

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Marilyn Zolata, Paula Mizersak and Donald Saunders. Absent: Greg Pozar. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Recreation Director Randy Lewis and Assistant Recreation Director Jeff Fiala.

Recreation Department

Mr. Mallis noted this was the smallest department; however, it produced several various programs. The new van was a great addition as well as the addition of the full time Senior/Recreation Coordinator who assisted with various programs. The focus was to create and maintain programs of interest to keep the various age groups interested. The Recreation Department handled programs for small children to seniors. Council was given a handout to review that listed 2015 budget information for: Capital Improvements, Staffing, the facility, Park Improvements, Seniors, Programs, Marketing and the Pool (see attached). In 2016, the Doggie Park, the facility's west end steps and seal coating the parking lot were going to be a focus. It was determined there needed to be a public meeting prior to Council considering the new Doggie Park for resident input, interest and the cost. Discussion was held regarding the participation of surrounding communities regarding various programs. Mr. Genutis pointed out the community kitchen was a benefit to Bedford and he was pleased with the programs. Council felt the Recreation Department did a great job. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Fiala thanked Council for the support.

City Manager

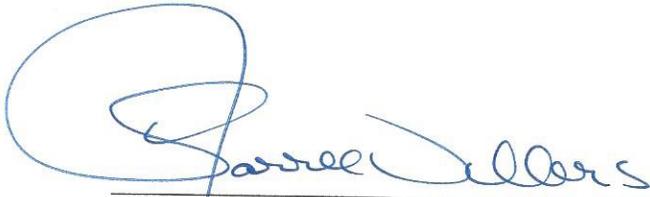
Mr. Mallis referred to the memo he previously gave Council that listed the "bench marks" of 2015. He felt "change" was good and shouldn't be considered a negative approach of doing business, he made it a point not to micromanage the departments, he felt the City of Bedford had qualified professional employees and it was important to empower employees. He spoke of the various grant opportunities the City had acquired and intended to submit for in the future. He felt he hadn't met all his goals but he planned to move forward in the right direction. There was discussion regarding \$127,000 in the "Office" line item which included the separation pay for the Administrative Assistant position. The loss of Ben Venue was still a major problem for the City; however, the need to continue to attract various smaller business was a necessity in order for Bedford to be able to continue to maintain its quality. Council was appreciative of Mr. Mallis' efforts.

Finance Department

Mr. Gambosi explained the loss of Ben Venue was not easy to replace and was a very hard hit to the City. Every avenue to save money or bring in money was extremely important. The savings to the City for the new resident rubbish assessment, the revision to the employee insurance, the necessity for new businesses and the problem with limited development were items that assisted in attempting to make up what the City lost when Ben Venue closed. There were projects slated that weren't going to bring in a lot of money such as the development of Bedford Falls; however, it was a positive spin for Bedford. He spoke of all the various banking fees the City was billed and the ongoing issues/cuts from the State. It was determined technology was an ongoing part and expense of doing business. The landlords needed to be pressured so the correct information was given to the Tax Department/City in a timely manner so the renters could be found. He stressed grants were a great way to address projects and save money. His focus was to replenish the Capital Improvements line item instead of putting the money into the General Fund so projects could be addressed. Discussion was held regarding the cell tower and the options that were

available to the City. Civil Services duties and testing was discussed for the candidates for the Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Gambosi said real estate values dropped in Bedford which presented struggles; however, the residents should focus on getting the best out of their properties. He spoke about the costs for health insurance and the costs to the employees. Mr. Mallis thanked Mr. Gambosi for all his help and knowledge as they worked closely.

The Work Session adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor – President of Council