

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Paula Mizesak, Jeff Asbury, and Donald Saunders. Absent: Victor Fluharty. 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 the discussion of the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Council had no changes to the minutes of the Work Session of September 20, 2021, Regular Meeting of September 20, 2021.

Ordinance No. 9899-21: replacing Ordinance No. 7780-05 relating to Water Rates in §911.01 (e), Ordinance No. 9900-21: amending §911.03 "Rate Reduction for Disabled Persons and Senior Citizens, Ordinance No. 9901-21: amending Ordinance No. 9817-20 concerning Section 913.02 "Sewer Rates." Mayor Koci stated that these were place on First Reading on 09/20/21 and that they will be placed on Second Reading this evening.

Ordinance No. 9904-21: contract with Ellet Neon Signs for the Wayfinding Program, City Manager Mallis stated that this is the final adjustment for some additional electrical work to close out the project.

Ordinance No. 9905-21: contract with Mazda of Bedford for a vehicle for the Municipal Court, City Manager Mallis stated that Mr. Gambosi looked at the lease and that it made more sense to purchase the vehicle instead.

Ordinance No. 9906-21: agreement with Cuyahoga County Board of Health, City Manager Mallis stated that there was a substantial increase and they have been a great resource for the City in the last 18 months. He stated that they have always been very responsive and that the increase is from the pandemic.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

Mayor Koci began the discussion of Meeting Management Software. Mrs. Simons stated that she is interested the following Meeting Management Software: Municode, PrimeGov Solutions, and AgendaQuick. Mr. Gambosi inquired about their security for emails and the encryption, would the City be able to have it on their own server, and how do we get the data from their server and Mrs. Simons replied that she would check into that with the three companies.

Discussion of the Meeting Management Software was concluded.

Mayor Koci began the discussion of the Garage Ordinance. City Manager Mallis stated that there should be some type of storage and it shoe be specified in the ordinance such as a 16'x12' or 120 sq. ft. He also stated that if an individual does tear down the garage that they should have to re-build it in twelve (12) months. Mayor Koci stated that they have to have a permit to tear it

down. Councilman Saunders stated to give them a time span to put a new garage back up. He also stated that most communities require that if you tear it down that they have to put one back up. Mr. Gambosi stated to look at what the neighboring communities have for their garage ordinance.

Discussion of the Garage Ordinance was concluded.

Motion made by Mizesak and seconded by Genutis to go into an Executive Session to discuss Economic Development: UH Bedford Medical Center and Personnel: Union Negotiations. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.

Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Asbury to adjourn out of Executive Session. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, 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: October 18, 2021

Bedford City Council met in Regular Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 4, 2021. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 8:01 P.M. The meeting was opened by pledging allegiance to the flag.

The roll was called. Present: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, and Saunders. Absent: Fluharty.

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

Motion made by Mizesak and seconded by Asbury to approve the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of September 20, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Genutis and seconded by Spinks to approve the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2021. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 9899-21: AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 7780-05 RELATING TO WATER RATES [§911.01 (e)] AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Mizesak to place Ordinance No. 9899-21 on Second Reading. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 9900-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9816-20 CODIFIED ORDINANCE §911.03 “RATE REDUCTION FOR DISABLED PERSONS AND SENIOR CITIZENS” FOR WATER AND SEWER DISCOUNTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Genutis to place Ordinance 9900-21 on Second Reading. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 9901-21-21: BEING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9817-20 CONCERNING SECTION 913.02 “SEWER RATES” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD AS RELATED TO SEWER RATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Saunders to place Ordinance No. 9901-21 on Second Reading. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizesak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Mallis stated that University Hospitals decision that will affect Bedford’s Medical Center that in the near future they will be closing the ICU and the Operating Room. He stated tha the affect will be substancial and the reason for it is a direct result of the pandemic and staffing concerns across their entire system. He stated that the hospital is going to remain open and the diagnostics, imagry, and the doctors will remain there. He stated that as they learn more they will share the information through social media, website, or at Council Meetings. He stated

that the Administration made some final tweaks to the Broadway Rd. Project and it should be finalized in the next week and then we will start advertising for bids for that project. He stated that it will start this year and run into the spring time, because ODOT will be repaving Broadway Rd. from Corp Limit to Corp Limit next summer. He continued to state that it is their recommendation that all construction take place over night to avoid closing Broadway Ave. during the day. He stated that there is a Ward Meeting for Wards 2 and 5 on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Department are offering a number of programs and to visit the City's website for information that was shared through Constant Contact, emails, and the departments social media outlets for those opportunities. He stated that there were a number of vehicle and garage break-ins last week and that they are often crimes of opportunity. He reminded everyone to lock their vehicles and shut your garages to help deter those instances and crimes of opportunity.

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 stated that the filings of tax returns are lower this year and that the time period for filing has come and gone. He stated that they need to get it done before they go after it and they start going to court for people. He stated that there is the option of dropping it off at the mail slot in City Hall or mail it directly to the Tax Department and they will prepare them for you and get them back out to if any amount is due. He stated that anyone the age of 18 years or older must file, there are exceptions to senior citizens who have no income have filed one year already, then at that point they will excuse the filings until they have other income. He also stated that there are state penalties involved with it and to please get them in immediately so they can process the returns on their behalf.

That concluded the Finance Director's report.

Councilman Genutis stated that Ward Meeting for Wards 2 and 5 are on Monday, October 11, 2021. He stated that it is an opportunity to hear about all the that is going on, to voice their concerns and ask questions. He also stated to take a look at all of the wonderful programs made available by the Parks and Recreation Department. He suggest that they make an effort to restore soil fertility of the various grounds for the purpose of our natural capital and eliminating chemical inputs. He stated that our school children are being feed from parking lots and that we are all looking for a new normal. He stated that in history agriculture has had a dominate roll in the founding of Bedford. He stated that now we are in a long standing recession and that the City of Bedford for it's part has provided through grants and other government programs large amounts of food to residents. He stated that things are changing and we are heading in a good direction. He thanked everyone who cannot tolerate the very real prospect of living in a dying world.

Councilwoman Mizzak inquired about the regulations for a dumpster in a yard or a pod in their yard and City Manager Mallis replied that they can have one but that there is a thirty-day limit

and notify the Building Department. Councilwoman Mizsak inquired about the Dairy Queen on Boardway Ave. and City Manager Mallis replied that a gentleman purchased it to put something in there and it went to the Planning Commission a couple of years ago and it fell through and we have not received another use yet. Councilwoman Mizsak inquired if the resident at the corner of West Glendale and Turney Rd. has been notified to trim their shrubs and City Manager Mallis replied yes.

Councilman Asbury thanked City Manager Mallis and the Police Department for getting a couple of vehicles that have been parked in the Muni Lot out of there. He stated that this week is the last week for chipper service for the year. He also stated that the leaf service is going to start in mid October, when the leaves start falling get them down to the treelawn, please do not put them into the street. City Manager Mallis stated that the way it starts is that we bring out one crew when they start falling and as it picks up we will bring out multiple crews to get through town. Councilman Asbury stated that things are starting to wrap up with events on the square and that this past Wednesday was the last summer concert series. He thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for doing a good job in putting a summer concert series together. He stated that Bedford Downtown Alliance had their last First Friday on October 1st and it was "Fall, Fun, and Pouch Parade." He stated that on October 2nd was the "Childrens Fall Festival" and that it was a really nice event for the kids. He stated that the Bedford Historical Society Spirit Walk is coming up and it will be on Saturday, October 23rd and Sunday, October 24th and it is a guided tour of the cemetery where you will learn about some of the legendary residents of Bedford. He stated that on October 7th, 14th, and 21st residents can go down the Willard Pavilion located at the Ellenwood Center where they can recreate a painting with Melinda from So-So Artsy Paint Studios. He stated that it will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and if you would like more information on it visit www.bedfordoh.myrec.com. He stated that Fit Wise Cardio opened up in the downtown area.

Councilman Saunders stated that the red house that is located near the Convient Mart has had rubbish on their treelawn for three weeks, and that something needs to be done there. He stated that the house is tearing down the neighborhood in the condition that its in. He stated about the break-ins that residents are going to leave their cars outside don't leave anything of value visible. He stated that the a few houses have branches on their treelawns on Northfield Rd., south of the Dollar Store, and he wanted to make sure that they get picked up. He stated that it is bad news about the hospital and lets hope that it is only temporary, but once they get used to taking something out it's rare that something new goes in. He continued to stated that lets hope this is a temporary cause from the pandemic and that things can be get back to normal eventually. He stated that the signs around town were placed to close to the edge of the road in some cases and that we might want to look at it before they get knocked down. He stated that the state has mandated that the new class room styles and within the next few years the school system will have to make the decision as to what to do with the facilities that are currently in Bedford. He suggested that residents ask their school board candidates what their feelings are on it, because it is going to be that in reality we may not have much of a choice because the state is mandating some of it. He stated that we want some who understands how and where and what to do with the future of our school buildings themselves. He stated that with the water main project on Broadway Ave. that it will try to be done at night and that he doesn't see them being able to do

the trenching in an over night manner. He stated that it will take several days to do some of it and that someone has looked over those plans to make sure that it is a feasible thing to do.

Councilwoman Spinks thanked the Recreation Department for the Kids Fall Festival this weekend and that it is always one of her favorite things. She stated that this year the kids painted rocks. She stated that it wasn't just the Recreation Department but the girls from the Finance Department: Annie, Deb, Brittany, and Tessa, they add something new each year. She stated that is one reason why she loves living in Bedford is because of the things that the City does for the residents and the kids. She inquired about getting some trash cans around town and City Manager Mallis replied that we did purchase some that needed replaced downtown and we also added a few downtown. City Manager Mallis also stated that some of them that were pulled from some of the parks have to get refurbished and we are looking into it. He stated that a decision has been made specifically if they do where they would go. Councilwoman Spinks stated that the Bedford Clean Coalition starting up that residents are helping out. She stated that she is appreciative to the residents that are doing their part in helping with picking up the trash in the City. She stated that this month is "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month." Councilman Genutis stated that it is wonderful that Councilwoman Spinks is picking up trash around town and that as citizens we should have zero tolerance mentality about trash. He stated that we should all be doing it and that its no one elses job and it is the most unsightly things in the entire City.

Mayor Koci stated that parking on treelawns is getting out of hand again and some are their daily and that he wants to start clamping down on it.

ORDINANCE NO 9904-21: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MODIFY THE CONTRACT WITH ELLET SIGN COMPANY ("ELLET") FOR THE SIGNS AND WAYFINDING PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Genutis to suspend the rule requiring the reading of said resolution on three different days. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizsak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizsak and seconded by Saunders to place Ordinance No 9904-21 on third and final reading and passed.

City Manager Mallis stated that this is for an additional \$5,820.00 spent for the electrical work and internet service to the digital sign at the Automile Park on Broadway Ave. He stated that a majority of that program was paid for through grants and that this is the last piece to close out that project.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 9905-21: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MAZDA OF BEDFORD TO PURCHASE A 2021 MAZDA CX-5 TO BE USED BY COURT PERSONNEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Spinks and seconded

by Genutis to suspend the rule requiring the reading of said resolution on three different days. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizsak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizsak and seconded by Asbury to place Ordinance No. 9905-21 on third and final reading and passed.

City Manager Mallis stated that the Municipal Court employees were working with Mazda and originally they were looking at a lease and it was more financially prudent to purchase this vehicle. He stated that the last time the Courts purchased a vehicle was back in 2007, and this is to replace that vehicle. Mr. Montello added that it is used to serve supena's, lawsuits that is done on a daily basis, and that the other vehicle was getting old and had a lot of miles on it and needs to be replaced.

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

ORDINANCE NO 9906-21: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOARD) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only. Motion made by Mizsak and seconded by Asbury to suspend the rule requiring the reading of said resolution on three different days. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Mizsak, Asbury, and Saunders. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Genutis and seconded by Spinks to place Ordinance No 9906-21 on third and final reading and passed.

City Manager Mallis stated that this is a contract that for year we've worked with the Board of Health on many different avenues. He stated that they provide a service that is necessary for Bedford and all of Cuyahoga County. He continued to state that they have seen a lot of their work in the last 18 months in dealing with the pandemic. He stated that Director Terry Allen was briefing the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers regularly. He stated that they did a very good job with their communication and response. He stated that based on the information that was sent on Friday outlining their services as well as some of the response numbers regarding the pandemic that we will be experiencing a 10% increase. He stated that the contract is roughly \$78,000.00 for 2022 and \$86,000.00 for 2023. Mayor Koci stated that by state law we have to have a Health Department in the City and the state does allow the City to contract through the County Health, which we have been doing for years.

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

Mayor Koci said that concluded the business portion of the meeting and asked if anyone in the audience had any comments.

Derrick Harris, 174 Greencraft, Bedford OH stated that his neighbor to his left share a small piece of property and when people in the neighborhood have company and there is not parking past Tames they park on the upper part and because of that small piece of property they park there as well and it is hard for him and his neighbor to get in and out of their driveway. He continued to stated that he was asked by Councilwoman Spinks to contact the police, but it is basically not a fisable point because there isn't anything there stating they can't park there. He is asking for a "No Parking Sign" for that small area, because it is hard to get in and out of their driveways when the neighbors have company due to the parking situation on the street. Mayor Koci stated that Councilwoman Spinks is always talking about parking problems in those areas and that they will look into it and get together with the Police Chief and see about getting a sign there.

Lori Laffin, 318 Solon Rd., Bedford, OH stated that she has other reasons for being here but she wanted to express to Council how disappointed she was to hear that the contract that they approved this evening for the purchase of the vehicle has essential already been consimated and the Court already owns it. She stated that she would like to know if there is going to be something and that she understands the value of what they do, but that we've got the cart before the horse here and she would like to know what Council's plans is, but is there anything that Coucil's going to do to make sure that doesn't happen again with this purchase or anyother purchase. Mayor Koci stated that with the state of affairs the way they are and vehicles to get one you have to grab it when you can. He stated that Mazda normally gets 100 cars a month and that last month the only got 6 cars and the President of Mazda said that you might not get that many next month. He stated that they needed a vehicle and the Court did their due diligence and looked at many different vehicles on the Automile and felt this one was the one that met their needs so they put the offer on it. He continued to state that had Council turned it down this evening the car would have had to go back, it was one of those situations because of the way the state of affairs are in the world. City Manager Mallis stated that we never purchase a vehicle prior whether it is a Police or Service vehicle or anything like that always comes before City Council first. Mrs. Laffin stated that is kind of her point and that she understands that it would have had to go back, nobody shouldn't have been surprised that the vehicle was turning 14 years old and that is an easy thing to figure out. She stated that she understands the issue with getting vehicles, but what she doesn't want to see is a purchase made before it's approved, understood that it would have had to go back, but what's to prevent it from happening again. Mr. Gambosi stated that he would make sure that the Courts are aware of that. Mayor Koci stated that it is one of those situations that should it happen that way probably not, but in the sceem of things right now things are so different day-to-day with what's going on. He also stated that had Council turned it down it would have to go back. Mrs. Laffin stated that when things are done this way and it's approved it kind of feels like it's okay. Mayor Koci stated that this is a rare thing that doesn't happen.

Jeff Duber, 134 Harriman St., Bedford, OH stated that he had mention before about trees over hanging on the sidewalks. He inquired that if there are trees that are overhanging on the sidewalks from the residents side how are they take care of by the City and City Manager Mallis stated not the treelawn tree and it an overgrown tree, that between the arborist and the Building Department they will get together and a letter will go out to the resident to trim it. Mr. Duber inquired if there was a possibility that the City would have a crew go through the whole sidewalk

of the City and make a list of those areas where it needs to be done. City Manager Mallis inquired with the home owners trees that are overgrown and he stated that they could look at it. He stated that the City's biggest challenge is man power, but it is something that he will look at. He stated that the City doesn't have a four wheeler and the vehicle that we do have might be too wide, but that he will check it out. Mr. Duber stated that a couple of weeks ago there was a story in the paper where the City of Brooklyn started a program called "OOPS" that had to do with recycling, it was through a grant where they had someone go through and check the residents recycle bins. He stated that they found out that people aren't recycling properly. City Manager Mallis stated that he would have Mrs. Kuzma look into it or he will see where the City of Brooklyn got the grant from to do it. He also stated that recycling is a huge issue and it is everywhere as far as people not recycling properly. He stated that recycling is cost more and that he is seeing other city's shifting to recycle everyother week instead of weekly to try and limit the cost of the up coming contracts.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.


 Clerk of Council


 Mayor-President of Council

Date: October 18, 2021