

Community Ward Meeting for Wards 1 & 4 was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, March 26, 2018. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Paula Mizsak, Walter Genutis and Donald Saunders. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Mike Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Police Chief Marty Stemple, Fire Chief Dave Nagy, Building Commissioner Calvin Beverly, Recreation Director Erin Fach, Assistant Recreation Director Mike Callahan, Economic Director Jennifer Kuzma and Superintendent Shawn Francis.

Mayor Koci welcomed all residents in attendance and introduced those Council members present and Clerk Villers. He praised and appreciated the jobs all the employees did day in and day out. The City was moving in a positive direction so the residents would start seeing some growth around the City.

Mr. Mallis introduced the Department Heads present and announced the Administration was now fully staffed. He explained it was this staff who took care of the day to day operations which he was fortunate enough to work with. He presented a PowerPoint of the State of the City Address. (See attached)

Mr. Mallis explained the Administration and Council continued to discuss the financial condition of the City. He stated the City was very grateful regarding the 81% of the residents supporting the recent income tax increase. The Administration was working on the sidewalk, street and infrastructure programs. He explained Xellia was dedicated to Bedford and was slowly growing but would probably never employ as many as Ben Venue. Bedford had some smaller and larger businesses interested in the City, the Administration continued to work with the largest landowner in the City who owned Meadowbrook where a few new businesses would be placed. There were a couple dedicated Bedford businesses relocating to the Meadowbrook area. The City would be working on rezoning the Meadowbrook area to accommodate various businesses. The dealership renovations continued at the Bedford Auto Mile and the upcoming senior apartments at Villa San Bernardo were underway with a completion date in 2019. The City continued to work on the trail-way / bike path project and a business for the former Moonglow property. He talked about the new direction the Recreation Department would be heading with new programs. He offered the brochure regarding the Heritage Home Program. He talked about the various types of grants the Administration continued to apply for to save money for much needed projects/programs. The Administration was seeking assistance regarding those who were behind on their taxes. The City offered Free Permit Month in the month of June and the Administration continued to raze deplorable homes throughout the City. The Administration would be working with the Dispatch Center regarding a new system and eliminating the current Code Red and the Automile was gracious enough to assist with the City's second K-9 Officer when the Administration found it appropriate. The local pedal bike shop was donating a bike for an Officer to monitor the downtown area. Chief Stemple explained the Safe Passages Program was created for those who had drug addictions and needed assistance in the application process and recovery information; see attached details. Mr. Gambosi urged the residents to apply for the Ohio Energy Kit and the Dolly Pardon Book Program.

Councilwoman Spinks reported the following for Ward 1:

- She reiterated the positive things Mr. Mallis touched on concerning Ward 1.
- Mazda would be at the corner of Northfield and Rockside Roads.
- She continued to watch to monitor the Lounge on Willard concerning littering.
- She urged the residents to remove their rubbish/recycling containers after they had been emptied in a timely manner and she placed reminder notes for those who did not.

- The former Wal-Mart building would be occupied soon.
- She was pleased with the No Parking signs posted on Greencroft.
- She attended NLC and found the round table sessions useful.
- She was pleased with the removal of the deplorable home on Flora and hoped for a community garden at the corner lot on Dewhurst. She had two more homes on Greencroft that needed razed.
- She hoped for a community garden on the small lot at the corner of Greencroft.
- She encouraged phone calls and emails from the residents.

Vice Mayor/Councilwoman Mizensak reported the following for Ward 4:

- Stated she was the senior Council person since the retirement of Mrs. Zolata.
- She was open to new ideas from the two new elected Officials.
- Was pleased with the support of the residents regarding the recent income tax increase.
- Lived in Bedford 50 years and had an open door policy for her respected residents.
- Continued to focus on Quality of Life issues.
- Has been Vice-Mayor for four years and was pleased to swear-in three Officers.
- She praised the well trained Fire Department employees. She enjoyed the Open House.
- She thanked the residents for allowing her to serve them.

Mayor Koci opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

A resident requested information regarding the Villa San Bernardo senior living facility.

A resident asked who was responsible for the woods along the creek on Grand Boulevard; the property was privately and City owned property. She wanted the acorns cleaned up during the fall season. Mr. Mallis told a story about residents who were piling rubbish that ended up blocking a culvert on Archer Road and flooded a resident's home. He added Ward 3 currently had residents doing the same.

A resident asked if/when the State was going to stop cutting City funds. Mr. Gambosi explained the Local Government Fund was continually cut by the State when they experienced a deficit. The resident wanted to know if it was only Bedford. Mr. Gambosi replied, Not every community is affected.

A resident pointed out there was a Turney Road resident who had two sweaters hanging in all their windows and wondered if they were selling them or being used for curtains. Mr. Mallis replied it was not a retail store and the City would investigate.

A resident asked why the issues at the rental at 91 Thames had not been addressed regarding the Occupancy Permit because of the numerous violations. Mr. Beverly explained it was called a Certificate of Rental Inspection and should be conducted accordingly. He would check on the status of the property.

A resident asked if Center Road was the same as Warrensville Center Road. Mr. Mallis replied yes and the Cuyahoga County Grant scored better because of the joint resurfacing project from Maple Heights through Bedford. Bedford wanted other streets addressed instead of Center Road.

A resident asked why Get Go closed. This was a corporate decision from Pennsylvania.

A resident asked why Applebee's closed. This was another corporate decision and an empty building in this case was more marketable.

A resident asked about the Tim Lally property. Mr. Mallis explained the property was too big for another dealership and manufacture's wanted a smaller sales office. He explained U-Haul went through the Planning Commission and Council who approved the request of relocating to this property; currently they had 230 storage units. It was believed the current U-Haul location was desirable.

A resident asked what the plans were for the new programs at the Recreation Department. Mr. Fach explained all the limited programs were being reviewed. The focus was to expand and offer programs starting at pre-school to adult seniors this fall; a brochure would be mailed to the residents. The department was moving forward with online registration and other areas that needed attention such as coach training, establishing policies, parent's handbook and summer training for the pool to build confidence the person needs for themselves and assist the new people.

A resident asked about the Rockside Road Enhancement Project. Mr. Mallis explained the City removed the planter boxes, removed trees and potentially widening the area in hopes of grant monies. The improvements needed to include the Meadowbrook area. He explained the large Dominion Project that was occurring in the Broadway Avenue area; the next area was Archer, Lincoln and Grand.

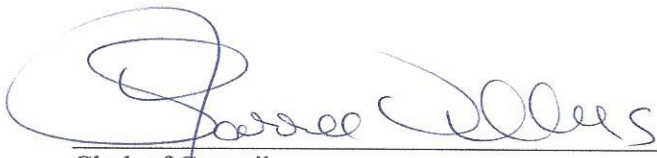
A resident talked about a warming blanket wrapped around her gas meter for the past couple years.

Mr. Mallis explained the renovations being done at the new Dollar General Store located on Broadway Avenue. The building has been vacant for many years and deteriorated over the years. The City welcomed Dollar General to the city for the betterment.

A resident pointed out the curb needed replaced at 244 Kenyon at the corners of Grand Boulevard and another at 210 Grand Boulevard.

In closing, Mrs. Spinks appreciated everyone attending tonight's Ward meeting and she urged the residents to contact her if they had any concerns or issues. Mrs. Mizesak reported the road near Colony II needed addressed. Mr. Bellar said the City has been patching this area. Mr. Mizesak welcomed everyone to attend the Memorial Day Parade.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



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Clerk of Council



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Mayor - President of Council