

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, January 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Victor Fluharty, Paula Mizensak, Heather Rhoades and Donald Saunder. Absent: None. Also Present: Clerk of Council Tracy Simons. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Law Director John Montello and Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Howland.

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Council had no changes to the minutes of the Work Session of December 21, 2020, Regular Meeting of December 21, 2020. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Mayor Koci congratulated Mrs. Simons on her appointment to the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association Board of Directors. Mrs. Simons stated that it is the Board of Directors for that association and the first meeting is in January and it counts toward point's for obtaining her CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk). She stated that she is really excited about it and it is a patricidal term. She stated that the person who held that appointment retired and she thought that she should go for it. Councilwoman Rhoades stated that it was excellent and good way to make connections. Mrs. Simons stated that you never know until you go for something and that is how she thinks about things. Councilwoman Rhoades stated who knows what connections you will make to improve the city. Mayor Koci stated that it's a good thing, good for the city and good for her. He stated that he enjoys when people go above and beyond what their daily job is. Councilwoman Rhoades stated that Mrs. Simons has done this consistently over the past year, whether it is finding someone to scan our information, she came in here brand new. She also stated that Mrs. Simons has done an excellent job in being proactive in her position.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Historic Preservation Board: Schedule Meeting Date(s). Mayor Koci stated if everyone could pick a Monday in January for everyone to agree on to sit down and have a good meeting about this and it would be the only topic. Councilwoman Spinks suggested to have a meeting about this on Monday, January 11 to start the new year out and get this done. Mayor Koci stated that a Special Council Work Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Ellenwood Recreation Center. He also stated that it will be just like how we held the other meetings down at Ellenwood. He also stated that he would like to invite some of the Historical Preservation Board Members to attend the meeting. He continued to state that they would have to figure out who they will want at the meeting. City Manager Mallis stated to go over the list first amongst Council before they open it up to current members, because some of the current members might not be members anymore. Councilwoman Rhoades stated that it might be good if Council discusses it before bringing in outside members and the reason is that there is a lot of dedication to the Historical Society to the drastic change that Council will have to make to the Board. Mayor Koci stated that Council needs to see what they want out of the board as it relates to Council. Councilwoman Rhoades stated that if you bring in people from the outside they will be frustrated by the fact that perhaps certain powers are being removed. Mayor Koci stated that they will be frustrated if they are listening in. He also stated that we will keep it to a Council discussion and anybody can listen, but by state law we do not have to let anybody speak. He continued to state that if they are

listening in they will know what we are talking about and when we have a more formal meeting the people who are concerned can have their input.

Discussion of the Historic Preservation Board was concluded.

Mr. Montello stated that there may be some other vacancies on other boards that you might want to discuss at the same meeting. Councilwoman Rhoades stated that it would be a good idea to look at all the boards. Mayor Koci stated that it was a discussion he wanted to have about all of the boards and how they are set up as well.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7: 14p.m.

Motion made by Rhoades and seconded by Spinks to go into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel: COVID-19: supplemental leave and Litigation: Resident disputes. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizsak, Rhoades, Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Fluharty and seconded by Mizsak to adjourn out of Executive Session. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizsak, Rhoades, Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned out of Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

Work Session adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor - President of Council

Date: January 19, 2021

Bedford City Council met virtually via Zoom for the Regular Session on Monday, January 4, 2021. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. The meeting was opened by pledging allegiance to the flag.

The roll was called. Present: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizensak, Rhoades, Saunders.

Motion made by Mizensak and seconded by Genutis to approve the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of December 21, 2020. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizensak, Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: Heather Rhoades. Motion carried with Six Yeas and One Abstain.

Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Genutis to approve the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2020. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizensak, Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: Heather Rhoades. Motion carried with Six Yeas and One Abstain.

City Manager Mallis stated as a reminder that if anybody has any questions or comments send them to [citymanager@bedfordoh.gov](mailto:citymanager@bedfordoh.gov) and they will be read during the Hearing of Citizens portion of the meeting.

Mayor Koci congratulated their Clerk of Council Mrs. Simons for her appointment to the Board of Directors with the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association. He also stated that he is so happy to see when our employees step up and go above and beyond what they need to do every day and we have a long list of people that do go above and beyond. He continued to state that he is proud of Mrs. Simons for stepping up and moving up in your profession, because not only will it help her personally but also the city as well. He stated that the more you learn the better you are at performing your job. Mrs. Simons stated that this is a wonderful association and that whenever she has a question they are right there to help as well as if any of the other clerks needs a question answered she helps them out. She stated that she is also a member of the Northeast Ohio Municipal Clerks Association as well and that she is very excited to become a Board Member for OMCA. She continued to state that this will help in obtaining points to become a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC).

City Manager Mallis wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated Mrs. Simons on her appointment. He also thanked the Service Department for a job well done with bringing the chipper back out to deal with the leaves and then dealing with the snow storm on Christmas Eve. He also reminded everyone that we continue to update our websites information page daily about the Corona Virus and to please visit it for news, updates, programs and assistance links.

That concluded the City Managers report.

Law Director John Montello wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also stated to follow the precautions mandated by the governor. He stated that COVID will be around until November and it is not something that you want to get. He also congratulated Mrs. Simons on her appointment.

That concluded the Law Director's report.

Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Howland wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated that the Tax Department was down 1% for the year, which is good considering everything and that they are still looking to be down in revenue next year due to the possible shift of people that would normally work in a city that now work from home. She continued to state that they are looking forward to a better year.

That concluded the Assistant Finance Director's report.

Councilwoman Spinks wished everyone a Happy New Year. She sent her condolences out to the Dawson Family and that Mrs. Dawson will be greatly missed. She also stated that Christmas was a lot different this year, but the one thing with Zoom is that the kids have your full attention and we really got to engage with our granddaughters for the holidays. She stated that she has a challenge for the residents of Bedford to keep up their Christmas Lights to keep the sparkle going through-out the city due to the current pandemic. She inquired if the chipper will come out to clean up a lot of down branches from the last storm and City Manager Mallis replied that he doesn't know how soon it will be able to come out because right now they are trying to fill a couple of positions, so that is playing a role and we are waiting to see what the weather is going to be like. He continued to state that it will be challenging but he will check into it.

Councilman Genutis wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Fluharty wished everyone a Happy New Year. He thanked the Service Department for doing a wonderful job in the city.

Councilwoman Mizensak wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also stated for everyone to abide by the rules of wearing masks and to social distance so that we can be a little bit freer this year and hopefully it will be a better year for everybody. She thanked Mrs. Rhoades for the challenge that she gave her and that she did offer the challenge to everyone. She stated that they both sent Meals-On-Wheels an additional \$50.00 a piece, and it gave them an extra month's supply of food for the ones that are in need. She also stated that we as a council were able to fill some stockings with hams that were necessary from the city, they were donated to some special residents. She also hopes that everyone has good health and good luck for this coming year and that our city prospers like we should.

Councilman Saunders stated that Mr. Walker the Troop Leader for Troop #447 passed away yesterday, he was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer a couple of months ago and it's a shame. He stated that Mr. Walker dedicated his life to helping young men and influenced a lot of young boys through the Scouts. He stated that Mr. Walker will be missed. He also stated that Mrs. Dawson will also be missed. He stated that it's been a trying year and this year isn't starting out any better. He wished Mrs. Bukowski a Happy Birthday she will be turning 99 on January 20<sup>th</sup>. He wished Mr. Monardo a Happy Birthday, he turned 99 on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilman Saunders stated that on January 19 the incoming President has asked all communities and their residents to turn on all of their Christmas Lights, they are having a "National Lights On" for all who have passed away due to COVID-19. He also stated that they

do brighten up the area during a time due to major conflicts because of the pandemic. He inquired if they know why the man hole on the corner of Lincoln Blvd. and Columbus St. blows every time it rains and City Manager Mallis replied that they haven't identified anything as of yet.

Councilwoman Rhoades stated that the Bedford Downtown Alliance is starting to plan its Chocolate Walk. If you would like to help in planning or volunteering for the Chocolate Walk you can email [stories@bedforddowntown.org](mailto:stories@bedforddowntown.org).

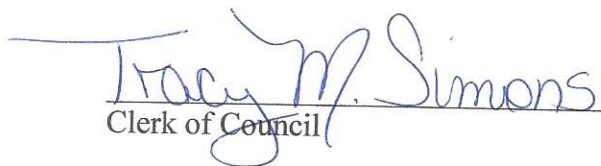
Councilwoman Rhoades stated that it is with great sadness that she is stepping down as the Ward 5 City Council Representative. She stated that this decision was hard for her and that she was diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer and that during these difficult times she feels it is best to focus her energy on her family. She continued to state that it has been her honor and her pleasure to represent everyone out there on Council and that she wishes that she could have done more for them. She also thanked the residents for giving her the opportunity to make the City of Bedford a better place for everyone. She hopes that everyone will continue to work and volunteer to make the City of Bedford the kind of place that we all want to live and thrive in.

Mayor Koci thanked Councilwoman Rhoades and prayers are with her. He also stated that she has done a great job for her residents in Ward 5 and for the city. He stated to keep them posted and to let them know what is happening.

Mayor Koci said that concluded the business portion of the meeting and asked if anyone had any comments to send emails to [citymanager@bedfordoh.gov](mailto:citymanager@bedfordoh.gov).

Mayor Koci asked if there were any further comments. There being no reply, motion made by Spinks and seconded by Rhoades to adjourn. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak, Rhoades, Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor – President of Council

Date: January 19, 2021