p.m.

City Manager Michael Mallis announced the Ward meeting dates would be in the next utility bill insert. He thanked the residents who attended the Impact Marketing open forum at Ellenwood Recreation Center on January 10, 2017 which he felt was successful; the City appreciated everyone's input. The residents should expect another CodeRed announcing another meeting date and time. The open forum was for the income tax increase the City was asking the residents to consider at  $\frac{3}{4}\%$ . He explained Powers Road would be opened ASAP regarding the water main break. The holdup was because the water line was underneath two main CEI vaults and the City was not going to jeopardize the safety of the Service Department employees. He announced the City Hall Water Department window would close daily at 4:30 p.m. starting February 13, 2017. This would allow the Water Department Clerks and Finance Department employees to reconcile by the end of each day.

No reports from Law Director John Montello, Councilman Genutis and Councilman Pozar.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi reported the 2016 General Fund lost \$800,000+ and \$250,000 in the Health Insurance Fund totaling over the expected \$1 million. The additional loss of \$2 million in 2016 and with the 2017 cuts; the reality was down to a minimum per year. He appreciated the input from the January 10<sup>th</sup> open forum at Ellenwood.

Councilman Saunders questioned how the water meters were being replaced. Mr. Mallis explained the company divided the City into four sections and the residents were being contacted by the company so they could schedule an appointment to have their meters replaced. Mr. Saunders requested something be noted/explained on the City's website. Mr. Mallis explained the biggest hurdle was the residents were not responding and scheduling their appointments. The City contracted with a company to handle the replacements and the appointments; however, the City could possibly post an approximate area schedule.

Councilwoman Zolata pointed out there was one reflector pole marking the lane at the intersection of Broadway and Union Streets that divides the two lanes. Mr. Mallis explained the reflector poles continued to get knocked down and more would be installed after the weather breaks. Mrs. Zolata encouraged everyone to attend the State of the City address. She said as Americans regardless of party affiliation should be supportive of the new President Donald Trump whether personally people liked him or not. She was not pleased with the recent statements of the Senators who said they would not support President Trump. Mayor Koci agreed.

Councilwoman Spinks explained it was important to attend the Council meetings in order to collect the correct information. She supported social media but the incorrect information was bad publicity for the City. She suggested if a resident heard something it was best not to assume it was true and it was best to question their Council person for the correct information. She continued to urge the residents to call the Police if they saw something suspicious. She told the residents to be aware of their surroundings because the "times were changing". The Officers can only do so much so it was important for the residents to be the eyes and ears as well.

Councilwoman Mizesak talked about a neighboring resident who recently passed away and the garage door was left open and it was addressed in a timely manner. She urged others to call if they saw something suspicious.

Mayor Koci said the classes offered by Ms. Gnoddie at a previous meeting were being considered. He felt it was time for everyone to remove their political signs and bumper stickers; residents have had time to express themselves. It was time to move forward to address the issues in the Country, the City and the nation. He urged everyone to attend the State of the City to hear about the income tax increase and the direction the City wanted to take in 2017.

**Motion made by Genutis seconded by Zolata to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation of January 4, 2017 for Christopher Thomas owner of 350 Columbus Road who is seeking relief from 1935.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bedford for a Child Care Center, 7 days a week / 2 shifts / 5:00 a.m. to midnight.**

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizsak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Koci said that concluded the business portion of the meeting and asked if anyone in the audience had any comments.

Jean King, 267 Bexley Drive, 21 year resident, explained about the attempted break-in at her home this morning between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. It was obvious with the damage caused the “thug” tried to kick the door in but was not successful because of the steel door and steel frame. A neighbor noticed a car that was backed into the drive left quickly around 9:00 a.m.; however, the neighbor did not call the Dispatch Center. She asked what the City was doing about these “thugs” running the City streets and what could she do to protect herself; should she buy a gun? She expressed how disturbing/unsettling it was and others probably didn't realize the stress it caused unless it happened to them personally. Mayor Koci did not think there was a bunch of “thugs” running the City; there were some undesirable individuals of concern. He felt Bedford was safer than most of the communities in the general area. The City was being vigilant and the residents also needed to call if something was suspicious. He, too, had experienced a similar situation. Ms. King requested the Crime Statistics. Mr. Mallis would provide her the Crime Statistics information. Ms. King asked for some safety ideas. Mayor Koci advised her to call the Police Department for some suggestions. Mrs. Zolata suggested she call the Police Department and put her house on special watch when she was going to be gone.

Ashley Fuller, 95 Nordham, explained a situation where two male and one female young teens tried soliciting sex to her and she wanted to know who to call. It wasn't a life threatening situation and she didn't want to bother an Officer; however, it wasn't something her seven year old daughter needed to hear. Mr. Mallis would inform her after the meeting.

Beth Housiaux-Stewart, 93 Avalon, disagreed with Mayor Koci and felt the crime had increased in Bedford as she listed several crime related issues; some in which she was not sure if actually happened. She thought former Officer Ron Borsch was going to speak to the residents about some safety ideas. Mayor Koci said the Administration was in the process of working on that informational meeting. He clarified that the crime was increasing but there wasn't a lot of thugs running the neighborhoods.

Heather Young, 175 Harriman, figured out the ¾% income tax increase would be substantial for her family because her household had a higher income; however, the lack of communication was not helping the City. She felt no information was worse than incorrect information on the Social Medias. She was disturbed to hear from the Impact Group recently at Ellenwood that the City was going to cut the Fire Department if the income tax levy did not pass. A Firefighter was present that evening and he personally hadn't heard that rumor. Mayor Koci assured her this was a rumor. Mrs. Young expressed it was very important for the City to get the correct information out to the residents and employees. Mr. Mallis stated the Administration and Council were in the process of discussing options for the income tax increase as follows: raising the Tax Credit currently at 1 ½% plus the employee cuts were not carved in stone. Impact



Group was to mention certain items to gauge the importance of the residents' perspective such as recreation, fire and so on. The Administration and Council have discussed the financial concerns for the past 2 ½ years. At the recent departmental budget hearings the Administration was put to task to make substantial cuts and could only cut another \$600,000. The Administration did not make knee jerk decisions in 2014 when they realized there were going to be financial issues in the near future. Mr. Gambosi as the Administration worked through the financial cuts it was apparent the lack of money was going to affect services. After all the cuts it was apparent something needed to be done to balance the budget. Mrs. Young understood the hard work that had gone into this issue but her concern was the residents weren't informed. Mayor Koci reiterated Impact Group created a list of questions to gauge what issues were important to the residents. Mrs. Young reiterated the Impact Group's information delivery and or comments was misleading and confusing for the residents. She then mentioned the residents were confused about the water meter notices they were receiving. She also pointed out the continual suggestion for everyone to "call the Police, call the Police, call the Police" did not set well with her because Bedford was a big City and there was only four Officers per shift and the Officers were doubled up responding two Officers per call. She then told a story about a solicitor who tried to sell her a bottle of Lysol and get into her home. She called the Dispatch Center and the Officers responded in 8-10 minutes; however, in the meantime she took a picture of the van, posted it on social media and another resident saw the van an hour later. Mayor Koci agreed communication was the number one problem regardless where you live or what organization you belong to; communication was "the key" to get the message out. He explained until Council actually votes to place the legislation on the ballot and after that was finalized the Administration intended to get the message out to the residents by a more in depth explanation of the reasons for the income tax increase. The Administration and Council's intention was get the facts to the residents of what would happen if the levy passed or failed. He said the Administration and Council would note each individual who might be laid off and what services would be cut. After the levy results were finalized the information would be presented to the residents.

James Jeffers, 102 E. Interstate, felt the City's poor communication notifying the residents was released way too late and less than 24 hour notice. He stated the information from the Impact Group was entirely different than what was being said this evening. The Impact Group stated at the meeting specifically two Firefighters would be cut. Mr. Jeffers felt Impact Group misled the residents. Other residents present this evening agreed with what Mr. Jeffers was trying to convey. Mr. Mallis explained the Administration made additional pushes to inform the residents at the Council meetings, the newspaper, and social media. He apologized if the information did not reach residents. Mr. Mallis explained during discussions of cutting costs there was a list created with dollar amounts attached to them as discussion purposes to try and reach a \$1 million dollar figure. He said the mindset was to do the best thing for the City in a worst case scenario. He stressed he would never make the recommendation to cut 25 Police Auxiliary Officers and three full time Officers. He could not recommend cutting any Officers.

Kristie Glasier, 114 Tarbell, stated the residents were misinformed by the Impact Group. She said it was shocking to hear the information from Impact Group as she thought it was a focus group. She stressed the Impact Group made it sound as if it were "solid" and with the cost of paying Impact Group \$32,700 they should be able to represent the City's desires. Impact Group was an example of poor communication and they need to know they misrepresented information to the residents. Mayor Koci asked if it was the Ellenwood meetings or the phone survey. He said it was not Krista Rodriguez's job to answer those types of questions. Many residents stated questions were not asked by the residents; Ms. Rodriguez offered the information.

Sarah Gnoddie, 331 Marion, attended the Ellenwood meeting and felt the information was listed as examples of items that could/would be taken away. Impact Group did mention things that could be misconstrued as facts. She was aware there was bare bone staffing regarding employees but she felt the meeting was the "biggest complaint session she'd ever been to". She was appalled by some of the issues

residents were bringing up that was outdated and/or things that happened years ago. She, as a public servant, lived in Bedford but worked in another community. She felt residents should not attend these types of meetings to complain but rather bring solutions to the table. She was in the process of working with the City Manager for programs. She appreciated resident input but she was tired of hearing the complaining and them not being part of the solution.

Kathy Williams, 491 Lamson, said in reference to the Dispatch Center comment made by Greg Duber that the center was created by four different cities. She remarked the Dispatch Center was a mess and felt the operations should be run unified. Over a year ago she had experienced an issue with the center and she felt the operations of the center hadn't improved since the hiring of former Police Chief Greg Duber. Mayor Koci explained the first issue had to do with the joining of the Dispatchers and every City did things differently. The first Manager/Director was not able to address the problems and was asked to leave. Since the hiring of Mr. Duber things were improving; the four cities had different standard levels and the other three community Dispatchers were bringing the previous Bedford's Dispatchers levels to a lower standard level than how they were trained. The Administrations, Councils and Mr. Duber were working together toward solutions. Mr. Mallis assured the former Bedford Dispatchers were not the issue; they continued to a great job. When the center opened there were several challenges that needed to be agreed upon by all cities. He assured the residents tonight, the City also shared the same or similar frustrations and the problems had not fallen on deaf ears. Mrs. Williams questioned if the other community Mayors shared the same frustrations or do the Bedford residents need to contact the other Mayors.

Councilman Pozar wanted to respond to several comments he heard tonight. It was troubling Impact Group presented "scare tactics" because they were hired to gather information to assist the City. He explained most residents don't know that the City only received ¼% of the total property tax paid to the County annually. Mr. Mallis and Mr. Gambosi worked continually trying to find ways to deal with the money shortage. He said 83% of everything being spent was on employee wages protected by the unions that the City hadn't even started to address. He reminded the residents he had been warning the residents for the last 1 ½ years of the money problems. Council members were elected to understand what the issues were behind the scenes from a budgetary standpoint and a priority standpoint and make the final decision. He stated, "Let's not kid ourselves; it's going on the ballot" and the percentage amount will determine the outcome. The common thread across the board from the residents was "safety" which means more Officers at a salary of \$80,000-\$90,000 per year. The money the City collected from the tax duplicate was not enough to run half the City. The remainder of the taxes were from the businesses, merchants, School Board, UH Hospital and Automobile. The City was not short because of mismanagement of funds; the City was short because it got "hammered" by State cuts, Federal cuts, Cuyahoga County, the \$200,000 shortage of the health care and the new rules. It was not easy but the City needed to ask the residents for more money. This was not a threat to the residents because he had been warning them for 1 ½ years but it was what it was. The voters would have the final say; it was the responsibility of the Administration and Council what to ask for because the City needed it, the neighborhoods needed it and the residents needed it. He reiterated, "Let's not kid ourselves; it's going on the ballot"; it's needed. The election results would determine what avenue the Administration and Council would be taking. He urged the residents to continue to tell the City what they want but much of this was a foregone conclusion; let's not kid ourselves. Everyone needed to share the burden, everything around us was changing and if any of the residents became elected Officials they'd come up with the same decision. He agreed with Mrs. Housiaux-Stewart that some things were really troubling. He didn't feel others should mince words. Mr. Bender thanked Mr. Pozar for his honesty.

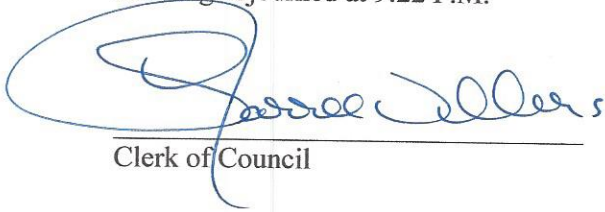
Jeff Duber, 134 Harriman, pointed out a CodeRed was sent out informing the residents the 911 service was fixed and back in operation. He felt he needed to defend the Dispatch Center. Joint Dispatch was a good idea 20 years ago and finally came to be in the community along with some issues. He worked with other joint Dispatch Centers and they do work eventually. He felt everyone needed to give the Dispatch

Center a chance to work out their issues. There were savings that came along with a joint Dispatch Center operation especially with costly upgrades.

Mayor Koci thanked the residents for attending the meeting and sharing their comments.

Mayor Koci asked if there were any further comments. There being no reply, motion made by Saunders seconded by Mizesak to adjourn. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci, Mizesak. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 P.M.



Clerk of Council



Mayor - President of Council