

Community Ward Meeting for Wards 1 & 4 was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, March 25, 2019. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Paula Mizesak, Walter Genutis and Donald Saunders. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Mike Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Howland, Service Department Superintendent Shawn Francis, Police Chief Marty Stemple, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Solar, Building Commissioner Calvin Beverly, Assistant Recreation Director Mike Callahan. Plus: State Representative Juanita Brent, House District 12 and 31 residents.

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. He was pleased that the Administration and Council members worked well together toward the common goals. The City was moving in a positive direction so the residents would start seeing some growth around the City. He introduced State Representative Juanita Brent, House District 12. Mayor Koci and Mr. Gambosi explained how important the 2020 Census information was for the City. He stressed it was very important to be truthful on the questions because it affected funding and grants for the City. He was proud to work with Mr. Mallis on a daily basis.

Councilwoman Spinks spoke about the following for Ward 1:

- Listed positives: The new BMV in the former T J Max building, a new title company, a successful personal trainer, the dialysis facility, the former First Merit Bank was razed, the rezoning of the former Wal-Mart property, Mazda would be at the corner of Northfield and Rockside Roads, U-Haul business improvements, the School Board purchased the former Chanel property, the former Walsh building was being fixed up and two new homes on Willard.
- Listed negatives: The former Dunkin Donuts building had become an eyesore, Speeders on Rockside, 188 Greencroft would be razed this year and she urged the residents to remove their rubbish/recycling containers after they had been emptied in a timely manner. Auxiliaries were now placing warning notices on rubbish/recycling containers and if the resident continued to leave the containers at the street they would receive a citation at a cost of \$150. She asked residents to be responsible for how they affect their neighborhood and neighbors regarding parking violations and rubbish containers. She urged the residents to call Dispatch whether it was an emergency or non-emergency situation and to document their calls.

Vice Mayor/Councilwoman Mizesak spoke about the following for Ward 4:

- Said she was the senior member on Council and was on her second term as Vice-Mayor.
- She was pleased to be given the opportunity to swear-in three Officers.
- She had been in politics since she was 21 years old and has lived in Bedford 51 years.
- She had an open door policy for her respected residents.
- Continued to focus on Quality of Life issues.
- Found it rewarding to select families to receive turkeys and food at Thanksgiving.
- She was pleased with the Safety Forces and their professionalism.
- She thanked the residents for allowing her to serve them.

She explained the proper process of filing complaints which was handled by the City Manager's Office and asked the residents to be patient for the results. She thanked Mrs. Hollo for her efforts in getting the complaints resolved. She urged residents to say something if they saw a suspicious activity in the City. She was proud to be a friend of State Representative Juanita Brent and her colleagues.

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. There was a malfunction with the new laptop and he was unable to present the PowerPoint this evening. See attached State of the City Address and new signage information.

Mr. Mallis explained the Administration and Council continued to discuss the financial condition of the City and again the City had a 2019 balanced budget. The Administration continued to work on the sidewalk, street program of \$400,000 annually and infrastructure programs. The Cuyahoga County Center Road Resurfacing Program would start soon in Maple Heights and move toward Bedford all the way to five points. The City and County would be working jointly on the Union Street waterline and resurfacing project. He explained the preventative maintenance in addressing the tree roots in the sewer and waterlines contracting with Cuyahoga County. The City was also starting its own new GIS program with the County through a pilot program. He explained the Art of Beauty located in the Tinkers Creek Commerce Park continued to expand along with Data Basics who purchased another piece of property next to their business. He explained Xellia was dedicated to Bedford and was slowly growing which meant more jobs. The new drug being produced was in a bag instead of a vial. Bedford had various size businesses interested in relocating to the City and 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 one in particular was Mazda. The City would be starting the comprehensive rezoning of the Meadowbrook's 60 acres to accommodate various businesses, offices and a small mixed use area with some homes. The upcoming senior apartments at Villa San Bernardo were underway with a completion date in July 2019. The Simon Supermarket was slowly moving forward but appeared it was going to happen. He explained the location of the new company named Dakar which was a movie, commercials and TV production business for those who were filming in the area. He explained there were 200 productions in the State of Ohio because the State offered currently a \$40 million tax credit. The State was considering increasing the tax credit to \$100 million. Dakar was in the process of purchasing the former US Bank site and was committed 100% to Bedford. The Sunoco Station on Turney Road would be converting from a full service station to the gas station and convenient store. He talked about the new direction the Recreation Department would be heading with new programs. He urged residents to visit Ellenwood to see the new renovations. He talked about the various types of grants the Administration continued to apply for to save money for much needed projects/programs. The City Administration continued to raze deplorable homes throughout the City. The City would continue the deer culling program and present a year-end report to Council. Turney Road was the "hot spot" for deer and vehicle collisions. He reiterated the Auxiliaries were now placing orange warning notices on rubbish/recycling containers and if the resident continued to leave the containers at the street they would receive a citation at a cost of \$150. The Auxiliaries canvassed the City twice over the past couple weeks creating a data sheet and found 50+ violators both times. The Administration continued to focus on replacing outdated equipment and vehicles which was very costly. He stressed preserving the neighborhoods were important and Quality of Life issues. The grass cutting notices have been mailed to the homeowners of vacant, bank owned and/or residents who have zero to very little water usage to ensure the lawns would be cut. These were friendly letters to alert certain homes ahead of time so if there was a problem the lawn(s) wouldn't grow out of control. Currently there were about 250-260 vacant and/or bank owned homes in the City. The Administration was moving forward with the grant funded new signage program. He urged the residents to visit the City's new website which

went live in January 2019. The Automile continued to invest more money into Bedford and had been extremely generous. The recent investment was the cameras located on Rockside Road in the Automile area. The bike and motorcycle patrols would be starting up in April to increase presence of the Officers. The Automile had been gracious enough to assist with the City's K-9 Officers. Chief Martin Stemple explained K-9 Officer Mike passed away suddenly and the Automile offered to replace him; however, the City's insurance would cover the cost for another K-9 in 2020. K-9 Mike was five years old and passed expectantly which was very difficult for handler Officer Futo and his family because these K-9's live in the home with the Officer and family. Per the Tax increase, three additional Officers were hired which filled three shifts and allowed restructuring of the Police Department. He believed high visibility of Officers was what deterred crime. He said there were a lot of good Officers in other cities but with all the crime they had become overwhelmed and shorthanded. Bedford was in the position to do proactive policing by canvassing the neighborhoods. All Quality of Life issues no matter how small were important to the neighboring residents.

Mr. Mallis announced the Hazard Waste and Computer roundup was in April, Shred Day was May 18th and the Easter egg hunt was April 13th.

Mayor Koci opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

A resident asked who was responsible for the woods along the creek [Wood Creek] on Grand Boulevard; the property was private and City owned property. She wanted the debris and deadfall cleaned up. Mayor Koci felt this was something Tinkers Creek Watershed could look into. 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 where US Bank was moving. Mayor Koci clarified the building was not the one on Broadway Avenue. It was located on Rockside Road past the bridge that expanded the railroad tracks and could hardly be seen from the street. Mayor Koci said Dakar was building a huge sound stage near the current building. He said we'd be called Hollywood Bedford.

A resident felt the \$400,000 road resurfacing program was not enough money to address Bedford streets. Mayor Koci and State Representative Juanita Brent explained the current problem was there wasn't enough gasoline tax to cover anything more than pothole repairs with the current proposed 6 cents. State Representative Juanita Brent explained the current gasoline tax in Ohio was 26 cents which was the mid-lowest in the nation. Michigan was currently at 46 cents so in comparison Ohio was already too low and the slight proposed increase would not be enough. Governor DeWine proposed 18 cents, the House reduced it to 10 cents and it was reduced again to 6 cents. She stated honestly the 6 cents would only repair potholes. This issue was still in discussions in Columbus and one of the major problems was there were others in power who were afraid to raise taxes. She stated if the gasoline tax was not increased to at least 18 cents there would be no way to take care of the streets. Most Ohio cities were not currently in a situation to take care of all their streets and this was definitely the State's fault. Mr. Mallis explained with the additional hiring of the three Officers, balancing the budget and other expenses \$400,000 was the maximum the City could spend on roads. Mr. Gambosi explained the 18 cent gasoline tax would barely be enough money to address the roads in Bedford. The City's concentration was to focus on the amount of new businesses or expanding job creation to help with the City's finances. Some of the businesses were claiming additional jobs two years out but that doesn't pay today's bills.

A resident asked if the Rockside Road fence was going to be repaired. Mr. Mallis explained the City was working with Motorist Insurance Company. The City would assist the residents during the process but the City would not be doing the work. He hoped for clarity soon.

A resident thanked the Police Department for their assistance regarding the parking issue on Cresswell. However, she pointed out there were numerous different models of cars with temporary tags visiting a certain neighbor's home a lot. She felt there was something odd going on at the residence. This was a single family home with a husband, wife, a small child and six males staying at the home.

A resident said she loved Bedford and loved the efforts everyone made but she wanted to give a "shout out" to the Service Department. She felt they got a bad rap on the neighborhood website. She felt they did an amazing job. She asked for the clarification between a "nuisance" phone call and a "suspicious" phone call because her dog set off her burglar alarm and she received a "nuisance" letter in the mail. It was explained a "nuisance" was a "criminal activity" [§511.12] and a "suspicious" call was for an odd situation that was happening or if you suspect something. It was mentioned maybe the letter should have been for something different called "False Alarms" [§747.01]. It was suggested she bring the letter in to see how it was written.

A Colony Club Security resident explained he broke up three narcotics situations and assisted in stopping the speeding motorcycles at Colony Club. He explained he called Dispatch to report some of the residents smoking marijuana in the apartments. He was told by the Dispatcher there was nothing the Police could do if someone was smoking marijuana because there were medical marijuana exceptions. Chief Stemple said he would address this issue with the Dispatchers because this was not their position/job to determine whether they were going to dispatch an Officer. It's a Dispatchers job to dispatch an Officer and let the Officer make the determination. Mayor Koci explained medical marijuana was not in smoking form it was pills, liquid and/or oils.

A resident explained she was in Florida for the winter and she apologized for not calling the Police Department to let them know she had returned. She appreciated the efforts of the Police Department.

A Colony Club resident was pleased with the fast response of the Police Department regarding her incident; however, she pointed out there were several speeders exceeding the 35 mph on Turney Road. Mr. Mallis explained the City/Police Department would be engaging the schools regarding the parents that were ignoring the no parking zones at the schools. Chief Stemple said this was an ongoing problem at Central School that was a problem every year; it was a team effort. Mrs. Mizesak was aware of the situation and the issue needed to be addressed at a School Board meeting. Bottom line was these very young parents needed to follow the rules and regulations. She felt part of the problem was these very young parents were children themselves raising children and didn't understand the situation.

A resident pointed out the rubbish all over the place around the Mapledale, West Glendale and Taylor areas. Mr. Mallis explained there were other areas experiencing the same problem. He explained in certain areas it was the responsibility of the railroad or the Metroparks. He pointed out after the snow melts and the rubbish was exposed it appeared to be more obvious. The City does utilize the Juvenile Diversion Program to pick up rubbish in some of the problem areas. He told a story of the rubbish behind the Sunoco Station and the Dalepark Apartments area and the City made the owners pay to have it hauled out.

A resident asked about the Broadway Avenue repair. Mr. Mallis explained the City applied for an OPWC grant in which the City was not awarded. He expressed his frustration as to how the scoring was handled for this specific grant. The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County received 9 out of 11 projects funded.

A resident talked about three male trespassers climbing the fence normally late afternoon from Grand Boulevard to Noran Circle. She confronted these guys a couple of times and they continue to do it even after she told these guys her neighbor had a gun but did not tell them a neighbor had cameras. Chief Stemple advised her not to confront them and to call Dispatch and let the police handle it.

A resident asked if the City was fixing/replacing fire hydrants. Mr. Francis explained the Water Department replaced the fire hydrants. Mr. Mallis assured her that the Water Department and the Fire Department worked together to ensure there were enough functioning fire hydrants to extinguish a fire. Just because a hydrant was out of service did not mean there wasn't water available for a fire. Mr. Francis would check out the specific hydrant she was referring to.

A resident explained a few years ago he offered to teach swimming for free at the YMCA. It was explained to him the YMCA pool was in very bad shape and that was why they moved out. It was too expensive to fix the pool. Mr. Mallis pointed out the current entity who owned/rented the property owed \$186,000 in back taxes and the City was challenging it.

Mr. Mallis said the former Chanel building was purchased by the school and whatever decisions to be made would not be up to the City.

In closing, Mrs. Spinks announced the chipper service started April 15th. She explained the creek property on Grand Boulevard was mostly owned by two residents one in which was vacant. Mr. Francis explained the City had cleaned the area several times and the City could not trespass on resident's properties. Mrs. Spinks said she had motorists that passed her while she was stopped at the stop sign on Grand Boulevard. She felt the speed sign would be of some help in the area and the seasonal motorcycle Officer; however, she realized there were speeding issues all around the City. She appreciated everyone attending tonight's Ward meeting and she urged the residents to contact her if they had any concerns or issues.

In closing, Mrs. Mizesak pointed out there were four residents present from Ward 4. She pointed out the park was not in Ward 4 and the Metroparks will not remove dead fall. She felt the large wood pile would be a huge problem if it caught fire and someone needed to contact the Metroparks. She urged everyone to attend the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Saunders announced at the request of State Representative Juanita Brent that she had open office hours on May 20th at Ellenwood from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. She will hear and report resident's concerns to the office in Columbus, Ohio.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor - President of Council

3/25/19

CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A MEETING FOR **WARDS 1 & 4** ON **MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019** IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BEDFORD CITY HALL AT **7:00 P.M.**

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A MEETING FOR **WARDS 3 & 5** ON **MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019** IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BEDFORD CITY HALL AT **7:00 P.M.**

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A MEETING FOR **WARDS 2 & 6** ON **MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019** IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BEDFORD CITY HALL AT **7:00 P.M.**

THIS NOTICE IS BEING POSTED AT THE FIVE MOST PUBLIC PLACES IN THIS MUNICIPALITY AS FOLLOWS:

- Location No. 1 - Bedford City Hall
165 Center Road
- Location No. 2 - Southeast Branch, Cuyahoga County Library
70 Columbus Road
- Location No. 3 - Bedford Recreation Center
124 Ellenwood Avenue
- Location No. 4 - Board of Education Administration Building
475 Northfield Road
- Location No. 5 - Glendale School
W. Glendale and Turney Road

Lorree Villers
Clerk of Council