

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, March 1, 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, Law Director John Montello and Finance Director Frank Gambosi. Absent: None.

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Council had no changes to the minutes of the Special Work Session of February 16, 2021, Work Session of February 16, 2021, Regular Meeting of February 16, 2021, Special Work Session of February 22, 2021. There were no corrections to the minutes.

ORDINANCE NO. 9853-21: Resurfacing of Union St. City Manager Mallis stated that this is the contract that Cuyahoga County has provided us and prior to us bringing this Council last week we did submit a request to the county to allow the city to design and manage the project, primarily for the purpose of time. He stated that we believe that the city can move on this much faster than the county and the county is going to allow us to design and they are going to cover some of the cost. He continued to state that the designs will be completed by April, but they denied our request to manage the project, so that means that we will not start as soon as we would like. He stated that the county will have to go out and bid it and then passed through County Council. He continued to state that it may not start before September, but given the time frame on some of the things that have to happen it will probably be awarded in September or possibly before and it may start in September. He stated that they will try and get some clarification on it and push to expediate this as quickly as possible, but that is the response that they gave us for us managing the project. Councilman Saunders stated that if you see any of the online County Meetings the they are ready to go with Union St., that is what they told County Council. He continued to state that they were hoping to have it bid out by the end of March. City Manager Mallis stated that they don't have it designed. Councilman Saunders stated that the Public Works Department said that Union St. was ready to go. City Manager Mallis stated that he will check on it and he will reference that and push on it. He continued to state that maybe they were mentioning that they have everything ready on the lower portion and this is now going to include the top portion, it will be Broadway to Broadway, maybe at the time they were thinking only the lower end. Councilman Saunders stated that could be because that's what was going in the last couple of years. Councilman Genutis inquired as to what specifically are they voting for, is it for the resurfacing or to do the design work City Manager Mallis replied that this is a contract with Cuyahoga County for Union St. He continued to state that is a portion that we are going to be responsible for because we are adding the top end of it and that is what this is. Councilman Saunders stated that the County cannot operate in an incorporated area with out an agreement from the actual municipality and that is what this is. Mr. Gambosi stated that in the contract they have that 40% of engineering is our share and also 20% of the construction cost, so earlier it was a million and a half project and wanted to know if it was still correct and City Manager Mallis replied that he believes it is less than that and that he would get Mr. Gambosi the specifics for that.

ORDINANCE NO. 9854-21: levy assessment for delinquent water bills Mr. Gambosi stated that this is an ordinance that we are allowed to do twice a year and the Water Department has looked at anybody with over \$300.00 in six months in arrears. He continued to state that a couple of the properties are ten months, one was a new purchase of a property that for ten months they haven't paid their bill, so they are assessing it at this point. He also stated that any assessments that are over \$250.00 get a certified letter mailed to them.

ORDINANCE NO. 9855-21: amending Ordinance No. 9827-20 making additional appropriations Mr. Gambosi stated that this is the one where we catch up from last year as to what was going on. He stated that we are reappropriating a lot of the grant monies that were there with CDBG from the past, SEAL Funds, Trust Fund and all of the grants for: Police, Fire, VAWA Grant, the CARES Act Funds and we need to increase the Refuge Funds over what we originally budgeted. He continued to state that our debt services are a little less than what we budgeted earlier so he drew that down and the last two are the Trust Funds, they are unforfeited monies that are awaiting court decisions to be distributed out to either the city or other entity's pending the outcome of those cases.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

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


Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m.

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

Adjourned out of Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.

Work Session adjourned at 7:57 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor - President of Council

Date: March 15, 2021

Bedford City Council met virtually via Zoom for the Regular Session on Monday, March 1, 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 Special Work Session Meeting of February 16, 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 minutes of the Work Session Meeting of February 16, 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 Mizesak to approve the Regular Meeting of February 16, 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 Spinks to approve the minutes of the Special Work Session Meeting of February 22, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizesak and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Mallis stated that Mrs. Kuzma and the Police Department worked hard and that we received a grant award for additional radios for the Police Department and we've been working to upgrade these radios over the last few years and we were successful each year in obtaining grant dollars. He also stated that Mrs. Kuzma and the Service Department completed the Tree Canopy Grant last week and our application was for over \$53,000.00 and we are looking to plant over 130 trees throughout the City of Bedford as-well-as in some of the city owned parks and city properties, where we have recently removed trees as well.

City Manager Mallis stated that we have been putting some information out on the city website as well as our social media outlets and the county has been advertising some programs that is being offered through CHN Housing Capital. He continued to state that it is for various home repairs and mortgage assistance programs that are being offered and you may find that information very helpful.

City Manager Mallis stated that the newly ordered body and dash cameras has been shipped and some of it has started to arrive. He stated that over the next couple of months we will be going over and conducting extensive training on all of our policies and procedures within the department. He continued to state that our goal right now is for implementation of the new equipment for the Police Department will be sometime this summer. He stated that we will continuously provide updates on this and he thank City Council for approving the purchase of this equipment for our Police Department.

City Manager Mallis stated that he publicly thanked Chief Stemple and Mrs. Stemple started a project last year, they volunteered their time and resources for the construction, knowledge,

monetary and various donations to completely renovate the kennel that we have. He continued to state that the before and after pictures are stunning. He stated the Chief Stemple is a great asset to not only the department but to the entire city. He continued to state to take a look at the Police Departments Facebook Page the kennel is pretty impressive. He stated that it is well done and an outstanding testament to the outstanding staff that we have here in Bedford. Mayor Koci stated that it is really wonderful what they did for the city and our pets that are down there.

That concluded the City Managers report.

Law Director John Montello had no report this evening.

That concluded the Law Director's report.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi state that we have been looking at the natural gas contracts and looking at new contracts there and that they have already extended out some electric contracts that we have and get lower rates beyond what we did already. He stated that he, City Manager Mallis, Mrs. Howland and Mr. Montello have been looking at these contracts and one of them we have the ability to go out for even lower costs if we go out start in 2023 to 2025, looking at the legalities of it first, so we may or may not be able to do that. He stated that we have been able to bring those costs way down over time and we are looking to try and do even more.

Mr. Gambosi reminded everyone that April 15, 2021 is the deadline and the government has not extended it yet, until then that will still be the deadline. He stated that we have had quit a bit of returns coming in this week and it is really gearing up and getting our department very busy.

That concluded the Finance Director's report.

Councilwoman Mizensak stated that the COVID shots are moving along really well down at the DrugMart in Maple Heights. She stated that DrugMart did an exert on how well and friendly the staff is to all recipients of the COVID vaccine.

Councilwoman Mizensak stated that she has received a couple of calls inquiring as to Dominion and IGS is controlling their gas supply to the residents who have a Dominion Bill, and she suggested to the callers to go with NOPEC. She stated that NOPEC does electric as well as gas and they were very happy with the results of a better MCS charge to them and they hooked up with NOPEC. She stated that if anyone gets inquires about who they should go with she is putting NOPEC in the picture for all of us to refer them too, if we can do that.

Councilwoman Mizensak stated that Colony Club has been pretty quiet. She stated that they are also having trouble with their utility bills, their new management is raising the rent and utilities for a lot of their permanent residents.

Councilman Saunders wished Ohio a Happy Birthday for becoming a state hood, it is Ohio's birthday for being the 17th state. He stated that those who are on variable rates for gas and electric are getting killed, because the providers are selling it off to whoever bids the highest on it. He stated that it is affecting us because it is driving up the price on the variable rates, so be

careful when you sign up for your electric and gas rates, because they are volatile if something should happen if you get the variable rate. He continued to state that you are better off with fixed rates and most are at a reasonable cost right now. He stated senior citizens are being affected by it and that they need to pick a provider and wanted to know if it can be posted on the city's website on how to do it, and it might be a big move for us to make sure that people check their bills as to what they are paying. He stated that it could even come through the Senior Newsletter, because seniors seem to be the ones that get hit the hardest.

Councilman Saunders stated that since we are getting the snow and people can't park on the street that a lot of people are pulling their cars across the front lawn. He stated that people should not be parking on their front lawn, and wanted to know if we are still doing parking enforcement and City Manager Mallis stated that we are and he met with Chief Stemple today on a number of items and that is one of the items. He continued to state that he has seen the ticket numbers as far as parking violations and if there are specific ones that you are familiar with just send them his way and he will have the guys take a look at them. Councilman Saunders stated that the garbage cans are being left out again for two or three days, so he didn't know if auxiliary officers are driving around or patrolling the neighborhoods, and that last year we did an enforcement on those and that it may be time to make sure people take their cans back in. He stated that the main thing is to get the garbage cans off the street as soon as possible after the trash is picked up. Mayor Koci stated that some of the solicitors are starting to come out into the neighborhoods again and he just wanted to let the residents know that the solicitors have to be registered with our Police Department in order to go door-to-door. He stated that if they are not registered and they can't show that they are then don't talk with them. He also stated that our city is a sponsor of NOPEC and they aren't always the lowest price at the moment, but consistently they are lower over the long hall. He stated to be cautious of these companies that come knocking on your door. Councilman Saunders stated that gas is the worst, because they will give you a six-month rate, but it's usually during the summer and when winter hits they jack the price up. Mr. Gambosi stated that the city utilizes NOPEC too when we go into our streetlighting especially and that is where our new contract is going to be. He stated that we did get good quotes from them and like the Mayor said take a quote from them and other companies and put them against each other and pick the best one that is right for you. He also stated to watch out for the terms as Councilman Saunders, maybe you get into some variables just for the winter and you may want to look at longer term contracts to bring the cost down over all or however you feel the market is going to go.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that it is "National Peanut Butter Day" and tomorrow is "National Read Across America Day", which is something that is very near and dear to her. She stated that some of the local libraries are going to have special things tomorrow for the children as well as the schools as well.

Councilwoman Spinks thanked Chief Stemple and his wife for what they did at the kennel. She stated that it is such an amazing story and the story of their Luigi (their dog), who was a rescue dog from our very own kennel. She stated that Chief Stemple's wife made a little memorial to their sweet Luigi and it was a very heart felt story.

Councilwoman Spinks stated that she has gotten a couple of complaints about the big trucks that are coming through at odd hours this weekend. She also stated that now that the snow is melting there is trash all over the city. Mayor Koci stated that it also “Women’s History Month” and congratulations to all of the women who made history.

Councilman Genutis stated that women’s history is something to know about. He stated that he is glad that the vaccines are doing well over at DrugMart and that it is wonderful and Councilwoman Mizesak is leading people over there. He stated that Saint Patrick’s Day is the day that we traditionally plant peas. He stated that what Chief Stemple and his wife did at the kennel is really a wonderful thing and it is so nice.

Councilman Fluharty inquired about if the tree chipping service is starting on April 1st and City Manager Mallis stated that it is and we will have some information going out and we are going to be keeping an eye on the weather, but as soon as we get it out we’ll start putting information out to the public. Councilman Fluharty stated that the speed is going on over on John St., Paul St., Best St. and William St. and it seems as though it is getting worse and wanted to know if we are putting the speed signs up. He stated that they need some over on John St. and City Manager Mallis stated that he believes there are some areas up there that they have on their list. He continued to state that there is a permanent one that is up and there is one that is getting moved around and you will see it over the coming weeks. He stated that we will be leaving it up for a week at a time, because not only does it flash and indicate people when they are speeding it also collects valuable data, so that is important too. Councilman Fluharty stated that we have to start letting people know that they have to start taking their garbage cans back.

ORDINANCE NO. 9853-21: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE CITY OF BEDFORD, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE MUNICIPALITY, IN THE MATTER OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED IMPROVEMENT AND REQUESTS THE COOPERATION OF THE COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, OHIO, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE COUNTY was read by title only. Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Genutis 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 Saunders and seconded by Mizesak to place Ordinance No. 9853-21 on third and final reading and passed.

City Manager Mallis stated that this is a contract with Cuyahoga County in assents a partnership for them to both plan and resurface Union St. He also stated that this project is slatted for this year, although most likely it will be later this year. He stated that we are still trying to get a timeline on it. He stated that the city is working on the design phase of it and it will be completed in April and the county is going to manage the project. He continued to state that we will work with them as much as possible to get it done sooner than later. He stated that this project will go from Broadway Ave. to Broadway Ave. Councilwoman Mizesak inquired as to the cost involved for the municipalities end of it and City Manager Mallis stated that there is and with the city requesting it be the entire length of Union St. including the top portion, the city will be covering 20% of the entire cost and the county is picking up 80% of the cost.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 9854-21: AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT WATER BILLS IN THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Spinks 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, Mizsak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizsak and seconded by Saunders to place Ordinance No. 9854-21 on third and final reading and passed.

Mr. Gambosi stated that this ordinance is in regards to our delinquent water bills, those that are six (6) months past and over \$300.00 are put on the delinquent water assessment billing. He also stated that there are a couple of parcels that are ten (10) months delinquent and those are also included in there as well. He stated that they are allowed to do it twice a year: once now for the first half and again it has to be filed by September for the second half of the year.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 9855-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9827-20 MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO DURING THE YEAR 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Genutis and seconded by Saunders to suspend the rule requiring the reading of said ordinance on three different days. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Mizsak and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizsak and seconded by Fluharty to place Ordinance No. 9855-21 on third and final reading and passed.

Mr. Gambosi stated that we do this ordinance in March that brings back all of the grants that were left over from last year, balances of all the different grants that we received in the city and we are also reappropriating those to spend and whatever balances that we had last year and in 2021. He stated that we have the CDBG that we are still utilizing from the sale of house years ago, SEAL Funds, which are the confiscated funds, current grants and prior grants that were left over, along with the small miscellaneous grants including: Tasers, Eagles donations, Nature Stone donations, Juvenile Diversion Grants, VAWA Grants. He also stated that we also have the Food Bank Grants and the Drug Use Prevention and our Law Enforcement Agency and SEAL forfeiture, which are the unforfeited funds that are pending release of the court. He stated that we have to appropriate for those two and expend those if deemed necessary by the courts. He also stated that we also got another NOPEC Energy Grant to help utilize for cost savings and we

had CARES Act that we received from the County, so we advanced those funds from the General Fund and we are paying it back to the General Fund.

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.

Mayor Koci stated that Council is in the process of interviewing and selection a candidate to represent Ward 5. He continued to state that they are working on it and that they are getting close to a decision and as soon as they have one it will be made public.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.


Clerk of Council


Mayor – President of Council

Date: March 15, 2021