

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, February 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Council had no changes to the minutes of the Work Session of February 1, 2021, Regular Meeting of February 1, 2021, Special Work Session of February 8, 2021. There were no corrections to the minutes.

ORDINANCE NO. 9852-21: contract with Allied Door Systems, Inc. at City Hall City Manager Mallis stated that this is the final improvement and there was one other set of doors at City Hall that was not included in the passage of the last ordinance at a previous meeting. He stated that it makes sense to do that additional double doors on the front entrance way, it will cover those doors. He continued to state that one of the things that we are looking to do is that we have another ballard to set on the opposite side, we are looking just to see what a quote would be instead of having the push button to have one where we can wave our hand near the ballard to open the doors. He stated that we are looking to establish the hand motion, where it is still touch free, still automatic, but from outside coming in you would simply have to wave your hand near one of the ballards. He stated that it would make sense from a safety stand point and that there might be a slight adjustment, we would not have to purchase another ballard because we already have one and that we would just have to relocate the sensor. He stated that this set of doors is the same quote as the other doors that Allied Door Systems has already installed as well.

Resolution No. 2561-21: apply and accept Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant City Manager Mallis stated that this is a grant that is due at the end of the month and we need to pass legislation authorizing us to apply and accept any funding if we are awarded. He stated that we have been modifying this tree grant over the past two weeks and 1.) we don't know how long they are going to be offering this grant and 2.) we went after the maximum amount last year and we are going to go after the maximum amount this year. He also stated that we are going to 1.) purchase the trees and 2.) paying for the installation. He continued to state that our numbers right now are going to exceed the \$50,000.00 and there is a slight match that we will have to put in, but that the total grant application is around \$55,000.00. He stated that we have to meet certain areas that the county identifies and we are looking at: Logan St., East Interstate St., Charles St., Justin St., William St., Henry St., John St., Paul St., Wandle Ave., McKinley St., Natalie Rd., Avery Ave., High St. are some of the areas where we removed a large number of trees that are due to be re-planted. He continued to state that on top of that last year Mr. Fach and Mr. Bellar were at a number of our parks and we removed a lot of the dead trees and we are also looking to include some of these trees as well as add Ellenwood to replace the trees that were taken down. Councilman Genutis stated that he likes the selection of trees and that it is very interesting species that will be planted there and that they are trees that he would plant in his yard. City Manager Mallis stated that the species that we are looking at again are the: lilac,

service berry, black gum tree and the autumn buckeye. Councilwoman Mizensak inquired what the service berry is like and Councilman Genutis replied that it is a big blooming tree and has all season interest, it doesn't get very big and it does not have invasive roots. He continued to state that it does have a little fruit that the birds like to eat. Councilwoman Mizensak inquired if the lilac trees were like the lilac bush and Councilman Genutis replied that it wouldn't be anything like a shrub. Councilwoman Spinks stated no and that butterflies like it and that there is a good selection of trees. Councilman Saunders stated that he didn't see Blaine Ave. on the list of streets and that there isn't but a few trees left on that street, because the rest got cut down. City Manager Mallis stated that is one of the areas that they are going to look at, it is not on there this year but it is an area that we want to target. Councilman Fluharty inquired if they are actual buckeye's that grow on the autumn buckeye and City Manager Mallis replied that he will check with Mr. Bellar about that. Councilman Fluharty stated that years ago there were a ton of these buckeye tree around Bedford and he hasn't seen one in a long time and he also wondered why we don't have them anymore and City Manager Mallis replied that he will check on it.

Motion to appoint Jeff Slezak to the Civil Service Commission Mr. Gambosi stated that with the unfortunate passing of Mr. Novak there is an opening in the Civil Service Commission and he took a look at other people who were on other boards and commissions already and Mr. Slezak has served in our Housing Council. He continued to state that Mr. Slezak would fit in very well with our Civil Service group and that they are very selective in that group and they have taken a look at people over time and they are very interested in the city and they take the city to heart and Mr. Slezak is no different from that and he recommends Mr. Slezak to the board. He continued to state that Mr. Slezak has served well on the other boards that we've had in the city and did a great job as a Dispatch Officer for years. Councilman Genutis stated that he does not have an objection and that he is going with Mr. Gambosi's recommendation. Mayor Koci stated that he was one of the best dispatchers and he retired and stayed living in Bedford.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

Motion made by Genutis and seconded by Fluharty to go into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel: Union Negotiations. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizensak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned out of Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

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

Work Session adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor - President of Council

Date: March 1, 2021

Bedford City Council met virtually via Zoom for the Regular Session on Monday, February 16, 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 Genutis and seconded by Fluharty to approve the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of February 1, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizesak and seconded by Spinks to approve the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Genutis to approve the minutes of the Special Work Session Meeting of February 8, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Mallis thanked the Service Department for work in clearing the roadways last night. He reminded the public that in the event where snow exceeds two (2) inches there is a parking ban for street parking, this is for safety precautions and it helps our crews to clear the streets as soon as possible.

City Manager Mallis stated that we are going to be advertising for bids for the Ellenwood Ave. Waterline Project and the advertising for that will be near the end of the month. He continued to state that they hope to start the project shortly afterwards with the idea of being completed before the summer months and hope that we will be able to open the pool this summer. He stated that it is an old waterline that is from Kenyan Ave. to Broadway Ave.

City Manager Mallis stated that we are completing our Tree Canopy Grant through Cuyahoga County and the staff has done a great job in identifying trees and streets. He also mentioned to visit the city's website and follow us on social media both Facebook and Twitter, this week the Cuyahoga County Public Library will be offering a food distribution in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Mobil Pantry. He stated that for those who are in need registration does need to take place. He continued to state that it will be at the Southeast Branch Library on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. He also stated that there are other dates in the future that it will be offered so please take a look at that.

City Manager Mallis stated that the staff has done a wonderful job in identifying various programs that could be helpful to the public and all of those programs are on our city website and social media platforms. He stated that in working with Cuyahoga County and CHN Housing Capital are offering some home repair loan programs and down payment assistant programs, they were recently advertised through Cuyahoga County. He stated that Mrs. Kuzma recently had the individuals on a conference call and they explained these programs, they are very helpful and useful and they are up on our platform as well.

City Manager Mallis complimented and is very thankful to everyone who was involved in the Mural Project located in downtown Bedford and Channel 5 did a great story on it a few weeks back in honoring Black History Month. He is very thankful and proud of all of those that were a part of that and to bring it to the City of Bedford. He stated that the story was great and we shared it on social media and if anybody hasn't had a chance to see visit our website and you will see it.

That concluded the City Managers report.

Law Director John Montello stated that if you are able to get the COVID shot to please do so and to continue to use precautions.

That concluded the Law Director's report.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi state that we are currently creating a Police Lateral Transfer listing. He stated that there are currently eighteen (18) applicants that are already qualified from other departments that are interested in being on the Police Force with the City of Bedford and we will be completing that on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

That concluded the Finance Director's report.

Councilman Fluharty thanked the Service Department for doing a good job with cleaning our streets the past couple of nights. He also reminded everyone to try and clear your front sidewalks if possible and also watch out for people walking in the streets. He stated that the kids are back in school and they are moving around so please be aware of them.

Councilwoman Mizesak stated that winter is still here and we are almost at the end of the first year with COVID-19 epidemic. She stated that she was reminded by the pharmacist at the DrugMart in Maple Heights is still excepting reservations on their website at <http://www.discount-drugmart.com/covid>. She thanked all of her residents who have called over the winter and everyone seems to be doing well up here. She inquired about any information on the situation up at Hop In regards to obtaining a liquor license and City Manager Mallis replied that they have not heard back and we did submit the initial response and he was in discussion with Law Director Montello and we are still waiting to hear back from them. Mr. Montello stated that they were told that they are not allowed to have it and that he is sure if it is a dry area or not, but if it is they are not going to get it without a vote of the people.

Councilman Saunders wished everyone a Happy Fat Tuesday and that the tomorrow is the first day of Lent. He stated that lets hope that we can get back to some semblance of order here. He stated to get the vaccination when you can and it will go a long way to helping us to get out of this crisis of the pandemic that we are in.

Councilman Saunders stated he has seniors that go out for walks and they have to go out into the street, because many people do not clean their sidewalks, so please be kind and courteous as neighbors to help out those that can't shovel their sidewalk. He stated that we can all help and we can make it a much easier for those that do need the sidewalks.

Councilman Saunders stated that a lot of people park on the streets regardless of the snow ban, and that it seems to be the duplex's and homes that run businesses out of their house like: group homes and day cares are the ones that park on the street excessively. He stated that if you are more than a foot away from the curb the city ordinance states that you can get a ticket. He stated to park in your driveway and that the street isn't there as an extension of your driveway, its there for a temporary emergency overflow.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that Mardi Gras is a very special holiday and this year Louisiana there are no carnivals or parades. She stated that instead of the big parade floats everybody decorated their front porch and that they were still able to keep to the tradition, but also start a new tradition as well.

Councilwoman Spinks stated about parking and that the Police posted a cute message on Facebook yesterday about being towed. She also stated to not put trash cans in the streets and please do not park in the street as well.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that the Walgreens on Broadway Ave. have the COVID vaccine. She also congratulated Magna Wine Boutique in Bedford, OH for opening up their second business in Chagrin Falls. She stated that she likes seeing small businesses being able to do good enough that they can expand.

Councilwoman Spinks inquired about the COVID-19 testing place that is opening up on Broadway Ave and City Manager Mallis replied that a month ago we were approached by someone and that there were a number of items that we needed to get with the State of Ohio. He stated that they were initial items that needed to get approved and they finalized it and submitted everything to Mr. Montello and Mr. Beverly. He stated that they are working to do is that you will be able to go and get tested, there is a cost for it, it is not funded through the state it is a private business. He stated that you will be able to go through and get tested located at the old Mazda Dealership on Broadway Ave. He stated that it is a local and it is very helpful for anybody that needs to get the test performed, its safe and they meet all of the state guideline certifications that were required. He also stated that it is all drive-thru and they have communicated with us with any questions or concerns that may have come up. Councilwoman Spinks that Mr. Montello for helping out with that. She continued to state that it is very convenient and safe. Mr. Montello stated that Councilwoman Spinks was very forth coming in trying to get it in place. Councilwoman Spinks stated that we have to look out for our residents and make sure that everything is done the right way.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that she is excited about the tree selection on the Healthy Urban Tree Grant. She stated that we are known as the Tree City and it is good to have the selection that we have and it is good for nature to clean our air.

Councilman Genutis had no report this evening.

Mayor Koci stated that 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 reminded everyone that Saturday, February 20, 2021 is the Chocolate Walk for Bedford Downtown Alliance. He stated that if you would like all of the information go to <http://bedforddowntown.org>. He also stated that it helps to stimulate our downtown business, which certainly need our help to get through this COVID-19 pandemic that we are going through.

**ORDINANCE NO. 9852-21:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALLIED DOOR SYSTEMS LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Genutis and seconded by Fluharty to suspend the rule requiring the reading of said ordinance on three different days. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Mizesak to place Ordinance No. 9852-21 on third and final reading and passed.

City Manager Mallis stated that this is the final installation of the automatic doors for the main entrance of the Municipal Center. He continued to state that we completed the improvements to the entry way over by the Building Department and we also completed two of the entrance doors and we have two more and this is what it reflects. He stated that it is the same cost at the others and it will all be touch free moving forward. Councilman Saunders inquired if there are limited hours that the touch free will be working and City Manager Mallis replied that the Municipal Center is open 24/7 and anybody can walk in, but these have the ability to be shut off for the automated portion. He stated that the doors over at the Building Department are shut off in the evening and on one set we can shut the automated off and the other set we will leave on for individuals who may need assistance in the evenings, or who need to visit the Police Station. He stated that they do have the function to be shut off but they will still be functional by hand held or we can leave them on if we would like too.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2561-21:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY AND ACCEPT A GRANT THROUGH CUYAHOGA COUNTY PURSUANT TO ITS HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Saunders and seconded by Spinks to suspend the rule requiring the reading of said ordinance on three different days. 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 Genutis to place Resolution No. 2561-21 on third and final reading and passed.

City Manager Mallis stated that this is authorizing the city to apply for this years Urban Tree Canopy Grant that is offered through Cuyahoga County. He stated that we were successful last year and maximum for the grant award is \$50,000.00 and we are preparing an application that will be slightly above that and it is around \$55,000.00. He continued to state that are certain targeted areas that we would need to plant these trees. He stated that this is not the award and we are applying for funding to plant trees on Logan St., East Interstate St., Charles St., Justin St., William St., Henry St., John St., Paul St., Wandle Ave., McKinley St., Natalie Rd., Avery Ave., High St. He stated that on top of the streets that we identified the Recreation and Parks Department worked last year to remove a number of dead trees in some of the local parks and dead and diseased trees at the Community Center on Ellenwood Ave. He stated that this application will also include trees to be planted at those locations. He continued to state that the grant will provide funding for the purchase and installation of these trees.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizensak, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Spinks seconded by Mizensak to appoint Jeff Slezak to the Civil Service Commission. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizensak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gambosi stated that Mr. Slezak served on Housing Committee and he has done a great job for the city as a Police Dispatcher for many, many years and he went on to our new programing with dispatching for the Southeast Area and has done a wonderful job. He stated that Mr. Slezak always cares about the city and has it at heart and the he recommends Mr. Slezak to the Civil Service Commission and that he will continue that great service onward for our police and fire men and our testing programs.

Mayor Koci stated to the residents to apply for some of the board positions and that we will have a few openings coming up and we are looking for some good people to fill those vacancies. He stated that if you are interested in serving on a board contact Mrs. Simons the Clerk of Council at [tsimons@bedfordoh.gov](mailto:tsimons@bedfordoh.gov). He stated let her know of your interest and write a letter of why you would like to be on the board.

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).

Ms. Chaich, Bedford Downtown Alliance stated that the Bedford Downtown Alliance is continuing its tradition of chocolate fun this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She stated that the Third Annual Chocolate Walk will go on with a few changes the purchase of a \$20.00 ticket will get you a box of treats, three (3) drink tickets at local establishments and a coupon book for local businesses. She stated that in addition wine pool and punch card tickets will be available. She stated that all events begin at the Historic Bedford Train Station with an additional game stop at Salcity Dance Studio. She stated that the after party continues at Sirna's with a 2:30 p.m. Hat Contest being judged by Bedford Umpa Lumpa's. She stated that the Tri-fecta Bike Drawing courtesy of the Broadway Cyclery will be held there as well for those who



purchased a combination general admission: Wine Pool and Punch Card Drawing. She stated that tickets are available for purchase at Sirna's Café at 795 Broadway Ave. or on the Bedford Downtown Alliance website at <http://www.bedforddowntown.org/chocolate> also at the Bedford Tribune Article at <http://www.bedfordohio.org/annualchocolatewalkoffersdrivethruoptionsthisyear> and purchases can also be made on the day of the event.

Jeff Asbury, 71 Eldred Ave., Bedford, OH stated that Mr. Slezak is an excellent choice for the Civil Service Commission and that Mr. Novak would approve.

Helen Briggs, 149 Grand Blvd., Bedford, OH stated that this is regarding our traffic issues of speeding, running stop signs and car haulers. She stated she has seen a significant increase in police presents and just wanted to say thank for the added time and addressing these problems. She stated that she has also seen the Service Department making the rounds filling pot holes and doing general maintenance that bad weather can bring. She stated that the extra presents by both departments has not gone unnoticed and is very much appreciated.

City Manager Mallis stated that there was a slight delay in the streaming but the full meeting will be up later this evening.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor – President of Council

Date: March 1, 2021