

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Heather Rhoades, Donald Saunders and Victor Fluharty. Absent: Paula Mizesak. Also Present: Clerk of Council Tracy Simons. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Howland, Law Director John Montello, Service Department Director Clint Bellar, Police chief Martin Stemple, Deputy Chief Rick Suts and Recreation Director Erin Fach.

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Budget Hearing agenda.

Service Department

Service Department Director Clint Bellar was in attendance to present the 2021 Service Department appropriation budget.

City Manager Mallis stated that this is one department where we are doing more with less guys. He continued to state that they are down six (6) guys and looking at how to look toward the future with replacements. He also stated that last year they worked in shifts, which worked out really well and that they are going to continue with it for this year. He stated that when you look at the bottom number it is lower than it was 2 ½ years ago.

Mr. Bellar stated that the company who was doing the grass cutting dropped out during the summer, so it took two (2) guys from the Service Department. Councilman Fluharty stated that the Service guys did a better job at cutting the grass. Mr. Bellar stated that there are fourteen (14) guys in the department so they are going to do shifts again this year.

City Manager Mallis stated the Water Department is doing extremely well and they are doing a wonderful job.

At this time, they started going over the line items. (See attached for line items)

Police Department

Police Chief Martin Stemple and Deputy Chief Rick Suts were in attendance to present the 2021 Police Department appropriation budget.

City Manager Mallis stated that with the Police Department it starts from the top and that there is a lot of work that goes into it as well. He also stated that we are over our call numbers from last year and that their training is top of the line. He continued to state that this year was very challenging and that they've done a wonderful job.

Chief Stemple stated that they have a lot of support from City Council and the residents. He also stated that the sign of a good leader is when things run smoothly when the Chief is out. He continued to state that the two (2) K-9 units assisted with the riots in Downtown Cleveland. He also stated that they started the process to get state certified, which is a long process. He continued to state that they are looking to get body cameras for the police officers. He also

stated that they are in the process of changing over the fire arms for the police officers, that there were new cameras updated for the jail, City Hall (inside and outside) and that they are continuing with the engagement in the community. He stated that Shop-With-A-Cop is on hold for right now and that they are going to continue to keep the community involved.

Deputy Chief Suts stated that the price of the body cameras includes: back-up, redaction, storage, public records and for the company to repair the cameras.

At this time, they started going over the line items. (See attached for line items)

Recreation Department

Recreation Director Erin Fach was in attendance to present the 2021 Recreation Department appropriation budget.

City Manager Mallis stated that it has been three (3) years since Mr. Fach has joined the City and that he continues to bring changes to the department. He continued to state that some of the changes are that he has started up some new programs and that is very encouraging.

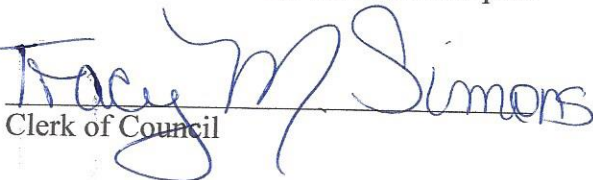
Mr. Fach stated that they started the year off well with the booklet and it was received really well from the residents. He stated that some of the programs were: Grab-and-Go Programs, Wellness calls to the residents, a phone tree was started for the senior citizens to keep the connected. He also stated that the commodities box will continue and that the Trick-Or-Treat-Street was a great success this year. He also stated that they are going to catch up on some things that have fallen to the wayside like: mulch and the removal of dead trees. City Manager Mallis stated that Mrs. Kuzma, Mr. Francis and Mr. Fach did a wonderful job with the Sign Program. Mr. Fach stated that they have changed the registration functions and that they are a lot better than the previous program that they were using.

Councilman Saunders inquired about the voting next Tuesday at Ellenwood Center and City Manager Mallis replied that there will be police presence at Ellenwood. Mr. Fach stated that they are prepared for it.

At this time, they started going over the line items. (See attached for line items)

Discussion of the Service Department, Police Department and Recreation Department 2021 budget was concluded.

The Work Session adjourned at 9:05 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor – President of Council

10-16-20
Date