

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of December 7, 2015 (tabled 12/21/15)
- b. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2015 (tabled 12/21/15)
- c. Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of December 21, 2015
- d. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2015

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

6. **OLD BUSINESS** (1st Rdg 12/7/15 – 2nd Rdg 12/21/15 Amended)

- a. Ordinance No. 9343-15 amend §505.20 (a)(b) “Hunting Prohibited” & Enacting §505.201 “Special Permits for Culling Deer”
- b. Ordinance No. 9344-15 enacting §505.26 “Interference with Taking Wildlife”
- c. Ordinance No. 9345-15 amending §549.09 (a)(b) “Throwing or Shooting Projectiles”

7. **REPORTS**

- a. City Manager
- b. Law Director
- c. Finance Director
- d. Council Reports

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Resolution No. 2500-16 requesting Cuyahoga County proceed with the replacement of Columbus Road Bridge project over Bear Creek (\$46,129/\$5,000/\$6,500)

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 City Council met in Regular Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, January 4, 2016. 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: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Absent: None.

Motion made by Mizensak and seconded by Genutis to remove from the table the minutes of the Work Session of December 7, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Zolata and seconded by Spinks to approve the minutes of the Work Session of December 7, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mizensak and seconded by Saunders to remove from the table the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Spinks and seconded by Zolata to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Saunders and seconded by Mizensak to approve the minutes of the Work Session of December 21, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks. Abstain: Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Pozar and seconded by Saunders to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2015. The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks. Abstain: Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Koci noted the next three items of Old Business needed further discussion and were forwarded to the January 19, 2016 Regular Council meeting for consideration.

ORDINANCE NO. 9343-15 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.20 (a) (b) ENTITLED “HUNTING PROHIBITED” AND ENACTING SECTION 505.201 ENTITLED “SPECIAL PERMITS FOR CULLING DEER” OF THE GENERAL OFFENSE CODE OF THE BEDFORD CODIFIED ORDINANCES PLACED ON FIRST READING DECEMBER 7, 2015 AND SECOND READING DECEMBER 21, 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WAS READ BY TITLE ONLY

Motion made by Saunders seconded by Pozar to place Ordinance No. 9343-15 on the table.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 9344-15 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 505.26 ENTITLED “INTERFERENCE WITH TAKING WILDLIFE” OF THE BEDFORD CODIFIED ORDINANCES PLACED ON FIRST READING DECEMBER 7, 2015 AND SECOND READING DECEMBER 21, 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WAS READ BY TITLE ONLY

Motion made by Zolata seconded by Genutis to place Ordinance No. 9344-15 on the table.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizensak, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 9345-15 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 549.09 (a) (b) ENTITLED "THROWING OR SHOOTING PROJECTILES" OF THE BEDFORD CODIFIED ORDINANCES PLACED ON FIRST READING ON DECEMBER 7, 2015 AND SECOND READING DECEMBER 21, 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WAS READ BY TITLE ONLY

Motion made by Mizens seconded by Saunders to place Ordinance No. 9345-15 on the table.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizens, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

The Administration and Council wished everyone a Happy New Year, congratulated the three Council members for another four year term as an elected official.

No report from the City Manager Michael Mallis, Law Director John Montello and Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Councilman Pozar, Councilwoman Spinks, Councilwoman Mizens and Councilman Genutis. Councilman Saunders wished the Orthodox Church members a Merry Christmas. Councilwoman Zolata was pleased with the kind words from Senator Yuko. She appreciated the efforts of the Administration and Council for working diligently as a team on keeping Bedford on the "straight and narrow". She also appreciated the support from the residents. Mayor Koci announced the State of the City address would be held on January 20, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. at Catered Elegance and the next Regular Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 2500-16 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING CUYAHOGA COUNTY TO PROCEED WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF COLUMBUS ROAD BRIDGE NO. 01.09 OVER BEAR CREEK AND RESOLVING TO PAY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) OF THE COSTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE WATER LINE IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF BEDFORD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WAS READ BY TITLE ONLY

Motion made by Pozar seconded by Saunders to suspend the rule requiring the reading of said resolution three different days.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizens, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Spinks seconded by Zolata to place Resolution No. 2500-16 on third and final reading and passed.

Mr. Mallis explained since this specific bridge was under construction the City decided to replace the 1930's water line since the area was opened up in order to save monies in the future. He explained the cost was \$46,129 with an additional \$5,000 contingency to demolish portion of the existing wingwall and \$6,500 for engineering services. Discussion was held regarding the estimated \$6,500 for engineering services. Mr. Gambosi explained the smaller the project the increased percentage in engineering services which was different from the \$5,000 cost to demolish a portion of the existing wingwall.

The roll was called. Vote – Yeas: Mizens, Genutis, Pozar, Saunders, Zolata, Spinks, Koci. 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.

Andrew Mizsak, 35 Santin Circle, announced the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service was in 2016. He listed several parks in the area and their significance. He urged everyone to visit the several national parks in the area because Bedford was near several well-known parks. He thanked everyone for their support in preserving public lands.

Beth Housiaux-Steward, 93 Avalon Avenue, read additional information into the record with a list of questions regarding the "Deer Management Plan" presented at the December 21, 2015 Work Session. See attached submitted materials.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.



Clerk of Council



Mayor – President of Council

1/4/16
RRC

In response to the "Deer Management Plan for the City of Bedford" draft, it states that the Division of Wildlife will complete a survey of the city that will help establish a herd goal for the city. What type of survey will they do? Is it an aerial survey? When will it be done and how much will it cost? Will the survey be completed before a culling as it should be? Will a survey be done with the residents? The draft also states that culling will be the method chosen to manage the deer population. Why culling and not alternative measures? How much will it cost the city for bullets, signage, bait, tree stand supplies, salaries for the sharpshooter and city employees or police who will prevent entry to the culling areas, and salaries for employees who will handle the deer once shot as they will have to be removed and refrigerated until the food processors take over? What is the yearly cost for the city, as deer culling is at least a several year commitment? (Employees time meeting with the DOW, Metroparks, or ODNR are just a few of the yearly expenses.) Avon Lake averages just under \$500 per deer in their culling program and Mentor spends on average \$75,000 a year. Where in the budget are funds coming from for deer management?

The draft also has unsubstantiated statements and opinions written as if they were facts. For example, "deer numbers have climbed in the COB to a level where it is affecting the safety of the residents and local ecosystem." I am sure we can all agree that a reduction in deer car collisions is an important goal (and is attainable without culling) however there isn't evidence that the local ecosystem is in danger. Also stated was "while we have had no cases of a deer attacking a person in Bedford, as the deer population increases the potential risk increases." Deer live in suburbia all over this country and they are not attacking people, merely a scare tactic statement. Another example, "Culling has proven to be the method of choice for humane deer management," and "culling has proven to be the most humane and cost efficient method of managing deer populations in urban areas," strictly an opinion as many other methods of deer management are also considered safe, humane and cost efficient.

Educating the public is key to any deer management program. Traffic Safety Awareness programs are very helpful. The programs center on high activity time of deer movement, identifying "hot spots" (high vehicle deer collision areas) and seasonal habits of the deer. Most deer car collisions happen during the breeding season months of October through December for example and in areas where the speed limit is above 25mph. Increase signage in "hot spots" and an awareness of these areas is an inexpensive and affective way to decrease accidents along with decreased speed limits. (As I stated in the hearing of the citizens 12/21/15 the signage in two of our hots spots in Bedford is inconsistent currently)

Educating the public to not feed the deer and enforcing the ordinance in town not to do so is also key. Landscaping information on plant diversity, repellents, netting, and fencing are also helpful.

Alternatives to deer culling are being explored and implemented all around our country and here in Ohio. Here are just two examples of many innovated programs to manage deer without culling. The Cincinnati Neighborhood of Clifton is participating in a 3-5 year study to determine the feasibility of managing the deer through fertility control. Under a research permit issued by the ODNR, veterinarians and capture professionals, managed by eco-system and a wildlife consultant company spent the first week of December anesthetizing, sterilizing and tagging

(Attach to RWS.)

does. Stephanie Boyles Griffin, senior director of Innovative Wildlife Management & Services at the Humane Society of the United States, who also participated in the program said, "We are proud to collaborate with CliftonDeer.Org on their groundbreaking efforts to research humane, effective and sustainable deer management methods." The program was funded by citizen donations and a grant. In Fairfax Virginia, a research program to manage populations through the sterilization of deer is ongoing. "The chief of Police, Rick Rappoport was exceptionally supportive on all levels including allowing us access to the Sally port for the surgeries and assigning officers to escort the darting team around the city," said the company hired to assist in the program. Fundraising and volunteers help pay for the program. A Scientific Collection Permit from The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries was obtained.

The culling of deer is a highly controversial topic in communities around the country. It has also divided many communities and neighbors. Deer hunting is big business in this state and when the deer population is down, less antlerless permits are given out to increase the population in the state. The Cleveland Metroparks 18 years ago told residents that a culling of one year was all that was necessary to address the overpopulation of deer. Clearly that was untrue and culling isn't working, as they have done it for 18 years! Compensatory Rebound Affect is the response to a massive reduction of a herd which is why culling doesn't work and why communities cull year after year. Many residents feel it's a privilege to live in an area rich with nature's beauty and wildlife. I can appreciate this Council trying to respond to resident complaints about their gardens, however there are many steps this council can take to address those concerns and deer vehicle collisions concerns. Bedford has the opportunity to be a leader in non-lethal managing of deer just like Fairfax, Clifton and others. Rushing into a program based only on verbal discussions and a draft lacking in scientific support and a budget, is not a program or a solution. The lack of data in the draft along with no efforts to explore alternatives or to obtain residents input, makes it both premature and irresponsible to implement. I along with others believe are wonderful police force time and efforts could be better spent on reducing criminal activity in town not killing deer.
