

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Victor Fluharty, Frank Smith Jr., Jeff Asbury, and Donald Saunders. Absent: None. Also Present: Clerk of Council Tracy Simons. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Law Director John Montello, and 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 November 21, 2022, the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2022, or the Budget Hearing Meeting of November 28, 2022.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10,033-22:** BEING AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO DURING THE YEAR 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (**1st Rdg. 11-7-22, 2nd Rdg. 11-21-22**); Mrs. Howland said that this is on Third and Final Reading and they went through all of the Budget Hearing Meetings.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2593-22:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY (RITA) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX IN THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (**1st Rdg. 11-21-22**); City Manager Mallis said that Mrs. Howland had discussions with them last week and there are some software issues. He also said that the residents could still come and drop off their taxes and that the City would have a carrier take them to Brecksville. He also said that this is an extension of the Tax Department and that they would be going after delinquent taxes. A resident asked as to why the City can't hire two people and that many people are not happy with RITA. City Manager Mallis said the City's penalties are the same as RITA's. A resident asked why it says "As an Emergency?" and Mayor Koci said it is on all of our Ordinances and Resolutions. City Manager Mallis said that it is state law to have it on there. Mayor Koci also said that if anyone has questions, contact City Council. City Manager Mallis said that the City has the authority to intervene and that the City is not giving up authority. Mr. Montello said that RITA has a lot more resources to go after those who have not paid their taxes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2594-22:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; City Manager Mallis said this is for renewal and that we are one of the first communities to do the certification.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2595-22:** A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS (403) CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND FOR THE YEAR 2022, BROADWAY AVENUE ROADWAY AND WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO; Mrs. Howland said that this is in regards to obtaining a loan from OPWC purposes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10,039-22:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NICK’S TREE SERVICE DIVISION FOR REMOVAL OF LARGE OR HAZARDOUS TREES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; City Manager Mallis said that these quotes include stump removal and tree removal. He also said that Nick’s Tree Service Division was the lowest bidder.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

Mayor Koci began the discussion of Council Rules; Mayor Koci said that some of the rules date back to 1932 and that this is something that we need to revisit and take a look at after the first of the year. Councilwoman Spinks said that some communities have at the bottom of their agendas “Please Keep Comments Regarding Items On The Agenda.” Mayor Koci said that if anyone has a complaint, contact me, City Manager, or the Council Clerk. Councilwoman Spinks said that we could look into it out of respect to the other residents who have questions about what is on the agenda and out of respect to the Council Clerk.

Discussion of Council Rules was concluded.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Walter Genutis to go into an Executive Session to discuss Economic Development: Bedford Commons and Personnel: Tax Department.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Spinks
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Walter Genutis
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [7 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Saunders
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

Adjourned out of Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Fluharty and seconded by Jeff Asbury to adjourn out of Executive Session.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Victor Fluharty
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Asbury
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [7 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Smith, Asbury, Saunders
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

Adjourned the Work Session Meeting at 8:01 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor-President of Council

Date: December 19, 2022



REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL  
STATE OF OHIO  
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA  
165 CENTER ROAD BEDFORD, OH 44146

DATE: DECEMBER 05, 2022  
TIME: 8:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of November 21, 2022

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by and seconded by to approve.
<b>MOVER:</b>	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [7 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

- b. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2022

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to approve.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Spinks
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Victor Fluharty
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [7 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

- c. Approval of Minutes of the Budget Hearing Meeting of November 28, 2022

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by and seconded by to approve.
<b>MOVER:</b>	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [5 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Saunders, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	



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**5. PRESENTATION**

- a. Representative from the Bedford City Schools

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **ORDINANCE NO. 10,033-22:** BEING AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO DURING THE YEAR **2023** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY  
Was read by title only.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to approve.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Spinks
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Victor Fluharty
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Pass [7 TO 0]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

Mrs. Howland said this is the third and final reading for the Appropriations for the year 2023 we've already gone through all of our Budget Meetings and this is what we have before us for approval this evening

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Saunders and seconded by Jeff Asbury to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Donald Saunders
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Asbury
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Pass [7 TO 0]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

- b. **RESOLUTION NO. 2593-22:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY



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**BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL**  
**STATE OF OHIO**  
**COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA**  
**165 CENTER ROAD BEDFORD, OH 44146**

**DATE: DECEMBER 05, 2022**  
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MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY (RITA) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX IN THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY  
Was read by title only.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Fluharty and seconded by Walter Genutis to approve.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Victor Fluharty
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Walter Genutis
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Fail [6 TO 1]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	Genutis
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

Mayor Koci said that we put that on three readings. He said that he knows there has been some confusion about the word emergency; declaring an emergency is a process we put on almost all of our ordinances. He said that in case of a true emergency, it is when something has to be paid or if there's a deadline, we can go ahead and do that but as we have always done. He said that in the past, for as long as I've been involved here, it is something to do with money, fees, or a big deal to the public. He also said that they always do the three readings, and to clarify we have done two readings, and if we need a third reading, it will be next Monday. He said that it will not be a Regular Meeting and it will start at 6:00 p.m. here in Council Chambers to do the third reading, and of course, at that time, we will take the vote on whether or not it happens. He said that he wants to give advanced notice if we have to move it up because if it gets passed, we have some deadlines with RITA so that we can do that, and if it gets shot down then we don't have to worry about anything, so he just wants to put that out if we need that meeting it will be next Monday.

## **7. REPORTS**

- a. City Manager



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STATE OF OHIO**

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**TIME: 8:00 PM**

City Manager Mallis thanked everyone for coming out to the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. He also thanked the Service Department; they did an outstanding job. He also thanked Mr. Ward and his family for providing all of the turkeys and gifts to all the families and the children; very much appreciated. He said a quick update on the Cresswell Gas Line Project; Dominion did notify us that they were working with their contractor, and they're they are planning to start this week. He said that if that changes, he will provide an update to City Council, but they did inform us that their goal is to start that project this week. He said that we did make progress with our discussions with ODOT and a couple of meetings ago, he talked about the Broadway Resurfacing Project and the initial estimates for that project when we were notified at the beginning of 2022 was just under three million dollars a couple of months ago it spiked up to 5.9 million dollars with ODOT telling the City that we're going to have to absorb the difference which is not an option. He also said that we went back and had some constructive discussions with them, and obviously, we modified the plans a little bit, but we're at a spot where ODOT is accepting the modifications, and he thinks they have worked through the budget items, and there's a very good possibility that what the City has accomplished will ensure that the project happens in 2023. He also said that they will be looking to start in the spring, obviously; when the weather breaks, there'll be a pre-con meeting after the first of the year when we get obviously details on that as far as where they're planning to start and whatnot obviously traffic will have to be maintained, but it is a necessary improvement and that it will be great to have that roadway completed and again, it's from Corp Limit to Corp Limit. He said that the staff is working to complete the two grants, and he believes there was legislation at the last meeting with the County Grant CDBG as well as CDSG, and those are going towards improvements on the commons as well as upgrades to the train depot restrooms, and audio.

- b. Law Director  
Mr. Montello had no report this evening.
- c. Finance Director  
Mrs. Howland had no report this evening.
- d. Council Reports



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Councilman Asbury thanked everybody that made the event on the Square, the tree lighting such a success, and he thanked Mr. Warden and his foundation. He also thanked everybody that contributed either wine or donations to the Bedford Downtown Alliance's Wine Fundraiser to benefit the shop of the cop program. He said that they raised a little over \$700, so that will help with either four or five additional kids to make the trip this Saturday to Shop-With-A-Cop. He reminded everyone that the Bedford Downtown Alliance's Mitten Fence will be up through the end of February and that the Mitten Fence is on the rod iron fence between Gianino's and Spirit Apotheosis. He said that the idea is if you have new or gently used clean scarves, gloves, or hats, you can bring them down and clip them to the rope that's down there. He said if somebody does need it, they can take what they need, so we've done a good job so far with contributions. He said that everybody that has contributed up to this point keeps it going throughout the Holiday Season. He said that we know that the snow is going to be coming sooner than later and that we are approaching the second week in December, and we have been lucky so far. He also reminded everyone that when it does snow, and the snow accumulation exceeds two inches, a parking ban goes into effect throughout the City. He said that means there's no parking on City streets when the snow exceeds two inches and that residents are responsible for the snow on their sidewalks. He also said if you do have a snow removal company, let them know that the snow is supposed to stay on your property; please don't have them spread it to the neighbor's property.

Councilman Saunders thanked everybody involved with the square lighting; it looked beautiful; we get compliments from other communities that we are still one of the best around, so let's keep it that way hopefully, next year, we can do the buildings and stuff downtown. He said that we got compliments that it's nice to see the lights on the City Hall and the Court too. He said to be careful with the snow removal and to help your neighbor if they can't do it. He said that he will be abstaining from the vote on the item on the trees because he has a zoning issue where he works in Northfield Center Township. He said that it is with the company, so rather than create a conflict there, I will abstain from that vote.

Councilwoman Spinks said to City Manager Mallis Mike that she received several calls last week about the green markers by the catch basins. She said that she noticed them today when she was out doing the Ward check and that she did speak with Ms.





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Parina, and she was going to have you explain that it was our guys doing it with the GIS System and they're going out throughout the City not just in Ward One and that they will be televising the sewage system. and asked City Manager Mallis to explain more about it. City Manager Mallis said that we are marking certain areas, and we will be televising those certain areas, either the catch basins or areas that we know that we have to make repairs to. He said that the GIS system that we started a few years our guys are actually out in the field with the years uh our guys are actually out in the field with the tablets every time we replace a hydrant or make repairs to certain areas, or if we know of a blockage in an area, or of recent waterline that were replaced and repaired they are incorporated into the GIS System. He said that as they continue to build out the system, they will know where they replaced valves on various water lines, water lines that were replaced, and the years that they were replaced so that they know the age of them and it gets very detailed on that internal GIS. He also said that there is an external one that it's built-in, and they have worked with the County on this, and it is on our website. Councilwoman Spinks asked if there were any updates on the gas line on Cresswell and that she did see them out there, and City Manager Mallis said that Dominion subcontracted it out and that they sent an email out on Friday that they that the plan was to be out on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Spinks said that she did speak with the Building Department about the curb at 132 Greencroft. She said that Rob told her that they had to dig deep down and that it will be taken care of. She also said that she received several complaints this weekend from residents on Metal Gate about the big trucks parking behind the BMV and the old Walmart all night long, letting their trucks idle. She said that seems to be a pretty big problem with the trucks and that she knows that this is private property. She said that the residents did call the police and that the trucks were idling all night long. City Manager Mallis said that they did send a notice out to the owner of the target parcel where this was the last property owner, and that they have made an effort. He also said that they received a notice from the City about two and a half weeks ago. He said that the county records showed that the parcel has since been transferred, so they did share the contact information of the new owner, and they were contacted today regarding the truck parking. He said that we can't cite on private property and that we can issue citations to the property owners. Councilwoman Spinks said that they a wonderful time at the Christmas Tree Lighting and that the Bedford Historical Society's director was really busy giving tours at night to people who had never been in the museum and came into our store and was hopping we still had tickets for sale



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for our Christmas fundraiser so see me or Betsy afterward. She said that the Kris Kringle March will be this Saturday at this the Historical Society's museums store from 11 to 4 and that she believes that six to seven vendors and local artists will be set up. She also just wanted to reach out and thank the residents of Ward 1 for the cards and the letters, and for stopping by my house, and for the phone calls about an incident that happened at the last council meeting. She said that it was very uncalled for and that it is not an easy job sitting up here. She said that we are all elected officials and we all pay taxes and everything affects us as well. She said that we are representatives of the people so when something happens it's not always easy and so coming and attacking us doesn't make our decision any easier. She said that we don't take a likely to threats. She said that she was recently accused of being a bully, which, if it weren't so sad, would be hysterical because everybody that knows me personally knows of me living in a very abusive childhood and adulthood, and that she is a survivor. She said that if you let bullies win then you let them control you, and that she has never been a bully, and that being a bully is just ridiculous. She said that they should be our safe place to come to work and she appreciates all her residents for voting her in for a third term. She said that she doesn't think there's one single person out there that's afraid of Councilwoman Sandy Speaks, and she will continue to talk about the things that she does for my City to encourage other people to get out and do something. She said that she wished the people that spent all their time bashing her or anybody else on Council to take that same energy and put it into doing something good for somebody else, like delivering for Meals-on-Wheels, volunteering at the Historical Society, helping a kid out or helping a neighbor out use your energy somewhere good.

Councilman Genutis said that sometimes the residents don't put themselves in our shoes and how we look at things and know that due to the rising costs, the question comes up, and you could ask yourself this if you were in our shoes would you vote to curtail services or raise taxes. He said that those seem like the choices or find a way to deliver those services differently, so that's a little bit of what we're dealing with, and that this whole thing with RITA. He said that he's been inclined to support the move to RITA for these reasons that no employee will lose their job and that he voted against outsourcing for this reason in the past, and philosophically against privatization, and giving away government assets to corporate interests. He said that it's true that the City is looking to save a substantial amount of money at a time when



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we just lost a bunch of money with the hospital closing. He said that half of the cities in the state of Ohio use RITA so how could it be so bad if half the cities use it? He said if it was really bad for them, he wouldn't suppose it and that would be it would be so popular. He said that the city can always decide not to continue it and that's one of the things that we've been told, but truth be known, it would be really difficult to have RITA for a while and then all of a sudden go back to the Tax Department. He said that it's unrealistic to think that would ever happen, but it is a safeguard. He said that it's his understanding the entire Tax Department will not be dismantled and that Bedford will still have access to all the information in the system. He said that certain processing will be done by RITA, including invoices at 30, 60, and 90 days and whatnot. He said that another consideration is the reality that one of Bedford's largest financial liabilities going forward and likely will be supplanted by health care costs and that we already had to add \$500,000.00 into the next year's budget for health care, so those are all things that come into play in these types of decisions. He said that so again, if you were in our shoes, given the rising costs, would you vote to control or curtail services, or raise taxes, or find a way to deliver them differently, that's what has come to, and that's what the move to RITA has really turned into for us. He said but here's what the residents are saying: many have had bad experiences with RITA, and he doesn't know what the specifics of all, and that if someone had bad experiences with RITA that kind of sticks with them. He said a number of people have mentioned that there is an objection to losing local control and he thinks that's a valid point; some people think that really is expensive, and Bedford is going to place costs to the residents. He said that he is told that's not the case; there will be no additional cost to the residents, but people feel that they will not have the same personal contact and service they once had, and he thinks that is the most significant feature we've been told RITA will not supply. He said it is personnel to Bedford to help seniors fill out their taxes; for instance, this can only happen in Brecksville, so he thinks the City of Bedford needs to assure its residents they're not going to lose the personal services they have come to expect with the remaining staff. He said that one solution could be to partner with an organization like the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging for the purpose of free tax preparation, which they provide for in a time window preceding tax time here at City Hall, or at Ellenwood, and he was told AARP wants to do that for us at the time. He said that he voted against it on Second Reading here, so if Bedford could allow these concerns of the residents, we'd go far to accept this move, the challenge being to overcome people's sense that they are losing



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services, so all that said something that they aren't happy, that the most prevalent observation he's encountered here in Bedford besides the normal talk of speeders, litterbugs, and bottles is people's sense of a lack of community, especially from long-time residents who once knew all the neighbors and could clearly identify whoever walked down the street. He said that we often miss that feeling, but we're no longer a pedestrian society; we stay indoors more we don't know our neighbors like before. He asked so how we restore community, and that it takes some civic engagement for those so inclined and many of the local organizations work towards that end. He said that the first step in restoring community starts with connectedness, and that is getting to know one another, and there are very limited opportunities. He said that they used to say if you wanted to know what's going on, you have to come to Council Meetings, but we never really expect that many people, and you see how many normally attend. He said that this is an average attendance, and there are probably 10 people here. He said that we offer up a Hearing of the Citizens, which is not a legal requirement. He said that incidentally, he was told that it's a little daunting for people to have to step up to the podium, look at Council, say their piece, and sometimes only get a reply of thank you for your comment but know that we concern ourselves with all your comments, and he thinks many of you recognize our City Managers Open Door style of listening. He said that oftentimes the City Manager will ask for people's phone numbers to get back to them after they make comments. He said that negative comments are to be expected and that it comes with the territory, and we have to have thick skins in these positions. He said that complaining about the government is a national pastime that we all engage in from time to time personally; he wants to hear everyone's comments, good, bad, or indifferent. He said, but if your comment is merely a personal attack, he can't see how that benefits the process; how are we as a body here expected to act when a comment is only about someone's dislike of another person? He said that we should meet these messages, which indeed may be well-founded and heartfelt, of course, with a measure of humility, and we should have the good sense to apologize if we've insulted anyone with our words or actions. He said that the last couple of years have been very difficult for each and every one of us and that we subjected a whole generation of people, especially our children, to fear the world they live in, and to fear human contact as a threat to our very survival. He said that these are extraordinary times, and extraordinary times require extraordinary people. He said that if there has ever been a time to pull together, we have to reconcile our differences and pull for each other. He said that all we have is each other; that's



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what this city is. He said thanks to former council person Heather Rhodes and thanks to the work of Jim Wagner, they got these Council Meetings up on YouTube. He said that now he's told there are ordinarily some 100 views of the Council Meeting, that's 10 times the regular participation, that's extraordinary. He said that another community forum is on social media, and one such Facebook group alone has well over 2,000 members. He said that's 2,000 voices. He said that City Officials from Fire, Police, Service, and Tax Departments have been kind enough to engage with the public to 12 rumors to set the record straight regarding the goings on and with City policies. He said to me we seem to be drawing near and more in touch with one another because people are authoring services, sharing experiences, and looking out for one another in our neighborhoods. He said that he doesn't think it's helpful to surround ourselves only with people who agree with us, and some of us choose to create inner circles and exclude all the rest. He said that we are meant to serve all the residents, and everybody has their own opinion of what is best for Bedford. He said that no one's opinion is more valid than anyone else's, and building walls and factions are not for the sake of the community. He said that for me, the question becomes, is it better to be right or is it better to be loving? He said that he doesn't know, but what has been attracted to some of these meetings in Council-at-Large is neither right nor loving, but disheartened feelings between some of us, and without going into details, have been unfortunate for the whole. He said that he hopes that there can be some reconciliation finally in recognition of the goodness of the things that you hear about are the good things in Bedford that are in the works. He said that trying to make it happen is a momentous time in our human history, and we need to take more personal responsibility. He said that he thinks pulling for one another, to have a certain measure of acceptance, and tolerance for each other.

Councilman Fluharty thanked City Manager Mallis for the turkeys that I handed out a few weeks ago for Thanksgiving, they were really appreciative in the neighborhood.

Councilman Smith hopes everyone had a good Thanksgiving and hopes that everyone has a greater and more festive Christmas. He said that Christmas is a time to forgive and that he is part of an organization Free Intercepted Ancient York Right Masons Prince Hall Origin National Compact, and we usually try to do things not just in Cleveland, but that he is trying to bring things here in Bedford. He said that they will be doing a giveaway of coats, socks, gloves, and PPE products this coming Saturday.



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He said that he would like to invite the Bedford Community. He said that they are also having a Community Holiday Extravaganza that is in partnership with Insurance Citizens Envision Cleveland. He said that is also having an event giving away coaching, crafts, fun, baked goods, and music. He said that it is going to be from 10 to 2 at 13512 Kinsman Road. He said that all that they ask is if anyone comes that they know the size; all we need to know is your size. He said that all of the stuff is new and that next year, for sure our organization will be doing something in Bedford. He said that being newly elected he didn't have enough time to really iron out all the things to do in Bedford but that he promises that next year he will be doing something for the children. He said that he is a big child advocate and that he's not here just for the resident but for our children, and that you will see me doing lots of things for the children in the neighborhood.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **RESOLUTION NO. 2594-22: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**  
Was read by title only.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to suspend the rules requiring the reading of said ordinance/resolution on three different days.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Spinks
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Victor Fluharty
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [7 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

City Manager Mallis said that this is part of the County's Certified Program, and they rolled this out some time ago. He said that we were one of the first communities to receive the certification, maybe close to eight or nine years ago. He said that they are now asking communities to go through the process and get re-certified, which is what



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this is. He said that before we can fully submit the information, this ordinance is adopting the plan for Natural Hazard Mitigation, which are: human-made hazards, any threat to life, or safety. He also said that before we submit the application Council has to pass the ordinance in support and then we will resubmit it. He said that then we will have County Representatives come out and provide us with a Certified Plan.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Smith and seconded by Jeff Asbury to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Smith
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Asbury
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Pass [6 TO 0]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Saunders

- b. **RESOLUTION NO. 2595-22:** A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS (403) CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND FOR THE YEAR 2022, BROADWAY AVENUE ROADWAY AND WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO  
Was read by title only.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Saunders and seconded by Jeff Asbury to suspend the rules requiring the reading of said ordinance/resolution on three different days.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Donald Saunders
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Asbury
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>[7 TO 0]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	



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Mrs. Howland said that this is a loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission, and in order to receive the funds and reimbursement they are requiring this resolution in order to do so. She said that it is to have a better proof for it, and for the funding, we just need to ask them for their reimbursement.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Walter Genutis to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Spinks
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Walter Genutis
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Pass [7 TO 0]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

- c. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NICK'S TREE SERVICE DIVISION FOR REMOVAL OF LARGE OR HAZARDOUS TREES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY  
Was read by title only.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Asbury and seconded by Frank Smith to suspend the rules requiring the reading of said ordinance/resolution on three different days.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jeff Asbury
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Frank Smith
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Pass [7 TO 0]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

City Manager Mallis said that throughout the year, as well as toward the end of the year, we worked to identify large trees, and we include these in one project. He said that this is where we go out and obtain quotes, and this year we have a number of trees





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located along Archer and McKinley. He said that we received two quotes; the first was from Nick's Tree Service, which was \$11,225.00, and the second quote was from Davey Tree, which was almost \$13,000.00. He said that it is the Administration's recommendation to go with Nick's. He also said that as the law director stated, not only is it for the removal of trees, but they are also going to grind the stumps and clear away the debris. He said that it's in areas where some of these trees are simply too large for our crews to remove. He also said that some of the trees are in challenging areas and that some are near high power lines, and we're just more comfortable servicing this out.

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Fluharty and seconded by Sandy Spinks to place said ordinance/resolution on third and final reading.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Victor Fluharty
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sandy Spinks
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [7 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

**9. HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Ralph King, 107 Woodrow, Bedford, OH, said that he will be emailing a records request for all of the applicants and resumes of those applicants who applied for the positions in the Tax Department. He also mentioned that the Hearing of Citizens portion of the meeting is at the end of the meeting after Council has voted on the resolutions or ordinances on the agenda. He said that once it is turned over to RITA, the tax services will never return to the City. He said that it was not posted on the website or social media as what the City was doing in regards to RITA and that the residents weren't able to comment about it until the second meeting (Second Reading). He said that the resolution it states that the City is turning everything over to RITA and that nowhere in the resolution does it state that it is going to be done on a yearly basis. He said that before passing the resolution, have something in writing from RITA stating the services that they will be providing and have it included in a new resolution. He said again that the residents did not know what was going on because it was not stated on the City's website or on social media.



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Laurie Laffin, Bedford, OH, said that she was very disappointed in the lack of communication from City leaders to the residents regarding what was going to happen. She said that she thinks part of the concern of the residents is the ones who you're hearing from that this was said to be put through as an emergency measure, and she appreciates the fact that it's going on three readings. She said that she appreciates the opportunity to contact my councilman, and I did, and I appreciate the time that he took. She said that we didn't have a meaning of the minds per se when we had that conversation; she does think that there has been a lack of communication from those in a position of leadership. She said that we were asked a couple of times to put ourselves in your shoes and if the Council could put themselves in the resident's shoes because they are residents, but they had the inside track on what was going on, and we didn't we don't know. She said that perhaps Council does know what the savings may be and that they've seen the cost-benefit analysis and that she hasn't. She stated that she has concerns about whether it will benefit the City and that this is maybe not be something that she is going to pay out of pocket for. She said that perhaps this is something where we're not going to see the revenues generated that we have seen in the past; how that is calculated, she doesn't know. She said that if Council knows that's awesome, you're in different shoes than she is, and she thinks that the residents deserve to know, and in doing so, why wasn't it put on the ballot? She asked why didn't Council let the people speak. She also said that things should be put in writing that what the resolution states isn't very clear and that the word collection isn't clear. She said that collection is when you collect the funds from those who pay their taxes. She said that there is a difference there, and it should be spelled out. She said that she would like to see in writing what the City will have control of. She said that she would like to see the cost analysis and that she hopes the City would think about this before moving forward.

Nick Pearson, 22 Cresswell, Bedford, OH, that would just like to know about the gas lines from the street to the individual homes have been identified. City Manager Mallis said sorry that the main line is going to be replaced, and then they'll be working on individual connections. Mr. Pearson said the dead house is a mess, but the lady who was living there is still dropping her son off to go to Bedford School, and he was hoping that someone from the School Board would be here tonight so that he could ask about that.

Robert Diedrich, Bedford, OH, said that when he looks at this, he looks upon that as a cost-benefit on here analysis, and that's what the cost kind of analysis to look at; the only basic thing is we're looking at savings on our part. He asked City Manager Mills what is the expected savings for the first year if we own that if we go to RITA and we do not fill in staff. City



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Manager Mallis said he would have to calculate for both staff members, and the benefits for those individuals if they have families. He said that we don't know who we are hiring or are the benefits for an individual. He said that they are union positions and that the cost of benefits varies if they are for an individual or if it is for a family. He also said that we will be obtaining some staff for delinquent collection of taxes. He said that when he spoke with other communities that have gone with RITA that they have noticed an increase in filers, but that it is hard to give a number of that. Mr. Diedrich said that if the City brings in new business will, that number grow and that we look at an economic analysis as to what is here and what is the City's goal for the next 10 to 15 years. He also said that this portion of the meeting is for the residents to express their concerns, and if people have an issue with something other than what is on the agenda, they have a right to speak about it here. He said that if he has a concern and it isn't on the agenda that, it would be considered censoring on the part of the City and Council and that he chooses to fight for personal expression.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOTION:</b>	Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Victor Fluharty to adjourn the meeting.
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Spinks
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Victor Fluharty
<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [7 TO 0]
<b>YEAS:</b>	Koci, Spinks, Genutis, Fluharty, Saunders, Asbury, Smith
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 P.M.

Clerk of Council

Vice Mayor-President of Council

Date: January 17, 2023