

COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

6:00 P.M. PROMPT

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- **BUDGET HEARINGS**

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

- **7:00 P.M. BUILDING DEPARTMENT & MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Marilyn Zolata, Paula Mizsak, Donald Saunders (6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.), Greg Pozar. Absent: None. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Michael Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar and Building Commissioner Calvin Beverly.

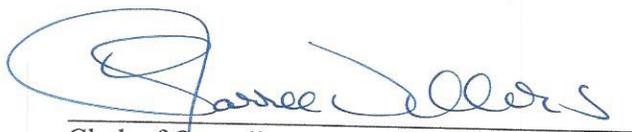
Service Department

Mr. Mallis mentioned the Service Department had been hit the hardest in the last 5-6 years; the department continued to be understaffed by six employees. The cut-back and prioritizing of City services has been a help to allow scheduling for other projects. With the task of the new rubbish assessment of locating vacant homes, it was found some homes were occupied and had zero water usage. With this being discovered, there has been discussions regarding some of the water meters ages and the need for replacement. Several meters were "dead" (not metering) and the residents were receiving free water for who knows how long. Another item that was discovered with the new rubbish assessment project was the multi-units that had received free rubbish pickup for years; now the multi-family homes had to contract with a private hauler and pay for their own rubbish collection. It was determined the Service Department had 16 employees, three mechanics, four Water Department employees and 10 employees at the WWTP. Council reviewed the budget with only a few questions for Mr. Bellar who satisfied their concerns. Mr. Bellar thanked Council for being patient when it came to some of their complaints and he assured them the items would be addressed eventually. He thanked Council for their support.

Building Department

Mr. Mallis talked about the need for a part-time clerical employee so the paperwork could get done in a timelier manner. The grass cutting notices had improved over the last year and some of the deplorable homes were being razed after many years of struggling. The Building Department and Fire Department were working well together in addressing issues of concern. The criminal nuisance ordinance was a benefit but if the Court didn't follow through it became very frustrating. Months of work and documentation was spent on certain situations and if the Court didn't hammer the homeowner then all the work was for nothing. There was discussion about the POS and the high percentage expected in escrow for the new homeowners. Council's goal was to have young people buy in Bedford and sometimes it was impossible if they had to spend a lot of money to repair or replace certain items. A lot of the younger couples were scraping money together for the down payment and didn't have hundreds or thousands to spend for some of the more costly items. Discussion was held that in certain situations the new homeowner was given 12 months to comply. It was determined there were 800 single family rental homes in Bedford which was also a challenge. Mr. Beverly and Mr. Mallis were working together on the POS's with the new buyers but the life safety issues still needed addressed. Council reviewed the budget with only a few questions for Mr. Beverly who satisfied their concerns. Mr. Beverly thanked Council for their support.

The Work Session adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor – President of Council