

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

6:00 P.M. PROMPT

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- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – personnel (6:00 pm – 6:30 pm)

- **BUDGET HEARING** –
 - **6:30 pm** – Police Department
 - **7:15 pm** – Economic Development
 - **8:00 pm** – Building Department

Bedford, Ohio

November 25, 2013

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, November 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Daniel Pocek, Warner Batten, Stan Koci, Marilyn Zolata, Paula Mizsak, Greg Pozar, Don Saunders. Administration: City Manager Henry Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Absent: None. Also present: Economic Development Director Mike Mallis, Police Chief Kris Nietert, Deputy Chief Marty Stemple, Sandy Spinks.

At 6:02 p.m., Bedford City Council, Hank Angelo, Mike Mallis, Lorree Villers and Sandy Spinks went into an executive session to discuss personnel. At 6:32 p.m. Lorree Villers was excused from the executive session. Executive Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The Budget discussions this evening was with Economic Development Director Mike Mallis, Police Chief Kris Nietert and Deputy Chief Marty Stemple.

Police Department – Chief Nietert and Deputy Chief Stemple appreciated the support from the Administration and Council. Chief Nietert listed several items that needed to be addressed and/or were addressed in 2013. He pointed out the Officers guns were now seven years old, the Police Department was due for a copier, the department's computer system had been recently converted, the focus was to utilize an armed Auxiliary Officer to transport prisoners, and some of the vests were getting ready to exceed their five year warrantee so new vests needed to be purchased for a cost of \$800 each. He thought to extend the fingerprinting hours in hopes to draw more people, the Code Red system had been upgraded and to convert to the same system the Municipal Court used for close circuit TV; the current system the Police Department had was at the mercy of one company. The Police Department was in need of two new Ford Company vehicles at a cost of \$24,729 each plus an additional \$6,500 for the required equipment per vehicle. The Tahoe was not pursuit rated however it did have adequate space for the additional equipment. Other areas of interest were possibly increasing the Auxiliary Officer's hours to cover troubled areas, cutting the amount of unnecessary School Resource Officers to save money. Chief Nietert was thankful the Police Department had a good relationship with the schools. It was everyone's concern of the large amount of shoplifting problems at Wal-Mart. Even with Officers being visible, the number of incidents did not decrease. Neighborhood security was approximately the same and the City was still a stable place. Most of the arrests were from other area visitors; not Bedford residents. Education Alternatives were struggling with some of the students mainly because of the new group of troubled students. However, Education Alternatives paid for their own security.

Neighborhood auxiliary patrols were the same for vacant homes and residents on vacation; car dealership lot crimes had improved. Mr. Mallis explained the great appreciation the Automile dealerships had for their dealership lot patrols. Currently, Auxiliary Officers were not doing juvenile patrols but after a brief discussion it was understood there was a need for it; children continued to walk in the streets. Mrs. Zolata asked about children hanging out in certain areas and the perceived intimidation. It was explained if the children were not committing a crime or causing problems, nothing could be done. She understood some of the residents in her area felt the children were intimidating. Mr. Angelo and Chief Nietert stressed nothing could be done about a group of children hanging out or walking together down the sidewalks. Regionalization regarding the Dispatch Center was moving along and would be located in Bedford Heights. Chief Nietert told everyone to expect to see more bicycle Officers in 2014.

Chief Nietert explained the cost was \$55 per day per prisoner; the revenues from the Ohio Webcheck was a profit of \$12, parking fines and permit fees for gambling also helped. The Police Department focused/targeted the middle level players associated with all drug busts; busting the lower level players

was not beneficial. The domestic violence calls had not increased in the number of calls however the level of physical violence had; the calls were more serious in nature. Overall the Police Department was on the right track. Council did not have any other questions. Chief Nietert and Deputy Chief Stemple thanked Council and the Administration for their time.

Economic Development – Mr. Mallis was excited to report some of the big accomplishments that were taking place in Bedford. The Automobile Dealerships had spent \$20+ million to beautify their end of town, the old Taylor Chair building was currently filled with a growing company of 50-100 employees, the Ryser property was moving in the right direction, working with the Metro-Parks on a few projects was thought to be a benefit, some of the businesses enjoyed the hometown feeling Bedford had to offer. The Ellenwood Recreation Center project was recently approved; however, there had been a lot of energy spent on the bad news of Ben Venue closing. He explained the large amount of money spent on postage for the quarterly resident newsletter. Options the Administration and Council needed to address was whether to eliminate the Impact Group, consider tribute bands and address the Celebration of the Arts to name a few. Mr. Mallis thanked everyone for their time and efforts.

The Building Department budget discussion was moved to Monday, December 2, 2013.

The Work Session adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor – President of Council