

Community Ward Meeting for Wards 2 & 6 was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 22, 2019. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Koci, Heather Rhoades, Vic Fluharty, Walter Genutis, Sandy Spinks and Donald Saunders. Absent: None. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Mike Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Police Chief Martin Stemple, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Solar, Building Commissioner Calvin Beverly, Economic Development Business Liaison Jennifer Kuzma, Assistant Recreation Director Michael Callahan and 42 residents.

Mayor Koci welcomed all residents in attendance and introduced those Council members present and Clerk Villers. He 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.

Councilman Genutis spoke about the following for Ward 2:

- Felt “old time” neighbors were the stability of the City
- He explained Council’s function in creating/amending the Codified Ordinances and the frustration it could cause for the residents. He stated it was virtually impossible to enforce all the laws/Codified Ordinances; however, the Administration used a balance for enforcement.
- Council could not direct a department head regarding a complaint/issue; however, Council members would submit the complaint/issue to the City Manager’s Office for resolution.
- He explained what was best for Bedford was an opinion in which everybody had and everyone’s opinion was valid so it was important to bring a concern/complaint/issue to be addressed.
- He explained Bedford had changed over the years and it was important to restore community.
- The City’s website, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Bedford Downtown Alliance and Police Department all played a big part of keeping residents involved and community involvement.
- Police Chief Stemple continued to work on more Officer presence on the streets and in the schools communicating with the staff and students.
- He announced he was running for re-election.

Councilman Saunders spoke about the following for Ward 6:

- Urged the residents to get involved with the community and get to know their neighbors.
- He announced he was running for re-election.
- He supported the gathering of information for the new GIS.
- He stated there were numerous complaints regarding litter all over the City. The younger people needed to be respectful of their own neighborhoods.
- He explained the City was enforcing the Codified Ordinances regarding those residents who continually left their rubbish containers on the tree lawn days after their rubbish had been collected. This was a quality of life issue and asked residents to have pride in their neighborhoods.
- He noted there were several areas that had storm water issues. The backyards on Talbot from Avalon to St. Eugene’s used to be a creek. Over the years residents had filled in this area and it was currently causing problems. The Presidential area was having the same issue.
- The City was focusing on the street and sidewalk program so Bedford could continue to be a walkable community with an addition of the biking community with a bike trail.

- He explained the Bedford and Maple Heights resurfacing project of Center Road which would be in Bedford approximately in July.
- He urged everyone to attend and support the upcoming events. Mr. Gambosi announced the Fun Run was April 28th starting at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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 explained Dakar continued to purchase the former US Bank property. The new City's website and signage were changed back to Bedford green so both were consistent. The schools purchased the former St. Peter Chanel property and the City would support the school's 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. 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. 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 and Shred Day was May 18th.

Mr. Bellar explained other than an inconvenience and traffic problem the water line break was the responsibility of the Cleveland Water. A 30-inch water main broke and the parts should be in by the end of next week. However, the base under Rockside Road on the other side of the bridge needed to be stabilized for vehicle safety reasons. The safety forces and Cleveland Water was working a traffic pattern strategy.

Mayor Koci opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

A resident pointed out the fire hydrants needed painting. Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Solar explained the Fire Department hired a seasonal employee to paint during the summer months.

A resident asked if the Census affected the Equalization of Wards. Mayor Koci explained the Wards would be addressed after the next Presidential election.

A resident talked about the seven houses located at 941 to 1110 Archer who had numerous junk cars and wondered why after three years the laws hadn't been enforced. Mayor Koci and Mr. Mallis explained the one resident in question had been before the Court for numerous violations and the City was working on several issues with limited staff.

A resident had concerns regarding safety coverages during the Center Road resurfacing project. Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Solar explained the safety forces were aware of the situation and had advised a plan for emergency calls which included mutual aid assistance.

A resident pointed out the semi-trucks that were parking in the Meadowbrook empty lot. Mr. Mallis and Police Chief Martin Stemple explained it was up to the property owner to address the trucks parking at this location and the Police Department was limited on what they could enforce.

A resident had concerns regarding the Bedford School system purchase of the former Chanel property. It was determined the resident needed to take his concerns up with the school. The City was not part of the purchase but would support whatever decision the school made concerning the property.

A resident announced the State of the School Address was Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

A resident pointed out there were several vehicles traveling the incorrect direction on Darlington; it was a one-way street. Police Chief Martin Stemple was aware of the situation and most of the offenders were residents on that street.

A resident suggested a left turn only exiting out of Giant Eagle because of the traffic accidents in the area. It was determined the City could not mandate a left turn only because it was private property.

A resident suggested a traffic signal left turn arrow at the intersection of Columbus and Northfield Roads.

A resident asked how long a resident could store a mattress in their backyard. They were told to report the address after the meeting and it would be addressed.

A resident reported several speeders on Wheelock and asked for special attention in the area.

A resident asked if Simons was coming to Bedford. Mr. Mallis and Mayor Koci explained the owner was committed to Bedford and was finalizing paperwork.

A resident felt residents should not place their grass clippings in the rubbish since the City had to pay rubbish tonnage. Mr. Bellar understood the concern and explained if the City didn't allow grass clippings in the rubbish it would cause other disposal problems such as: grass clippings blown in the streets which would plug the storm sewers, residents would bag it and dump the clipping elsewhere or pile them on their tree lawns.

A resident wondered if there was a detailed incident Police Report. He was not pleased to see drivers using their cell phones. Police Chief Martin Stemple explained the way citations were written it was not always cut and dry as to the offense. He said the Police Department generated other reports that were public record if the resident wished to review them.

A resident had concerns regarding the deterioration of the empty former Big & Little Store and the smashed car located at the rear of the building. Plus, the deterioration of the former St. Eugene. The City was aware of both locations and their condition.

A resident asked about the spools of telecommunication wires he had seen around the City. Mr. Mallis explained WOW was in the area and installing wires.

In closing, Mr. Saunders urged the residents to stay informed and attend the Parties in the Park and the numerous events. Mr. Genutis announced he was running for re-election and had lived in Bedford his whole life.

Mayor Koci thanked everyone for attending the meeting and voicing their comments and concerns. He announced the next Regular Council meeting was Monday, May 6th at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.


Clerk of Council
Mayor – President of Council

4/22/19

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