

**COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017**

**5:30 P.M. PROMPT**

**\* \* \* \* \***

- **BUDGET HEARINGS**

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

- **6:30 P.M. BUILDING DEPARTMENT & MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 30, 2017 at 5:36 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Marilyn Zolata, Donald Saunders and Greg Pozar. Absent: Paula Mizensak. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Police Chief Marty Stemple, Deputy Chief Rick Suts and Building Commissioner Calvin Beverly. Residents: Jean King, Jeff Asbury, Otto Ersek and Frank Spiker.

### **Police Department**

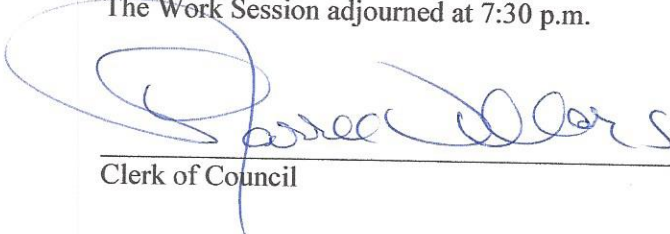
Mr. Mallis was pleased with the day to day operations at the Police Department and he was grateful for the professional partnership. The Officers dealt with multiple situations daily especially with the heroin problems that every community continued to face. The Police Department Officers continued to be trained to ensure Bedford had the best professional Officers. The focus was to add three new Officers in 2018. Discussion was held of the all the hard work and time that was spent regarding the hiring of quality well trained Officers. This was a process that was not rushed or taken lightly. The City would be soon taking the steps to talk at some of the local churches to see if any of the congregation knew of someone who would be interested in testing for an Officer position. It was becoming more difficult to hire Officers these days. Not only were there fewer applicants but some of the applicants couldn't pass the thorough background checks along with other various different factors. Chief Stemple assured Council overall the department was functioning very well mainly because the former Chief had everything in place when he retired. He explained a few of the police vehicles had high mileage and were in need of replacement. Mr. Mallis said the 2018 Budget allowed the replacement of three vehicles fully equipped. Chief Stemple preferred to stay with Ford Explorers because the Dodges did not work out at all for the department basically because they were junk. Plus with the different types of vehicles being purchased it became difficult to swap parts off an older vehicle to a new one. The department continued to work on grants for new equipment and the motorcycle continued to be utilized for traffic violations. The goal was to generate enough revenue collected by traffic violations to pay for the cost of the motorcycle. K-9 Mike was working out well and the department was going to add another K-9 to the Force very soon. The K-9's would alternate days working from 3:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The department acquired a used vehicle from Mayfield Heights for the new K-9 so there was no cost of an additional vehicle for the dog. Mr. Mallis explained the City Administration hoped the cost of the new K-9 would be covered by donations. Since the partnering with other cities in the heroin addiction program "Safe Passages"; three participants volunteered themselves requesting our assistance and help. There were approximately 29 Auxiliaries who were still being utilized for various types of patrols throughout the City; recent Police Department retirees Kris Nietert and Bob Chase were recently sworn in as Auxiliaries who would be allowed to carry a gun. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of Officers wearing body cameras; the department had no desire at this time to pursue any associated costs. Council was pleased with the performance of the Police Department. Council reviewed the budget with only a few questions for Chief Stemple and Deputy Chief Suts who satisfied their concerns. Chief Stemple and Deputy Chief Suts thanked Council for their continued support.

### **Building Department**

Mr. Mallis explained the day to day operations for the Building Department could be extremely tasking and tough at times. The department was given kudos for maintaining the housing stock, dealing with contractor registrations and enforcement of City and State Codes. The City continued to work with the residents on certain issues; the idea was for the residents to be content living here. The proactive grass cutting notices continued to improve the City's appearance. He explained in 2018 the department was going to be very busy because of all the anticipated construction and additional inspections. The Building

Department and Fire Department continued to work well together in addressing issues. The City hoped the POS lawsuit would be finalized so the City could move forward. Mr. Beverly said the department had 2,000+ inspections performed between three inspectors. Xellia spent \$20 million in renovations and were very committed to Bedford. He explained the reason prescription drugs were so costly was because of the high cost of the FDA Regulations and the work involved. The department still needed to review possible increases of some of the fees; some of the fees didn't cover the administrative costs. Some of the residents took advantage of the annual "Free Permit Month" the City offered. He explained Bentbrook development was moving slow but building its fourth home. Renovations continued on the Automile and the new construction in the Meadowbrook area would start in 2018. Discussion was held regarding the deterioration of the former Walsh Building located at 466 Northfield Road and the numerous violations. Mr. Beverly explained some of his decisions were dictated by the State of Ohio Building Standards; not the City's codes. Discussion was held regarding some of the costly repairs that were necessary prior to the sale of a home. Mr. Beverly listed several safety issues that needed addressed prior to a sale; the department was not interested in items that were not safety issues. Unfortunately, some of the elderly don't keep up their homes and when the family inherits the property there could be costly repairs. Council reviewed the budget with only a few questions for Mr. Beverly who satisfied their concerns. Mr. Beverly thanked Council for their support.

The Work Session adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



---

Clerk of Council



---

Mayor – President of Council