

4/8/19

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

Community Ward Meeting for Wards 3 & 5 was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 8, 2019. Vice-Mayor Mizesak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Vice-Mayor Paula Mizesak, Heather Rhoades, Vic Fluharty, Walter Genutis and Donald Saunders. Absent: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Mike Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Service Department Superintendent Shawn Francis, Deputy Police Chief Rick Suts, Fire Chief Dave Nagy, Building Commissioner Calvin Beverly, Economic Development Business Liaison Jennifer Kuzma, Recreation Director Erin Fach and 52 residents.

Vice-Mayor Mizesak welcomed all residents in attendance and introduced those Council members present and the Administration. She was pleased that the Administration and Council members worked well together. She was pleased to be working with Mr. Mallis.

Councilman Fluharty spoke about the following for Ward 3:

- Xellia continued running production and filling positions, the Villa San Bernardo project was well underway and would be open for senior living residents in 2019, Union Street would be under construction this summer for a water line replacement and resurfacing and the Moonglow had been razed.
- He continued to monitor the yards in his Ward to expedite the process of those who did not cut their grass, maintain their yards or vacant/bank owned homes.
- He pointed out there were a lot of speeders throughout the City and motorists were not stopping at the stop signs.
- He talked about how the City mandated the properties located at Bedford Park Terrace, Union Street and Bedford Dales Condos Dalepark had to remove the trash, various debris, barrels, appliances, 40+ tires, tree limbs. Apparently the tenants were disposing rubbish and debris. [Ord. #9600-18]

Councilwoman Rhoades spoke about the following for Ward 5:

- She explained the process with the Heritage Ohio Dart Assessment report and how it helped to form the Bedford Downtown Alliance. She was very dedicated to the downtown area. She listed several interesting "First Friday" events and activities the Bedford Downtown Alliance continued to work on to spark community involvement.
- She explained the "Pooka Pickup" was a group of volunteers who assisted in picking up debris, washed windows and minor repairs/cleaning in the downtown area.
- She said the next project was to paint checker and backgammon boards on the cement table tops located on the City Square to encourage community involvement.
- The new and improved Ellenwood Parks & Recreation had reopened after many months of remodeling.
- The Administration was working with a company that would be videotaping the monthly Council meetings and Ward meetings to keep the residents informed.
- Codified Ordinance Chapters 915 and 1949 were reviewed, discussed and amended.
- She was working on a vacancy law which would be presented to Council shortly. Over the next two years she would be addressing outdated Codified Ordinances.
- She was pleased to see there was a great turnout for this evening and appreciated those who contacted her over the last two years.
- She urged residents to call their Ward Council person if they had concerns or complaints.

Mr. Mallis said the presentation was a minimized State of the City if anyone wanted to view it on the City's website. He commended all the department heads who worked very hard at their jobs. He explained the Administration and Council continued to discuss the financial situation of the City and again the City had a 2019 balanced budget. The City had not received any of the \$1.9 million State tax cuts; however, the cities continued discussions with the Governor. The gasoline tax would be specifically spent on street repairs and improvements. The Administration continued to work on the street and sidewalk program, infrastructure programs and expensive vehicle/equipment replacements. The Administration was working with the County regarding vacant properties. He stressed the County would help those who were delinquent in their taxes. 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 and in the rear of the property Hikma continued production. 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 possible 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 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. He explained 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. 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. 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 new signs and website were done in Bedford green so both were consistent. The schools purchased the former St. Peter Chanel property and the City would support the schools decision of how they decided to utilize the property. 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 Automile had been gracious enough to assist with the City's K-9 Officers. Deputy Chief Rick Suts 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. The bike and motorcycle patrols started in April to increase presence of the Officers.

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. Vice-Mayor Mizens introduced Dina Moats in the audience and urged residents to volunteer in delivering Meals on Wheels to those who were in need.

Vice-Mayor Mizens opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

A resident pointed out the General Dollar's appearance was not acceptable. Mr. Mallis assured her the City had already addressed this issue a month ago.

A resident questioned why the City didn't plan differently/better for expensive safety equipment purchases. Mr. Mallis and Mr. Gambosi explained between the closing of Ben Venue and the numerous State cuts the City had suffered considerably. It was taking years to recoup the losses and the City still had not rebound. The Administration had to work/budget smarter to save money to make ends meet. Mr. Gambosi explained the only thing saving the City right now was business income withholding by the number of jobs being created/added at the local businesses and new businesses coming to Bedford. Mr. Mallis explained when Ben Venue was in operation the Administration could budget/plan for projects/purchases but since Ben Venue closed the City had to budget differently and also reduced the number of employees.

A resident asked for clarification on the proper way to recycle. Mr. Mallis and Mr. Bellar explained China was no longer taking a lot of the items because people were not recycling properly. Since China was no longer taking all the recycling Kimble had contacted several communities requesting an increase because of the additional costs. Mr. Bellar stressed it was important to recycle correctly and the residents who were improperly recycling were contaminating the other recyclables in the container which increased the tonnage of rubbish. Mr. Bellar stated China wanted clean recyclables and was refusing contaminated recyclables. It costs money to sort contaminated recyclables. Residents in the audience were instructed to follow the sticker on the top of the container and the magnet from Cuyahoga Recyclers.

A resident asked why the County was not addressing the delinquent property taxes over \$5,000 or tax problems/issues in a timely manner. She asked how many homes were delinquent in the City and why the County wasn't badgered until they addressed the problem. Mr. Mallis explained this had been an ongoing problem and sadly the schools were the ones that suffered the most. The schools and library benefited the most and the City received only 17%. He explained the County had done tax sales about four or five times. Mr. Mallis said there was 118 residential and commercial properties delinquent in taxes over \$5,000.

A resident asked who was notified regarding the rubbish containers being left at the street; the property owner or renter. Mr. Mallis said the warning notice was posted on the home first and if this address/person was a repeat violator then the property owner would be notified. He said if the penalty was not paid then the property would be assessed.

A resident asked how the City was handling those who were not cutting their grass and the condition of the yard once it was mowed/cut. She said in some cases the grass was so long when it was cut it covered the sidewalk. Mr. Mallis explained the letter sent was for the entire year; a letter was not mailed every time the property lacked maintenance. The City contracted with a company to cut the grass and if there was a situation where the property needed cleaned up/raked someone needed to call the City and the Administration would contact the company that cut the grass and have them return to address the issue.

A resident pointed out some the homes/properties were declining and asked how the City was addressing them. Mr. Mallis explained the Building Department did an exterior inspection and then notified the property owner of the violations. If the property owner did not address the issues/violations then the City turned it over to the Court to address the issue.

A resident had concerns if the City was upholding the Safety Levy that was passed years ago. She felt the City should have put the levy money aside to purchase equipment. Plus the Fire Department was down a

couple employees with faulty equipment. She wondered how they could do their job. Mr. Mallis said the levy money did not subsidize the entire department. Mr. Gambosi explained with all the funds there was no way to set aside money for expensive purchases; however, there was a reserve. Mr. Mallis and Mr. Gambosi explained how the tax dollars affected the levy and the difficulties in setting monies aside for expensive purchases. The recent tax increase would assist the City but not everything. Mr. Mallis assured her the Fire Department was fully staffed with 9-8-8 employees per shift. He stated in 2009 there was the same amount of employees as now. If for whatever reason(s) the staffing numbers were too low the City would pay overtime to make sure it was staffed properly. The grant that was offered in was for 2011, 2012 and 2013 was at 100%. He also added how it was not financially feasible for the City to pay the costs for two additional firefighters/EMT's through the newer grant; year one was 25%, year two was 50% and year three was 75%; there was no such thing as a Grant covering 100% anymore. Mr. Gambosi explained how the decrease in property values affected the property taxes which in turn affected the levy. The resident then asked how many firefighters it took to properly fight a fire. Chief Nagy explained 20-24; however, depending on the number of employees per shift and mutual aid from other communities there was not always enough manpower. He explained the Fire Department was trained in Incident Management where priorities were followed to extinguish fires the best way possible and safely. The resident wanted to make sure if she had a heart attack there were enough employees staffed per shift and that the closest department to respond which was not always the case.

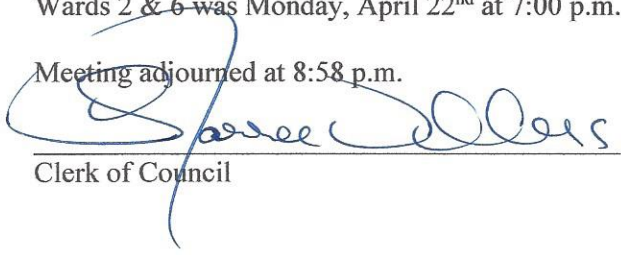
A resident felt the land in the industrial areas was underutilized and should be developed. Mr. Mallis said Bedford did not have tons of open property. Tinkers Creek had 30+ acres; however, the owner owed Cuyahoga County \$3 million. The owner wanted \$100,000 per acre and would not entertain a lower amount per acre. The City, County and property owner needed to work together. The resident asked about the Solon Road property and what could be done. Mr. Mallis explained the property owner was previously cited for a Phase one contamination. Currently MRLM was leasing the property and the City was allowed to dump leaves, chipper materials and logs free of charge to the City.

A resident said Cuyahoga County recently completed a property value reassessment and he understood there were large increases. He asked how this affected the City. Mr. Gambosi explained in 2006 the overall average home was \$103,000 and currently it was \$70,000. The resident asked how many more calls the Fire and Police Departments expected with the senior housing at the Villa San Bernardo senior living that was filled with additional residents. Chief Nagy said the City realized with additional housing there would be additional calls.

A resident pointed out the sidewalks near her house were "dangerously in bad shape" and was concerned that someone may trip and fall. The property owner was responsible to replace them and it was difficult to get a company to come out to only do a few. Mr. Bellar explained the 2019 Street Improvement Program was advertised for bids and after that was completed then the City would address the sidewalks. The resident lived near a school where parents and students walked and she would be held responsible if someone fell. The tree lawn tree was causing the issue.

Vice-Mayor Mizesak thanked everyone for attending the meeting and voicing their comments and concerns. She announced the next Regular Council meeting was Monday, April 15th at 8:00 p.m. and Wards 2 & 6 was Monday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor - President of Council