

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015**

6:30 P.M. PROMPT

- **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA**
- **DISCUSSION OF PARKING ON CITY STREETS** – (COB §351/§1957)
- **DISCUSSION OF MENTORING NETWORK**
- **DISCUSSION OF CITY SERVICES** – (Chipper/Sewer)
- **DISCUSSION OF WATER/SEWER RATES** – Zolata
- **DISCUSSION OF WARD MEETINGS**
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – (Personnel)

Bedford, Ohio

March 16, 2015

Bedford City Council met in a Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Paula Mizsak, Marilyn Zolata, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Greg Pozar, Don Saunders. Absent: None. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Law Director John Montello, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Also Present: Deacon LeVelle Woodruff.

Mayor Koci began discussion of the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Council had no changes to the minutes of the Work Session of March 2, 2015 and the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2015.

Discussion of the Regular Meeting agenda was concluded.

DISCUSSION OF PARKING ON CITY STREETS – (COB §351/§1957)

Mr. Saunders suggested this topic be discussed to see if there were any changes that could be done to the Codified. There were Chapters that addressed parking throughout the City especially during snowfall but it wasn't being enforced. The City had been experiencing a few violators that seemed to continually park on their street during snowfall making it unsafe and almost impassable for snow plows and/or emergency vehicles; this was a major safety concern. A thought was to enforce "No Parking" starting in November to April to cover the winter season but this wasn't going to solve the problem or be the total solution. It was determined there was no easy fix to the problem. There was discussion to possibly not allow parking 24/7/365 or just have the Police Department become more aggressive and target certain areas. Everyone understood the Officers were busy handling more important things but something needed to be done. Another thought was to increase the cost every time a ticket was written. It was mentioned that the City of Bedford Heights had no parking 24/7/365; however, Bedford Heights had adequate drives for their residents. Bedford had several homes that had short drives and narrow streets. A suggestion was to have all the narrow and/or dead end streets marked for no parking. It was determined residents/visitors were either not aware of the laws or chose not to follow them. It was determined the City couldn't legislate common sense but something needed to be done. Discussion was held to possibly use: Axillary Officers instead fulltime Officers, or after being ticketed twice the violator would be towed, and/or to increase the cost of each offense. Current living situations were different as a few generations could be living under one roof. It was pointed out, as an example, increasing the cost of a parking ticket wouldn't make a difference; look at those who paid the additional \$100 water shut off fee every month. One would think they would just pay their bill on time to avoid the additional \$100 burden but that wasn't the case with some customers as they repeat this behavior every month. There was no easy fix to this problem so it would be discussed again on April 6, 2015.

DISCUSSION OF MENTORING NETWORK

Mr. Mallis explained the cost of a three (3) year contract was \$15,000 per year for this service which he stressed was not budgeted. It was determined the past monies spent had never been reported. Mr. Gambosi mentioned \$30,000 had been spent by the City and he didn't know what it was spent on. It was determined the reporting of such monies was very important. With no decision being made this topic would be discussed again on April 6, 2015.

DISCUSSION OF CITY SERVICES – (Chipper/Sewer)

Mr. Mallis explained this schedule of the chipper and sewer services was recently put on the utility bill insert to inform the residents. With the City's Service Department running lean since 2009 the City was going to cut back the availability of some of the services. Certain services would be available certain times of the month/year so other projects could be addressed. Chipper service would be available the first week of every month and the Sewer service would be available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. All homeowners including landlords that had sewer issues over the weekend would have to call a plumber; the

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of March 2, 2015
 - b. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2015
5. PRESENTATIONS
6. OLD BUSINESS (None)
7. REPORTS
 - a. City Manager
 - b. Law Director
 - c. Finance Director
 - d. Council Reports
8. NEW BUSINESS (None)
9. HEARING OF CITIZENS
10. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES BEFORE COUNCIL MEETING
(Council Minutes and Agendas posted at www.bedfordoh.gov)

Bedford, Ohio

March 16, 2015

Bedford City Council met in Regular Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, March 16, 2015. 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: Spinks, Koci, Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata. Absent: None.

Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Zolata to approve the minutes of the Work Session of March 2, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Spinks, Koci, Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizensak and seconded by Saunders to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Spinks, Koci, Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Koci announced there was no Old Business or New Business before Council this evening.

City Manager Michael Mallis announced the new Dispatch Center would open March 19, 2015; he congratulated/appreciated all those who worked on this project. He urged everyone to attend the upcoming Ward meetings on March 23rd, 30th and April 13th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Law Director John Montello thanked Mr. Mallis, Mayor Koci and Mr. Gambosi on the behalf of Maple Heights for the efforts in negotiating the FCC agreement.

Finance Director Frank Gambosi was selling tickets to the April 26, 2015 Pancake breakfast. He announced the Tax Department would be open two Saturdays prior to April 15th.

Councilwoman Spinks pointed out all the animal defecation mainly on the sidewalk on Center Road and wondered how this could be addressed/cleaned up. She suggested the Juvenile Diversion Program people be assigned to pick up the animal defecation. She commented on all the grime on the sidewalks and tree lawns; she felt the City of Bedford was filthy at the current moment. Mr. Mallis replied this was the normal winter debris/grime expected after every winter season and it definitely was not specific to Bedford. He was currently in discussions with different groups hoping they would assist in cleaning up the streets and sidewalks. He had also recently spoke to certain people to clean up their areas. Mrs. Spinks and the LOHV seniors enjoyed the previous FriDates concert.

Councilwoman Mizensak asked what the situation was regarding Eats on Broadway restaurant; it appeared to be closed. She asked if the City assisted or had a service to remove the standing water in resident's yards during the snow melting process or did they need to wait until it dried up on its own. Mrs. Zolata commented the residents needed to lay drain tile to relieve their yards of standing water. Mrs. Mizensak asked Mr. Mallis for the list of names of those who were going to be cleaning up the resident's yards. She had concerns with the upcoming grass issues of those who don't cut their grass on a timely manner. Mr. Mallis explained the grass cutting notifications had already been mailed to those properties that had zero water usage because that was a flag that the property was vacant or bank owned. Mrs. Mizensak also urged the residents to clean up after their pets. The Ward 4 meeting was Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Genutis announced the Ward 2 meeting would be Monday, March 23, 2015. He said the spring hard rains would take care of a lot of the grime. Mrs. Spinks hoped the animal defecation would be taken care of by the rains. Mr. Genutis thought the Service Department did a good job addressing the snow removal.

Councilman Pozar explained the discussion regarding the no parking on the city streets was still in the discussion phase. He said Mr. Saunders would be the author of the legislation hopefully with a proper solution. He informed Mrs. Mizensak the Eats on Broadway situation ended in a frustrated sale so the building would remain vacant for another tenant. He explained the previously discussed Ellenwood

waterline would be approximately \$425,000 and probably wasn't going to happen from the budgetary standpoint. This was the sign of the times in terms of the water system, water rates, sewer rates and the band aids that were being put on some of these problems. He said at the Ward meetings the residents were going to be getting a preview of what the City was facing in terms of the finances and budgetary considerations moving forward. He anticipated Mr. Mallis and Mayor Koci would deliver a concise and honest evaluation of what the City faced. He thought after the residents had an understanding of the issues and a clear appreciation of the costs they would be on the same page and be forewarned. He asked for an update regarding the group home at 90 Woodrow. Mr. Mallis explained the City recently spoke to the property owner (Marilyn Wise) regarding the concerns that were presented to the City and all of them turned out to be erroneous. There were currently four (4) individuals living in the home under the guidelines set forth and agreed on by both parties and the home was being monitored 24/7 by a house monitor.

Councilman Saunders explained he recently attended at the NLC conference the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for future Federal Government projects regarding bridge/road projects and above and underground infrastructure. The underground infrastructure for water and sewer was heavily discussed. These projects were done in the 1930's with a 70 year life expediency; however, a bipartisan support was currently being discussed. This was a much larger picture than most realized regarding above and underground infrastructure. He said the parking problems throughout the City were being discussed; he stressed those who were in violation were creating major safety issues for those in their area. He pointed out the children continued to walk in the streets even though the snow had melted and the sidewalks were clear.

Councilwoman Zolata praised the work of the Service Department regarding water main breaks and snow plowing while being short staffed. She was disgusted with the litter and animal defecation all over the sidewalks. She appreciated the efforts certain groups did in assisting in cleaning up the City; however, she felt if the residents focused on their own properties it would make a huge difference. She was appalled with the garbage at the Circle K and the Day Care on Broadway Avenue. She felt in today's society the mind set was to throw it out the window and someone else would pick it up. She felt the litter ordinance needed to be enforced and it needed to be stricter. She introduced Michelle Paris who was running for the Municipal Judge position in the next election. She announced there was a lady who helped people with their income tax preparation. She said the Police Department was also appreciated for their efforts as well. It was their job to enforce the laws throughout the City but they needed help as well. She urged everyone to clean up their yards. She announced the Ward 3 meeting would be March 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Koci assured everyone that the calls going into the new Dispatch Center the caller would not know the difference. He said the three churches that were involvement in helping some of the residents on various projects was called Sunday Serve; he thought other churches would also be joining this much needed effort. He announced the First Tier Suburbs the Steering Committee would be in Bedford starting August 5th – 8th along with the Ohio's First Suburbs Consortium and the local First Suburbs Consortium.

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

Michelle Paris, running for Judge at the Bedford Municipal Court, was impressed with the quality of the people in Bedford and the public servants. She realized attending the meeting gave her flavor, a sense of the concerns and a pulse of the community. She thought this position was a good fit for her and she was running to win. She had 20 years of experience and understood the workings of the Court system. She loves the law. She thanked and appreciated everyone for their hospitality.

Christina Rightnour, 257 Deborah Lane, agreed on a parking ban 24/7/365. She suggested the children of the community clean up their yards and help around their own neighborhood as she did as a child.

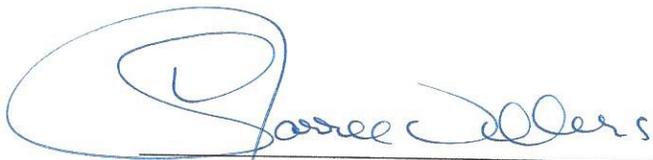
Connie O'Conke, 51st Avenue, suggested the monthly water bill state the previous month's charges, the amount received and the current/new charge as the other utility bills stated. Mr. Mallis thought if there was a payment carryover it was stated on the bill but he would check with the company that printed the water bills.

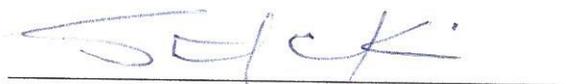
Deacon LeVelle Woodruff, Elevation Community Church, was in charge of the community service program at the church and he was offering their services. Mayor Koci told him to get in touch with the Ellenwood Senior Coordinator for those in need.

Valerie Emmert, 83 William, told a story about the recent flooding that happened in the basement where she rented. She understood there was a change made by the City and that tenants/renters would have limited access to City services regarding basement flooding. She felt this type of action only sent the message that tenants/renters were second class citizens. The problem was that her landlord was not responding to the situation and it now became her problem. Mr. Mallis apologized because the information that was told to her by this specific Service Department employee was not correct. The City was not limiting the amount of times the City came to a renter's home and that was definitely an inaccurate statement. The only City services that were going to be addressed at this time was the chipper and the sewer service availability. This information would be in the upcoming water utility bill and addressed at the upcoming Ward meetings. The reality was the City was dealing with limited staffing, limited revenue, vacation/sick time for the employees plus the Service Department was down six (6) employees. The City sewer and chipper services were not going to be cut; however, the Service Department would prioritize these services differently starting April 1, 2015. He reiterated the City would not be singling out rental units or own occupied units at this time.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 P.M.


Clerk of Council


Mayor – President of Council