

COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017

5:30 P.M. PROMPT

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- **BUDGET HEARINGS**

- **5:30 P.M. SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

- **6:30 P.M. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 5:33 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Marilyn Zolata, Paula Mizsak [joined at 5:38 p.m.], Donald Saunders, Greg Pozar. Absent: None. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Superintendent Shawn Frances, Fire Chief Dave Nagy, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Solar and Law Director John Montello.

Service Department

Mr. Mallis and Mr. Bellar explained the Service Department was physically in the field the most and had been hit the hardest in the past years; the department continued to be understaffed by many employees. The prioritizing of City services continued which allowed for other projects some of which were seasonal. Mr. Mallis mentioned the previous year's discussion of storing salt and a possible location of a salt shed and equipment which did not happen; however, there was another location of interest. The Administration was focusing on the street and sidewalk projects which would start in 2018. Mr. Bellar explained the dead ash tree removal continued and there were about 200 trees left out of 550 that still needed to be addressed; some of which could not be done in house and they needed to be removed professionally. Mayor Koci talked about his recent experience which he got to see firsthand what the Service Department employees dealt with on a daily basis; sometimes the residents were not very understanding. Discussion was had about a possibility of a fund raiser for a new Cemetery fence but those interested had not contacted the Administration. Mr. Bellar said a new fence would cost approximately \$129,000. Explanation was given that the current used City Hall generator would be moved to the Service Department and a new more suitable generator would be purchased for City Hall in order to handle the load. Mr. Bellar clarified the department would continue to use its current equipment; the mower would be used until it quit and there were two backhoes to address various situations. An auto flusher was discussed for the Archer Road area but Mr. Mallis said the cost was not in this year's budget. Discussion was had concerning all the water main breaks the City experienced caused by Cleveland Water. The water meter replacement project was near an end; some of the residents weren't responding to the several notices sent to their home and weren't happy when their water got turned off. The City posted a final notice on the door and if the resident didn't respond their water was shut off in order to set up an appointment to change out the water meter. Council reviewed the budget with only a few questions for Mr. Bellar who satisfied their concerns. Mr. Bellar thanked Council for their support. Council thanked Mr. Bellar for his dedication.

Fire Department

Chief Nagy stated the Fire Department was definitely committed to the community, they were well trained and very qualified. He thanked Council for their support for the ongoing training, the well maintained vehicles and equipment. The department was being trained on new equipment on an ongoing basis. There were less back injuries with some of the new equipment. The Bedford Fire Department continued to have advanced training over other communities. He thanked Assistant Chief Solar for his dedication in applying for well needed grants. Mr. Mallis talked about the current employees that were paid for by the grant process. Mr. Gambosi suggested the next time the City hires employees through a grant they should have an exit strategy in place. Chief Nagy explained the cost savings continued by paying Pat Goodie \$42 per hour to fix the Fire Department vehicles instead of a contracted mechanic at \$120 per hour; even though overtime for Mr. Goodie was approximately \$30,000 per year. The mechanics had to be certified to work on the fire trucks and the two City mechanics also made an effort to expedite

the repairs. He noted two of the vehicles were older but still in good shape; however, parts were becoming harder to locate because of the age of the vehicles. Discussion was held regarding the staffing at 9-9-9 and/or 9-8-8 with 5-5-5 being the minimum staffing which meant the other employees were on overtime of some sort because of Kelly Days, contractual days, vacation, personal, sick time and so on. Assistant Chief Solar said at minimum staffing the department would be forced to run only one ambulance and limited services. Mr. Mallis was pleased with the day to day operations at the Fire Department and with the relationship he had with both the Chiefs. He felt the staff was very well trained and professional. Council reviewed the budget with only a few questions for Chief Nagy who satisfied their concerns. Chief was very, very pleased with the performance of the Chagrin Valley Dispatch. Council was pleased with the performance of the Fire Department. Both Chiefs thanked Council for their ongoing support.

The Work Session adjourned at 7:34 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor – President of Council