

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014

6:00 P.M. PROMPT

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LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

• BUDGET HEARINGS

- 6:00 P.M. SERVICE DEPARTMENT**
- 7:00 P.M. RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Bedford, Ohio

October 27, 2014

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 27, 2014 at 6:09 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Marilyn Zolata, Greg Pozar, Donald Saunders [left at 7:20 p.m.]. Absent: Paula Mizensak. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Superintendent Shawn Francis, Recreation Director Randy Lewis.

Service Director Bellar and Superintendent Francis were both present this evening to discuss the Service Department's budget. Mr. Bellar prepared a worksheet of bullet points for discussion. (See attached)

Mr. Bellar stated the Service Department was still managing very well and still provided good services with less people; the department was down four (4) employees. A department of 24 employees, not including the two department heads and the secretary, was scheduled with 10 employees daily to perform the required/needed various services throughout the City. Mr. Bellar took into consideration the amount of vacation, sick, compensatory and personal days for the entire department. Many of these employees had six (6) weeks' vacation. He occasionally put one of the mechanics on the road when necessary for various projects. There was discussion regarding the expensive cost for resident rubbish collection. Mr. Bellar explained it was a 5 year contract with a 3 year extension option; the contract expired in July, 2014. He was in the process of checking different avenues to save money plus addressing the 300 vacant homes in the City. It was determined it might be time for the residents to pay for a portion of their rubbish. A cost per household stretching over 5,000 homes would be a tremendous help to the budget considering the bad news of Ben Venue closing. Mr. Pozar stressed it was time to address some of the costs the City paid for; money was going to get tight. Mr. Bellar noted in other cities the residents paid for their rubbish and recycling. There was a discussion of rubbish and recycling containers for each homeowner in hopes to increase recycling versus the free blue bags the residents had an option to use. Mr. Koci suggested Mr. Bellar research how other cities handled their program. Most of the rubbish haulers were leaning toward the two large containers for automation to simplify their rubbish collection. It was agreed the City needed to encourage recycling for the sake of the landfills. It was understood it was time for the City to make some decisions because of the economy and the current situation regarding the closing of Ben Venue.

The ash tree removal was being addressed; the Service Department was cutting down the smaller trees but the larger trees had to be contracted out. If there were any trees that posed a safety issue, they were being addressed immediately. These types of trees become brittle quickly. The beautification of downtown would continue with the hanging flowers and decorations, however there was a recent complaint from one of the business owners because the decorations blocked her store window. Council thought it was important to keep the downtown attractive. There was discussion that the boom truck was being used for several things. Mr. Bellar stated the scheduling of projects was a daily battle which was a vicious cycle.

Mr. Bellar noted sewer call-outs would continue to not be addressed over the weekends or after 5:00 p.m. in order to save money. Discussion was held regarding the reduction of week days spent on sewer calls to free up employees for other projects. The City continued to address clogged lines differently and not perform all the services as done in the past. Not only were some of the homes disgusting for the employees to enter; there was also the liability issue with these types of projects. The residents were notified that they had to do their section of the clogged pipes and then the City would address their end. Discussion was held of the thought of contracting with Rotor-rooter for certain projects. Having the County address such issues was a concern that there would be a long response time in fixing the problem. It was determined there needed to be future discussions in eliminating commercial and rentals from this

service because of the expense and abuse of the property owners. It was understood services were prioritized accordingly but there may be a time when certain things needed to be contracted out.

Mr. Bellar noted he did not have enough employees to cover the snow removal as done in the past so there was going to be overtime monies spent. Unfortunately the cost of road salt had increased substantially since last year. The Service Department continued to have some costs regarding the buy-back of cemetery lot(s); however, the City only purchased the lot(s) for the same amount paid when originally purchased. Employee medical benefit costs were a priority for every department in the upcoming years. It was noted there had been previous discussions of the possibility of changing the street lights to LED bulbs but the costs were too much. It was noted the City was not going to pay for sidewalk replacement/repairs. Overall the majority of the Service Department's projects were being completed with less staff. As usual there was upkeep at the Cemetery which had been reduced over the years.

The City continued to pay for utilities/services for the festivals/events held on the City square throughout the year. Discussion was held regarding the salary of two different employees because one employee had to be certified to perform their duties. Per the union contract, the employees were paid double and triple time for the holidays. Mr. Mallis pointed out the purchase of a trench box for the safety of the employees when they were working on a project in a newly dug hole. The lifetime of the vehicles were a testament of the quality of work repairs the mechanics did.

The City was in a position to inform the residents the cost of doing business for the services they have been receiving free over the years. The surrounding cities had already started addressing these very same types of issues/expenses. Mrs. Zolata thought the Ward meetings would be a perfect time to break the news to the residents and the Administration and Council should be direct and to the point.

In closing, Mr. Bellar, Mr. Francis and Mr. Mallis would continue to gather information and work on a few topics for future discussions. Mr. Bellar and Mr. Francis thanked the Administration and Council. Council thought overall the Service Department did a great job! Council had no further questions for Mr. Bellar and Mr. Francis and they left at 7:50 pm.

Recreation Director Randy Lewis was present this evening to discuss the Recreation Department's budget. Mr. Lewis prepared a worksheet of bullet points for discussion. (See attached)

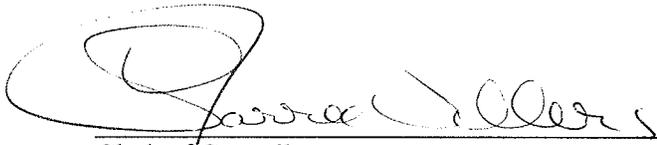
Mr. Mallis thought this department accomplished a lot with what they had to work with. There was a switching of two employees in the Service Department to the Recreation Department, which ended up being a benefit to both departments and the City. In Bedford, there were 50% - 65% senior residents which required a lot of time and services. There were two (2) previous employee positions that were not filled when these employees left, however, the thought was to combine the positions into one non-union position. The Recreation Department dealt with all age levels. Again, Mr. Mallis stressed the focus on medical coverage for all the departments and the placement of new businesses and jobs in the City. It was determined the schools were the ones that made out when it came to Tax Abatements.

Mr. Lewis explained they too would be doing more with less in 2015. He listed the items addressed by the employees instead of contracting them out. He briefly spoke about the new Bark Park on Taft Road. He was considering a Public Hearing so they could compile resident input. He applied for two (2) grants and was rejected because the criteria was not met. The senior van had 115,000 miles and was starting to show its age. He hoped to buy a new van in the future depending on the money situation. Party room rentals were about \$27,000 annually. There was discussion that the Ellenwood kitchen was inspected and approved by the Health Department. There was an effort to repair and paint the equipment to keep the costs down.

The Food Bank was run by both the City and Salvation Army by former Councilman Warner Batten. The City spent approximately \$15,000 at the Save-A-Lot Store working hand in hand with Mr. Batten. The City purchased different type items than those purchase by Mr. Batten so there was a good selection. There were 50 deliveries made to those who could not pick them up. It was determined any City monies spent for food was traceable through receipts.

Mr. Lewis thanked the Administration and Council.

The Work Session adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor - President of Council