

Bedford, Ohio

April 8, 2013

Community Ward Meeting for **Wards 1 & 2** was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 8, 2013. Mayor Pocek called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Present:** Council Members: Mayor Daniel Pocek, Warner Batten, Stan Koci, Marilyn Zolata, Paula Mizesak, Don Saunders. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Henry Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Police Chief Greg Duber, Deputy Chief Kris Nietert, Recreation Director Randy Lewis, Economic Development Director Mike Mallis, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Solar, Shawn Frances, Superintendent of Public Works.

Mayor Pocek and Mr. Angelo welcomed all residents in attendance tonight. Mayor Pocek introduced the Council Members that were present. The most important thing this evening was to hear from the residents.

**Councilman Batten reported the following for Ward 1:**

- Council and the Administration had budgeted over \$3 million for the Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements,
- \$1.5 million for water line improvements,
- \$1.5 million for street improvements: Grand Blvd from Southwick Drive to Broadway Avenue; Natalie Road from Center Road to Grand Blvd; Flora Drive from Broadway Avenue to the dead end area.

**Councilman Koci reported the following for Ward 2:**

- urged everyone to voice their concerns, complaints and even compliments.

City Manager Hank Angelo started the evening with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting all City Departments. He read the attached PowerPoint in its entirety. Bedford's current total budget was \$31 million with a general fund budget of \$17 million and in the last ten (10) years the City applied for \$29 million in grants alone. He introduced the Department Heads, Clerk Villers and the new superintendent of Public Works, Shawn Frances. He noted all the departments work together as a team to ensure quality service the residents received.

He added points of interest throughout the PowerPoint presentation as listed:

**Finance:** Mr. Gambosi received today a \$20,000 check from FEMA regarding the damage the City of Bedford received during Hurricane Sandy.

**Police Department:** Mr. Angelo corrected one thing this evening; Chief Duber had 33 years at the City of Bedford rather than what was stated in the PowerPoint. He added this department ran on a \$5 million budget.

**Fire Department:** This department ran on a \$3.5 million budget.

**Economic Development:** Mike Mallis, Economic Developer Director explained

**Roads, Cemetery and Refuse:** This department ran on a \$1.6 million budget.

**Administration and Miscellaneous:** This department ran on a \$2.8 million budget.

**Service Department:** Bedford, Bedford Heights, Orange Village and Walton Hills worked together regarding the sanitation system for a better price. This department ran on a \$1.7 million budget.

**Recreation Department:** This department ran on a \$1.2 million budget.

**Municipal Court:** This department ran on a \$2.7 million budget.

**Water & Waste Water:** This department ran on a \$7.5 million budget. The WWTP was built in 1936 and it was important to make the repairs.

**General Fund Debt:** This department ran on a \$1.3 million budget.

**Health Insurance:** This department ran on a \$2.4 million budget.

**Operating Budget:** Bedford's total budget was \$31,800,000.00; it took a lot of money to run the entire City of Bedford with all the repairs and maintenance.

**Bedford Auto Mile Dealerships:** A lot of the dealerships were making fantastic improvements to their facilities to the tune of \$25 million of improvements. These dealerships were dedicated to Bedford. The City had a good relationship with them. On April 15, 2013, there would be a dedication for the new Automile monuments.

**Marketing the City:** Mr. Angelo explained the employees had received customer service training to ensure the resident/customer received a quality attitude and customer service.

The City of Bedford and the Elmer Flick Committee was having a dedication in his honor. Mr. Flick was from Bedford; he was an inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963 so the City was holding a dedication later this summer. He was recruited in front of Bedford's own Train Depot. Mr. Jim Wagner explained the sale of bricks would help fund the project and they would be placed throughout the site. This was a 7 ½ year project but Mr. Flick was very deserving of a statue in his honor. There were only 243 players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He listed a few things that were in the works to draw more visitors to Bedford. Donations were being accepted in any amount, however, the bricks were being sold for 4 x 8 for \$50 and 8 x 8 for \$100. Donations would be made to a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and completely tax deductible. The checks should be made out to Bedford Community Development Corporation and dropped off at City Hall. Mayor Pocek said the dedication was going to include the former and current Cleveland Indian players and Slider.

Mayor Pocek opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

A resident stated she was not happy living on Grand Blvd. anymore. The Quality of Life has deteriorated around her section of where she lived. She had maintained her property but some of the surrounding homes appearance was very disappointing. The house next to her at 214 Grand was empty plus there were three more homes two houses away from her on the same side of the street that weren't kept up. The empty house was maintained by some of the neighbors otherwise it would look worse than it currently did. There were a couple of homes in the area she wanted to talk about privately. Mr. Angelo urged everyone to call anytime to the City or Police Department if they had a complaint or concern in their

neighborhood. The residents were the City's "eyes and ears". The Building Department would be hiring two part-time employees to address seasonal and property maintenance issues. Mr. Mallis explained at the end of 2012, the City mailed 900 notices to the residents for various issues. This would continue until the entire City was addressed. This would be an ongoing task because it was very much needed to maintain Bedford.

The next resident thanked the City of Bedford for cancelling the fireworks for 2013. It was a good fiscal move in order to save the City money. Mayor Pocek clarified for another resident that City Council voted on the cancellation of fireworks because with the surrounding cities cancelling their event, the amount of visitors would be overwhelming for the Safety Forces to maintain. It would be reconsidered in 2014. The same resident then pointed out the water pressure on Archer Road had not improved. Mr. Bellar noted the master valve at the corner of Archer and Solon Road was turned on so the pressure should be better. Mr. Frances, the former Water Superintendent, was present this evening and maybe he could shed some light on the subject. Mr. Frances explained the master meter valve had been left off after the Solon Road resurfacing project in 2012. He would follow-up with the new Water Superintendent and report back to the resident.

The area near 315 Bonnieview Drive had been experiencing a lot of vandalism. Cars were being stolen and some car tires were being slashed. She noted there was a lot of "activity" in the parking lot. Chief Duber said the Police Department was aware of the problems and there was an increase of vandalism in this area. He suggested the tenants should request a light be placed in the parking lot. He urged residents to call the Police Department immediately.

Between 41 – 51 Leyton Road there was a rise in the pavement. Mr. Bellar said he would inspect it.

At 395 Kenyon Avenue, there was a lot of car and visitor/young adult activity 24/7. He reported cars were driving in and out all hours of the day and night along with a lot of foot activity. He understood it to be a foster home; however, he can smell marijuana coming from that direction at nighttime. Officers had been called a few times and the activity still continues. Deputy Chief Nietert was not really sure if this was the same house he was thinking of but if it was the Police Department hadn't been successful in proving anything. Mayor Pocek again urged the residents to call if they saw something odd or illegal.

A resident suggested the City provide a map and when a resident had an issue, the area being discussed could be pointed to so the rest of the audience could relate to the locations. Suggestion well received.

A resident asked what the relationship between Mr. Goudreau and the Administration was. Mr. Angelo explained the City had recently cited Mr. Goudreau, plus the Administration had a scheduled meeting with him this week. One problem was Mr. Goudreau had three of the units rented until 2014, 2016 and 2018 so there was no pressure to rent them. This was the first time Mr. Goudreau had been cited in a very long time. Meadowbrook had the units listed under 35 – 40 different shell corporations operating within Meadowbrook. Mr. Angelo stated the City had discussed financial incentives with Mr. Goudreau and his staff. The City would receive income tax from the new employees, which would be a benefit. Five of the restaurants were never built in the location near the empty KFC building. The City did not have any intentions to "hammer" any business within the City; however, the Administration was not going to allow a businessperson to dictate how Bedford looked. Meadowbrook was an embarrassment; the area looked like a construction site.

A resident pointed out the poor condition of the fence near the Mercedes dealership on Greencroft and Broadway Avenue at the old body shop business. Mercedes would probably be addressing the issue.

It was determined a business bought all the rights to Taylor Chair but not the building and property. The President of Taylor Chair still had concerns regarding the building itself, which was a beautiful facility. Currently, the City was working with the State and realtors to get someone in the facility. Even in this case, the City was working toward discussions regarding financial incentives.

A Wellman Street resident had a problem with the deer in his backyard. Deputy Chief Nietert contacted the Metro Parks who had been culling deer for 12 years. He was not able to get the final numbers. Everyone realized the deer was a big problem in Bedford. Ms. Mizensak suggested the deer be culled at the WWTP.

The original Taylor Chair property had several different types of liens on the property. It was throwing good money after bad; currently, there was \$300,000 in back taxes so the owner probably would not be able to recoup his investment in the property. The City was trying to deal with the situation. The owner of this property contacted the City and the Metro Parks in hopes to sell the property. It would take a lot of money on behalf of the owner to make the property whole in 2013.

A resident complimented the City on the utility bill flyer that was mailed every month to the residents. She mentioned the neighbor at 601 Northfield Road placed their rubbish around the fire hydrant every week. The same homeowner removed their shingles on the back half of the house in the fall of 2012 and they have not replaced them to date.

Mr. Angelo said St. Peter Chanel School will be maintained after the school closes at the end of the school year. A wireless security system will be installed and other measures taken to secure the building.

This resident had lived in Bedford since 2009 and she had several questions: 1) She wondered if there was a curfew for the children. Chief Duber replied, yes, but the Officers were a little lax on the time during the summer months. 2) She asked if pet owners had to clean up after their pets. Chief Duber replied, yes, so far this year there were 221 animal complaints. He urged her to call the Police Department. 3) She asked if she had to give her name when she called in a complaint. Chief Duber replied, no, however, it was considered a Public Record and anyone could request it. It would be nice to have the name and call back number. 4) She had some concerns about the empty houses in her area and the lawn maintenance. Mr. Mallis explained either the bank or City was forced to maintain the lawn. If the City cut the grass, it was assessed to the property owner's taxes. She asked if it was a good sign if she did not see an Officer patrolling her street. The Administration/Council recently amended the Building Codes to address rental dwelling landlord mentalities, Rental inspections were being scheduled on a mandatory every other year basis. Mr. Angelo stated the lowest number of vacancies was 295 and the highest was 324 in the last three years. To add, as far as grass cutting, the City did not want to be in the business of cutting grass so that was the reason for the high costs. Mayor Pocek stated the bottom line was bad behavior was costly.

A resident from Solon Road asked if there was an ordinance that addressed certain hours for "noise". Mr. Angelo said as far as construction, the time was prior to 7:00 a.m. He was urged to call the Police Department if his neighbor on Solon Road continued to leave blow his yard at 5:30 a.m.

Mayor Pocek opened the floor for Council members' comments.

Councilwoman Zolata from Ward 3, landlord in Ward 1, asked about the home located at 275 Grand Blvd. Deputy Chief Nietert said they have responded five times since January 1, 2012. Of those five times, four were insignificant and the one was a domestic dispute. The problems the Officers were hearing could not be proved. Again, the residents were urged to call when the problems were happening.

Councilwoman Mizsak commended the Safety Forces in addressing the large forest fire in the Metro Park by Button Road.

Councilman Saunders stressed that no concern of any resident was trivial; every concern should be reported. One neighborhood affected the next neighborhood so the whole City could be affected. Everyone wanted to make sure the Quality of Life was maintained throughout the City. Please call don't think your neighbor was going to call.

Councilman Batten had no other comments.

Councilman Koci said he attended the funeral of the tragic accident the City experienced of recent. There were 2,000 attendees in support to the family. He knew in the 27 years he was on the Fire Department he had never seen such a bad accident.

Mr. Koci talked about the Art's Beat program that would be held downtown and the FriDates concerts and free events once a month. The focus was to tie these events into Economic Development to draw businesses to the Bedford area.

Chief Duber wanted to know if anyone needed Code Red or NIXLE information. There were no replies. He added there would be a prescription drug drop box in the next week located in the City Hall lobby. The prescription drugs would be forwarded to Cuyahoga County for disposal at no cost to the City.

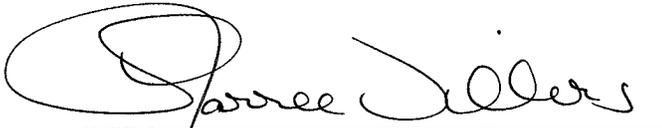
He added the 10 year old child from the accident had improved and the Accident Investigative Unit estimated the F-250 Ford pickup truck that hit the car was traveling in excess of 50 mph. The driver of the Ford truck refused an alcohol test by the Police Department so the hospital had been subpoenaed for the driver's blood records. He suggested if a resident happened to call the Dispatchers next week to please thank them for their services. Next week was "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week".

Mr. Angelo announced the City of Bedford's Open House – May 18, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City complex. There would be music, face painting, balloons, free hot dogs and cake.

Mr. Gambosi announced the "Fun Run" on April 21, 2013 at the Bedford High School cafeteria. There would be pancakes.

Mayor Pock thanked everyone for attending this evening. He stated he would not be seeking re-election in 2014. He had been in government service for 30 years; he served as Mayor the last 14 years and 16 years as Ward 5 Councilman. He stated this would be the last time he would be at the Ward 1 & 2 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor – President of Council