

Community Ward Meeting for Wards 2 & 6 was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 23, 2018. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Paula Mizensak, Sandy Spinks, 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 Department Lieutenant Greg Miller, 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. More positive news surrounding the City was: MGM purchased the Rocksinio in Northfield Center at \$1.2 billion, Amazon recently located in the North Randall area, the Southgate corridor received an Opportunity Corridor to attract more businesses, the current Mazda dealership property was purchased by KIA for a used car dealership, the old convent on Broadway was currently under construction for senior living, the new Dollar General would be open soon and Xellia continued to hire and would be starting production after extensive training. After a few years of hard work things were coming together. Resident/School Board member announced the former Chanel property was recently purchased by the school and was a big deal for Bedford and the options were endless. Attending residents were pleased.

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. Xellia moved their packaging and shipping operations to Bedford. 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 and a fresh start. 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 Service Department Director Clint Bellar was working on quotes for a new GIS mapping for the City's infrastructure. The Administration was seeking assistance regarding those who were behind on their taxes. 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. Police 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 and to date 20 people in need have stepped forward for assistance.

Councilman Genutis reported the following for Ward 2:

- Wondered what it would take for everybody in Bedford to think positively about where they live and he felt the residents should be part of it.
- He wanted everyone to vision the wonderful improvements to the vacant buildings on Northfield Road.
- He not only gave accolades to the City employees/Department Heads but also Mayor Koci and City Manager Mike Mallis because of the behind the scenes that residents don't see.
- He felt Bedford's greatest asset were the residents and he wanted to meet more people.
- He said Ward 2 had concerns such as: speeders, 4 wheelers and go carts.
- He talked about how the City was taking care of Solon Road because of its poor condition and it was not the City's responsibility.
- There was a loud motorcycle who played his music above the sound of the motorcycle which was annoying.
- On Heather Lane the curb was missing and the topsoil had washed into the street.
- He felt the stability continued from the "old timers" and he urged younger community engagement.
- He felt the communication continued to get better because of the computer age and he was discovering talented people who lived here.
- He thought since the signal light was removed on Avery maybe a crosswalk could be installed.
- When he called in with a concern/issue/complaint he was amazed the City Manager, Department Heads and/or employees were already aware of the situation and was "on top of it".
- He assured the residents great stuff was happening in Bedford.

Councilman Saunders reported the following for Ward 6:

- Was pleased with the tremendous turnout this evening.
- He talked about the ongoing tax cuts the City continued to suffer from by the State.
- He thanked those who supported the recent Income Tax increase. He clarified the bulk was paid by those who worked in Bedford and lived elsewhere.
- He urged the residents to vote and support their City.
- He noted the Dominion Gas Company project continued to run into many issues as they worked in the Broadway Avenue area.
- He supported the City utilizing GIS to address the infrastructure throughout the City.
- He thanked everyone for their participation.

Mayor Koci opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

A resident asked what the Recreation Department had to offer for the future. Mr. Fach explained the department was working diligently on new children and senior programs. The goal was to create an informative program booklet which they hoped would be available this fall. Mr. Mallis explained Mr. Fach and Mr. Callahan upon hiring contacted Department Heads, the schools, local businesses and the Metroparks to structure a team and collaborated with others for new programs. Mr. Fach urged the

residents to contact the Parks & Recreation Department to express their needs, ideas and thoughts. The Parks & Recreation Department was moving toward a "fresh start" and open for any suggestions.

A resident asked when an Officer would be patrolling on the new donated Police pedal bike. Chief Stemple explained the department was in the process of hiring and training the three new Officers so it would be a challenge to assign an Officer to the bike this year; however, the reality was 2019.

A resident talked about the speeders on Northfield Road. Chief Stemple was aware of the situation.

A resident lived at the corner of Taft and McKinley so she would be close to the bus stop and she also utilized the City's senior van for transportation. She talked about the struggling problems the RTA was experiencing and asked for others to support the RTA. Discussion was held that residents needed to write letters to the Representatives so they heard from those who need this transportation. Mr. Saunders explained how the Automobile dealership sales taxes was the biggest contributor that runs the RTA. Every vehicle sold on the Automobile contributed 1% to the RTA. Mr. Mallis explained the City had one senior van and one driver; however, there were other organizations who offered multiple services to the residents.

A resident asked what was holding up the Dominion Gas Project. Mr. Mallis explained the boring problem at the corner of Union Street and Broadway Avenue. He talked about the water leak which ended up being discovered at the AT&T building which the City had to fix and the reason the turn lane was closed off was because of the 5 x 30 empty cavity under Broadway Avenue that needed addressed. Mr. Bellar and Mr. Francis explained the Service Department continually worked with Dominion while they were experiencing difficulties.

A resident felt several areas were experiencing an increase in traffic and speeders.

A resident felt the discussion of crime should be talked about. Chief Stemple and the Administration stressed if a resident saw something that didn't seem right they should call the non-emergency or emergency. The Chief stated the residents needed to watch out for each other, talk to their neighbors, install bright outside lighting and inquire what neighbor(s) have surveillance cameras. Mayor Koci was in favor of the Facebook page only if the information was correct and not misleading or made up stories. He suggested if a comment was made on Facebook and seemed not right they should call City Hall or their Council representative so the correct information was posted.

A resident lived here for 68 years and expressed his displeasure of the poor condition of Nordham Drive and wanted to know when it would be paved. It was explained recently Mr. Bellar and the City's Engineer Joe Ciuni inspected every street to determine what streets were going to be addressed. Mr. Mallis explained the street program hadn't been around for a decade or more. It was determined the worst of the worst had to be addressed first. Mr. Mallis said the City didn't have \$2 million to do all the streets that needed addressed; however, the City was looking at other avenues/grants to come up with additional money to address the poor streets.

A resident pointed out on the South side of Solon Road in the weeds were junk tires. Mr. Bellar explained that was ODOT property and the City had already notified them about the tires.

A resident announced the Bedford Tribune needed stories/articles written for publication. She also pointed out the area at Nordham and Berkshire where there were no sidewalks for the students to walk on. She admitted she knew nothing about road repair but the material used for the potholes was not holding.

At Berkshire and Avalon the large hole was not holding the material. It was explained to her the City cold patched aka a temporary patch (Band-Aid) until the asphalt companies opened up for the warmer seasons. The object was to maintain the roads as needed to avoid further damage to the area and avoid auto claims. She felt it was a waste of money to cold patch if the product didn't hold. Mr. Gambosi explained the City had to maintain the streets to some degree during the winter months in an attempt to avoid possible damage to vehicles and so the City could avoid paying claims.

A resident talked about the litter throughout the City and thought there should be an effort by someone/schools/churches/neighbors to clean up the City. Mr. Mallis explained the street sweeper and chipper services were up and running. He explained the Service Department continued to be understaffed and the services were scheduled accordingly. The Administration was balancing the City services in a different more efficient way and on an as needed basis. A resident stressed it was a matter of self-pride and suggested residents pick up any garbage they see when taking their rubbish cans to the curb. She talked about the rubbish on Wandle near the woodlands. Mr. Mallis stated a letter had already been sent to the property owner. A resident talked about a guy who threw his t-shirt over the wire and she told him that was not the way Bedford residents lived; his girlfriend made him remove it.

A resident talked about ways to associate in getting to know your neighbors at one of the City parks.

A resident was very pleased with vacation check service she received from the Police Department during the month of February. The Officers were very thorough.

A resident felt since the housing market was becoming stronger and she wondered how many City owned homes there were. Mayor Koci stated the City did not own any homes. Mr. Mallis explained the homes were all sold and the City chose to utilize the grant money differently. The City could use the money for razing deplorable homes or on green space such as the park at the corner of Broadway Avenue and Mitchell which the property was donated to the City.

A resident pointed out there was broken glass on the sidewalk from Marion to Phil's store and felt people were throwing bottles in this area. Mr. Mallis explained the vacant home next to Phil's Store was going to be razed and maybe that would make a difference.

A resident asked about the proposed Simon's Grocery Store. Mayor Koci said the store would be located where the former Giant Eagle was. The project was delayed because of another store opening. The new property owner would spur additional growth including a hardware store. The resident felt prisoners should pick up the trash around town. Chief Stemple explained the Juvenile Diversion and County Court Security assisted in picking up the trash around the City.

A resident requested information on the Knox-box program. Lieutenant Miller explained the program and advised him to call the Assistant Chief Shawn Solar for the details.

A resident asked if the City controlled who or what cable companies came to the City. Mayor Koci said it was not the decision of the City and choice was a good thing.

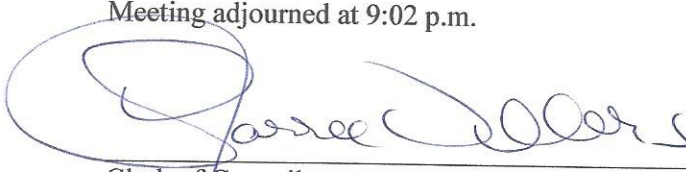

A resident asked if the Taylor house next to the Moonglow was going to be demolished. Mr. Mallis explained the home was a historical site but the City was not going to take the chance of deterring a potential developer; a few options had been considered but nothing was determined.

Discussion was held regarding the continuation of property owner George Goudreau selling the remainder of the Meadowbrook property. The closing of the Applebee's was a corporate decision and was up for sale and some of the current stores had lease extensions.

Residents were offered to view the free Energy Saver Kit from First Energy and if they wanted one they could call 800-735-1872.

In closing, Mr. Genutis and Mr. Saunders appreciated everyone attending tonight's Ward meeting and urged the residents to contact them if they had any concerns or issues. Mr. Saunders urged the residents to volunteer for the upcoming festivals.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.


Clerk of Council
Mayor - President of Council