

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, January 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Council had no changes to the minutes of the Work Session of January 4, 2021, Regular Meeting of January 4, 2021. Councilman Genutis stated he noticed that in the Regular Council Session that Mrs. Rhoades report was somewhat truncated to a certain extent. He stated that as they are written they are fine for the intended purpose and should anyone want to view the entire content of her message it is freely available on YouTube channel. He continued to state that the minutes are written fine for their intended purpose. There were no corrections to the minutes.

ORDINANCE NO. 9842-21: contract with Axon Enterprise for the purchase of Day Cameras and Body Cameras for the Police Department. City Manager Mallis stated that we would like to have this on for First Reading and have it go Three Readings is what we recommend. He continued to state that the way the ordinance is written it's for what we discussed since the middle part of last year when we started talking about our goals that we wanted to do from an equipment stand point in the Police Department. He continued to state that 1.) for officers' safety and 2.) also transparency within the department is vital, especially in today's day and age. He stated that they took into account the storage of the data, the redaction of data, because now this becomes public record. He stated that they identified three companies and Mr. Gambosi has done a great job breaking these down and put a tremendous amount of work into it with the quote from Axon, Watch Guard and G-Tech. He continued to state that they recommend going with Axon 1.) they demonstrated it, 2.) spoke with other departments that use it and it comes highly recommended, and 3.) they offer parts of the equipment that we can utilize when an officer pulls their weapon the cameras automatically come on, with the other companies it is up to the officer to activate it. He stated that they are the lowest in the first year and that also we would get the initial equipment in the first year and then we would get all new equipment in the third year and the fifth year. He recommends that the city go with Axon, but that the figures may change between now and ultimately if Council chooses to pass it on the Third Reading. He also stated that this will put dash cameras in all of the cruisers and all of our officers will be outfitted with the body cameras, along with all the hardware and software, record redaction software, ample storage and digital storage. He continued to state that it is a good system and that it is necessary and that we recommend moving forward with it. Mr. Gambosi stated that the Police Department went out and got these bids and quotes, but with the quotes they deal in that this is the total package and that is nice, but accounting wise we have to break everything down by hardware, maintenance, what the asset is, what are they buying, what is the cost and what are they replacing. He stated that they had bids that were on a one-year basis for all three, but Axon actually has a five-year program, so we had break out the one year versus the five-year analysis and figure out what the costs were associated to hardware when dealing with that and the inclusion of all of that comes into play for replacement withing year three and five. He continued to state that if you look at the one-year analysis Axon is the low bid as well as adding the extra cost of hardware to the other company's replacement you will see that Axon is still the



low bid. He stated that the type of contract in this case under Ohio Law you have a two-year requirement to go out to on the onset and this is a five-year agreement. He continued to state that five-year agreements are beyond that, so when looking at the ordinance today you will see subject to appropriation. He stated that this means that at any time and if any new Council is coming in they have the right to get out of that contract and not appropriate the funds however with the type of process and equipment and it would be how've us to continue those contracts. He stated that the tasers that the officers have work with this company in regards to the cameras, they do not have the ability with the other bids that they received, so if they choose to tie into the tasers this would be the company to utilize. Councilwoman Mizesak inquired about the license and storage fees and also inquired if the license is for each police officer or just for the department to have a permit and City Manager Mallis stated that it is licenses per the camera and the storage of the data. Mr. Gambosi stated that there are two different types of cameras, for the cars and the body cameras and the backup of the software associated to all of them, which needs replaced as time goes on, which is included in the contract. He also stated that we will have the docking stations as well as storage for all the data that comes in, in the form of the cameras and what not, it is included in this type of a quote, because it encompasses the whole package. He stated that the only concern is why equipment and software have to be replaced so often, but it is a high cost for the number of years that this asset exists, but at least it is built into the contract that we see in front of us. City Manager Mallis stated that especially for Police and Fire we have some of the best and it is always important to look at how we can continuously improve and to improve from a public perception from transparency and all of it. He continued to state that adding this equipment in there we've crossed the first hurdle and the certification with the Ohio Collaborative, and these are big steps and they are also steps to improve the department and take it to another level. He stated that it would be beneficial internally and from the public's view of the implementation of this hardware. Councilman Genutis inquired if the cameras would be on for every single instance of a police call and City Manager Mallis stated that they could be. Councilman Genutis inquired as to the intention like loud music and City Manager Mallis stated that something like that he believes the cameras can be manually turned on, but they can also controlled via the holsters, where they will come on automatically. He continued to stated that some of the things that he and Chief Stemple are talking about are the policies and procedures that go along with that, but types of calls are those going to be mandated to be turned on or are we going to mandate them to be on all the time, so there is a lot that goes into play there. Councilman Genutis inquired about what the city's record retention policy is regarding the amount of years or forever and Mr. Gambosi stated that the Police would have to look at that and see what their departments are doing and how long they are maintaining for the Courts and so forth for that nature. City Manager Mallis stated that some are thirty days and some are longer and those are obviously some things that are coming into play as far as our policies and procedures. Councilwoman Mizesak inquired that there was a lawsuit or shooting done and didn't go to court right away and time passed would it be archived in a safe place where they can get ahold of it for proof and City Manager Mallis stated that in any situation like a shooting we would maintain that footage. Councilman Fluharty stated that this is a big piece of equipment for the police officers and us as a city government it will possible save some law suits by having these cameras at all times and it will save the city some money in the long run. Mayor Koci stated that it will show how good of a job that our officers do on a daily basis. Mr. Gambosi stated that in the quote the minimum requirements on the hardware and the storage capacities that they need is 25 GB free space and the minimum ram memory they need to operate and all of it is spelled out in there, so they will be matching that at the very minimum and he would expect them to exceed it and if we need more we would come back at a later date expand it if need be.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 6:52 p.m.

Motion made by Genutis and seconded by Fluharty to go into an Executive Session to discuss Economic Development: 2021 Capital Projects, Litigation: CANO Ordinance and Personnel: Union Negotiations and Vacant Positions. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjourned out of Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

Work Session adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor - President of Council

Date: February 1, 2021



Bedford City Council met virtually via Zoom for the Regular Session on Monday, January 19, 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, Mizesak and Saunders.

Motion made by Mizesak and seconded by Spinks to approve the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of January 4, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Fluharty and seconded by Genutis to approve the Regular Meeting of January 4, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Koci stated that there will be postcards for everyone in Ward 5 and that it will be posted on social media and the City website. He stated that if you are interested in the position there are minimum requirements: attend all Council Meetings not limited to the Regular scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday's of every month, continue to be a resident of the Ward from which they were elected or appointed, be a Ward resident for at least six months, shall have had and to continue qualifications of an elector, no member of Council shall be directly or indirectly interested in any contract, job, work or service that is in conflict with anything in the City and the Term will begin in February 2021. He stated that if you are interested send a brief letter to introduce yourself along with a brief background and send it to our Council Clerk Mrs. Simons. He stated that you can send it to City of Bedford, 165 Center Rd. or email Mrs. Simons and the deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>. He also stated that you can look on the city's website at <http://www.bedfordoh.gov> for the Charter to see what the job of a Council Member.

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.

City Manager Mallis stated that we have been working on an internal GIS System for our Service Department, and that we've been working to input a lot of information for the everyday work of our staff. He also stated that they have also been working with Cuyahoga County Officials and their GIS system, which includes maps and data and it is now available directly on the City of Bedford's website at <http://www.bedfordoh.gov>. He stated that our website has taken a jump and that data is helpful and useful.

City Manager Mallis stated that we are anticipating Cuyahoga County to release the second round of Tree Canopy Grant, and we intend to apply for that grant again. He stated that last year we planted over 100 trees and we used that grant to purchase and plant and we will be doing it again this if we are successful and we will be submitting an application for that funding source.

City Manager Mallis stated that the Recreation Department distributed about 1,500 boxes of food to families and individuals in need and we are going to continue to work to do that. He stated that Mr. Gambosi was a big part in one of the grants and at the beginning of the pandemic we



needed to try and help people and they did a great job. He stated that if you need help call us or go online, that information is on our COVID-19 Hub on the city's website. He continued to state that whatever you need assistance with we will do our best to try and help you.

City Manager Mallis stated that Mayor Koci informed him last week that we received another NOPEC Grant and it is about \$33,000.00, but we will be able to utilize that money for various energy improvements. He stated that we do not have a project earmarked yet although we are looking at some options and we will be sharing that in the coming meetings.

City Manager Mallis stated that in regards to the vaccinations and individuals who need assistance or if you are looking for information regarding the COVID-19 to please visit the city's website. He stated that we are updating information as it becomes available regarding the vaccinations. He stated that once it becomes available through the State of Ohio and Cuyahoga County that will be on our website on the COVID-19 page so please visit it. He stated that if you are an individual and wish to get vaccinated and looking for some immediate information to contact your Primary Caregiver and they will also be about to help you through the process.

City Manager Mallis stated that the Mr. Gambosi puts together some very detailed information for us as far as billing and water loss. He stated that it is a good way for us to track if we have leaks in our system. He stated that we do sound our system annually but Mr. Sokolowski and his staff along with Mr. Bellar and Mr. Francis have really focused on buttoning it up. He stated that it has been decades since we've seen these numbers.

City Manager Mallis stated a job well done to the Police Department primary Chief Stemple, he has been working on the first steps through the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board, the goal is to become certified and we met that first step. He stated that there is a lot more work that needs to be done and review those things annually, but it is a big accomplishment for our department and our city and definitely something to be proud of.

That concluded the City Managers report.

Law Director John Montello was absent and excused.

That concluded the Law Director's report.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi stated that we received the Forbes Rd. Grant from the County and it is over \$99,000.00. He also stated that the due date for taxes is April 15<sup>th</sup> and they have not extended that date as of today. He stated that everything worked well in regards to having the department closed in regards to dealing with COVID-19 and it looks like for the filing of 2021 taxes we will be doing the same thing. He also stated to be prepared to do filing online, faxing, emailing or the drop box located in the front of the Tax Department. He stated that we do need some interest in the Board of Tax Appeals, they hardly meet, however, they do need residents of Bedford who are interested in taxes or finance to join. He stated that this year there will be some interesting items coming up with COVID-19 and he will have information out on the city's website. He stated that if anyone is interested in joining the Board of Tax Appeals you can contact myself or Mrs. Simons in regards to that.



That concluded the Finance Director's report.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that she was excited to see there were several trees removed on Natalie Rd. along with the tree on Grand Blvd. and Kenyon Ave. She inquired if there were going to be more trees removed and that there are a couple on Willard Ave. She also stated that the guys did an excellent job of cleaning up after that and it was amazing to watch them do it. She also wanted to know if they come back and remove the stumps and City Manager Mallis stated that they will be back out to remove the stumps, it is a separate piece of equipment, and that he does not know when that will be, but it is on the list. She also inquired about updates on the limbs and things that are on the corner of Southwick Dr. and Grand Blvd. and City Manager Mallis stated that they have not been able to get the chipper back out since the last storm, just with staffing and we had two retirements, so it stretched our staffing out further. He continued to state that he is not sure when it will be but that he will check into it again for her.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that the speeding is crazy and about Ganley test driving and it is scary. She also stated that she has received several complaints on Willard Ave. and that seems to be the drag strip around town. She stated that she has seen the police officers out there ticketing. She inquired as to when we will be receiving the flashing signs at the stop signs and City Manager Mallis stated that we are stilling waiting on them to be shipped. He stated that they were supposed to be here before Christmas and that Deputy Chief Suts was following up aright around the holidays, as soon as we get them they will be up.

Councilwoman stated that she is the Vice President and Representative for Council for the Bedford Historical Society, and she is coming to ask that they have a Memorial Brick Program and anyone can purchase a brick to go in the square. She stated that it is \$60.00 and that includes tax, you can may checks payable to: Memorial Brick Program at the Bedford Historical Society, P.O. Box 46282, Bedford, Ohio 44146, you can order a brick online at <http://www.bedfordohiohistory.org>, or you can contact Councilwoman Spinks for the forms.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that there was a beautiful tribute on tv at the Lincoln Memorial and it is in memory for all of the people that we have lost from COVID. She stated to take care of each other, to be kind, social distance, wear your mask, this is not a hoax it is a real thing. She stated to please think of other people when you are going out and it doesn't take long to wear your mask to save other people.

Councilman Genutis stated that the purchase of the body and dash cameras is a significant upgrade to our Police Department, in keeping with the demands of the times. He also stated that Councilwoman Rhoades will be sorely missed, she brought a lot of energy, spirit, helpful knowledge in areas of her expertise, she has made great contributions to the Bedford Garden Club and helped make the Bedford Downtown Alliance a reality. He continued to stated that she credits that to the beloved Joyce Daunch as her inspiration. He also stated that she is a good mom.

Councilman Genutis stated that we are meeting today because of the national holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, this year is a special year because that in recent times it has been



shown to us that racism is not a thing of the past. He continued to state that it is like a broken bone that needed to be rebroke to heal properly. He stated that this is the hope in the dream, coupled with this is the revealing of much else largely the erosion of our personal freedoms for the intended sake of society's safety. He stated that in all of his days on Council that they have spent a large amount of our efforts working to restrict other behavior that we may disapprove of as a means to steer the community for what we subjectively think is for the best, but not for the sake of freedom or property rights. He continued to state that it is for the sake of perceived real estate values, in associated revenues to the city, abating assistant complaints from residents and punitive reactions. He stated those who are here are only human and we are doing the best that we know how to. He thanked the city for all of their efforts to try and provide food and the obtaining of additional grants to supply food to the residents in need. He stated that our system of government is meant to ensure that justice prevails. He stated that the responsibility is not only this Council's to strike that delicate balance between preserving our God given rights and Constitutional freedoms and satisfy the wants and desires of each individual resident often times aiming for restrictions on the actions of others. He stated that we are all in this together.

Councilman Fluharty inquired if we have come up with anything to help the senior citizens in getting their taxes done and City Manager Mallis stated that AARP is not meeting one-on-one they are offering virtual assistance. He stated that as far as one-on-one they have not identified any that are very close to Bedford. He continued to state that there are some that were included in the mini senior newsletter and we will have it posted, but there are not that are local. He stated that they are still looking to identify some and when we do we will share that with the public.

Councilman Fluharty he inquired as to what is going on about Union St. and City Manager Mallis stated that it is going to get done this year and it is a county project and they are waiting to hear from the county. He stated that we will be reaching out to them in the near future and find out and when we hear more we will share it with Council.

Councilwoman Mizesak stated that this is our second meeting for the year and she feels that a lot of people are missed because we can't be with them in our Council Chambers, but if you do want to share your time with us we are on Zoom. She stated that the big topic is where to get your shots for COVID-19 virus, there have been a lot of places publicized by the Board of Health in different cities, for Ward 4 it is in the DrugMart facility and the Walgreens facility. She stated that we were caught by surprise with the departure of Councilwoman Rhoades, she is a strong lady and she had to do what she had to do for her health and we as a Council wish her our best. She stated that we live in a world that unfortunately times are rough and however you want to look at tomorrow just take it as it comes. She stated that as a Council we truly try to do our best for this city and hopefully the city will understand that we are doing our best in these circumstances. She stated to be safe, be positive and be thankful.

Councilman Saunders stated that today is National Day of Remembrance for the 400,000 plus people who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus, it was asked that everybody turn their lights on for today and tonight. He stated that it is a day that we will not forget for a while, because of so many people who have passed away, so this is not something to take lightly. He

stated that this isn't something to take as the flu or something of that nature, because it is very serious.

Councilman Saunders thanked City Manager Mallis for the GIS System, it is something that he has been pushing for since he has been on Council, so he has seen the benefits of it and what it can do for the way of savings, time, effort and money. He stated that the city is moving forward with and that is great to hear.

Councilman Saunders gave his condolences to the Grusepo family. He stated that Mr. Grusepo was the owner of Langrage Jewelers and he passed away on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Saunders stated that the County Executive through the Public Works Department made a big announcement a couple of weeks ago on how they are going to concentrate on the low-income communities this year for their resurfacing programs. He stated that they are going to be doing all of the communities that do not have the funds to do certain county roads. He continued to state that Union St. was on that list, so let's hope that it does get done.

Councilman Saunders stated that the Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive at Walton Hills Village Hall tomorrow.

Mayor Koci gave a shout out to the Cleveland Browns on a wonderful effort that they did and they gave us the best season that we've had in a long time.

**ORDINANCE NO 9842-21: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DASH CAMERAS AND BODY CAMERAS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was read by title only. Motion made by Mizesak and seconded by Saunders to place Ordinance No. 9842-21 on First Reading. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Fluharty and seconded by Spinks to adjourn. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor – President of Council

Date: January 19, 2021