

Bedford, Ohio

March 14, 2016

Community Ward Meeting for Wards 1 & 2 was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, March 14, 2016. Mayor Koci called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Stan Koci, Sandy Spinks, Walter Genutis, Paula Mizesak. Also Present: Clerk of Council Pro-Tem Michelle Hollo. Administration: City Manager Mike Mallis, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Police Chief Kris Nietert, Fire Chief Dave Nagy, Building Commissioner Calvin Beverly, Recreation Director Randy Lewis.

Mayor Koci welcomed all residents in attendance. This has been a rough year for the City. We are still recovering from the Great Recession. There are a few signs we are pulling out of it such as home prices are increasing. In January, Walmart unexpectedly announced its closing with a loss of 350 employees. The building is owned by Walmart and not by Meadowbrook. Walmart wants to quickly sell the property. The City has offered to work with Walmart to get a tenant in there. We also were informed First Merit is closing.

Council and the Administration work together to find ways to get new resources and funding into the City to keep the services that we are accustomed to. Mayor Koci wanted to explain examples of new funding that are being discussed and looked at such as an income tax increase or a levy. These are not being implemented at this time, but are being discussed. We look at absolutely everything and will choose the best path for the City to help achieve what is needed to keep the city going and not cutting services and personnel.

Mayor Koci stated the Police and Fire Departments are back at maximum staffing.

Mayor Koci meets regularly with the Mayors of the school district and the Superintendent of the schools to discuss issues. We work with our neighbors such as helping Walton Hills. The Ford plant will be torn down next year which is a nice property for being developed. The Mayors all pledged to Mayor Hurst to help get something into this property even though it does not directly affect us.

Mayor Koci said there is some positive news regarding Meadowbrook. There was one parcel on Rockside Road that was put up for auction. We were trying to get a business in there, but it did not work out with Meadowbrook. Meadowbrook did get someone else to buy the property. The good news is this property will now be taken out of Meadowbrook's hands. We have to wait and see who bought it and will work with them to get a viable business in there.

Xellia Pharmaceuticals has moved into the Ben Venue properties. They are still in the process of moving in and building up their lines. Xellia has impressed upon us they are here to stay and to grow. They are moving their North American distribution center to Bedford. Xellia is owned by a foundation and not stockholders. Their mission is to fight infectious diseases.

Other businesses that recently opened:

Molding Dynamics moved to Industry Drive bringing 40 jobs. They relocated from Geauga County.

Data Basics is a computer company that moved into the old Doty Miller building on Broadway. They brought in 40 jobs.

Cleveland Ballet moved into town. This brings a positive image for the city.

Mayor Koci mentioned examples of communication. Residents receive the Bedford Advantage in the water bill, Code Red, new electronic sign installed in front of City Hall, Facebook and the website.

Trash pickup is going well and the residents are getting use to the carts.

Councilwoman Spinks reported the following for Ward 1:

Ward 1 took a hit with businesses that have closed. Walmart, Tim Lally and First Merit.

Mrs. Spinks had a good relationship with the management at Walmart and was beginning to accomplish things there. She had been working with State Representative John Barnes on getting the RTA bus to pick up and drop off in front of Walmart instead of on Rockside due to problems with trash and shopping carts. Walmart had just invested money in the parking lot. Walmart gave to the Rotary Club, Arts and Culture Board, FriDates, and Celebration of the Arts weekend. Walmart would donate \$200-\$300 gift card to buy supplies for the Arts event.

Although not in Ward 1, Mrs. Spinks is pursuing contacts and trying to entice a restaurant to take over the Moonglow property.

Mrs. Spinks encourages phone calls and emails from residents. She drives around and checks her Ward daily and has met many residents.

Importance of calling the Police Department to report suspicious activity and crime.

Mrs. Spinks is active with the Arts and Culture Board. She is the Chair for the Celebration of Arts weekend which is September 16-18, 2016. The Friday dinner event is at Catered Elegance and the Cleveland Ballet will do a performance.

AT&T is installing the fiber throughout the city to offer the U-Verse service. AT&T will notify the residents when the service is available in their area.

Councilman Genutis reported the following for Ward 2:

Mr. Genutis spoke about greater civic engagement with the residents. It is difficult to get the word out especially without a newspaper.

There are many great people working for the City of Bedford. Council provides oversight over the dealings of the City and making sure the taxpayers' money is spent appropriately.

He stated Mayor Koci is always upbeat when speaking of dire things happening and we will carry on somehow. The things happening with the downturn of the economy are things that all the communities are also facing.

Mr. Genutis stated that Council wants to maintain services but we also have to fix the infrastructure. He is still learning about sewers and miles of roads, etc.

City Manager Mike Mallis introduced the City Administration. Each department's staff is short-handed and have been for years due to budget constraints. The services we have grown accustomed to continue to be delivered.

Mr. Mallis showed a PowerPoint presentation. Copy attached. Highlights of presentation are as follows:

2015 Year End: Year-end cash balance in the general fund was \$1.8 million. This is in addition to the \$5.8 million in reserve that is required to be maintained by City ordinance. This was a significant decline of about \$2 million from 2014. We anticipated this decline and the majority of the \$2 million loss stemmed from the decline in income tax collected.

General Fund Cash Balance Declining: The cash balance projection through 2019 is declining. This loss is solely based on the closing of Ben Venue and the loss of 1,300 jobs. The City did not feel the full effect of Ben Venue in 2014 due to severance packages being paid out. The reserve was built up to \$9.5 million in 2014 knowing we were going to feel the effect of the \$2 million loss.

Mr. Mallis spoke of an article in the Plain Dealer of decisions made by the Governor and the State of Ohio that affected us. Mr. Gambosi stated we were downgraded this year and also about two years ago by Moody's. We are still at an investable grade at an AA level, but the lowest AA level. Moody's and Standard and Poor's looked favorable on the City because they could have done a double downgrade, but only did a one level downgrade. Cities that have a \$15 million budget and lose \$2 million overnight in one year is not a good situation. This is why we implemented the refuse fee in 2016 to offset that \$2 million hit. In addition, we made more cuts and the employees pay more for their health insurance. Because of this, we were able to get the loss at just under \$1 million.

In addition to the loss from Ben Venue, Mr. Gambosi spoke of decisions made by the State of Ohio that cut revenue \$1.4 million which is 10 percent of our revenue. The inheritance tax and personal property tax were taken away but the State of Ohio did not replace these taxes or revenues. The State also reduced the local government fund. The Automile sends \$60 to \$100 million a year to the State of Ohio in state sales tax dollars. Bedford's share of that is only \$233,000. Real estate taxes dropped 15 percent. We put a safety levy on the property taxes and then only to lose money as soon as we put the levy on. Other significant revenue losses are HB5 will reduce income tax by \$200,000, Walmart \$140,000, Tim Lally Chevrolet \$80,000. Mr. Gambosi said there are positive signs, but how fast will these happen to counter these losses.

Mr. Mallis stated that decisions made by the Governor to balance the State's budget affected the cities and schools. The City is taking the steps to try to minimize the downward spiral such as implementing the refuse fee. Mr. Mallis said that is probably not the end of it. Nothing will happen tomorrow, but discussions are taking place. We are discussing what can be cut and how to still deliver the most efficient services. We will discuss levies, income tax increases, and possibly pulling the trash fee back if we pass any of these. Mr. Mallis said to everyone to be involved by coming to Council meetings over the next 6 to 12 months as these discussions will be taking place.

Mr. Mallis stated Xellia Pharmaceuticals acquired most of the Westward facility. Xellia is committed to being in Bedford long term. They are not yet producing, but plan to in the future. To show their commitment, they are transferring all United States and Canada shipping and packaging lines to Bedford. Xellia is currently hiring. At the beginning of the year they were at 50 employees. Their goal by the end

of May is 80 employees, and by the end of 2017 they want to be at 200-250 employees. This is a positive sign.

Columbus Road Bridge: This is a Cuyahoga County project. The bridge will close on May 24, 2016 through the end of July. Pedestrian traffic will be maintained. The City did include a water line replacement underneath the bridge while the County had the roadway opened. That water line was installed in the 1930's. We decided to replace it because if the water line would rupture in the future, Bedford would also be responsible to replace the roadway and decking on the bridge.

Willard Housing Development: A housing development behind St. Pius is moving forward. The houses are going for \$150,000 which will help increase property values.

Meadowbrook Development: Regarding the recent auction there, the City negotiated for about two weeks with the property owner. The goal was to have two new auto dealers there, but unfortunately it did not work out. The owner of that property is looking to sell. That auction was put on to gauge the interest and to see what the value is. If it goes well, our hope is he will continue to sell. That whole area needs a fresh start. It needs somebody with a good relationship and reputation. The City would be open minded regarding retail and mixed use development. We would decide how to zone the property such as to allow office and auto. The good news is that parcel was sold. It was not sold to the person we would have liked it to, but a doctor purchased it. We do not know what the end use is.

Deer Management Program: In 2016 we implemented a deer management program. We looked at high accident areas, particularly Turney Road, an area on Broadway, and an area on Center Road. This program was done in-house through the Police Department using a police sharpshooter. Other cities have spent \$60,000-\$200,000 to cull deer. We are not spending that amount of money. We will present our report to Council in the next couple of weeks and it will show the cost to the City was very minimal. There was some civic involvement as far as suggestions with the legislation changes. With Mr. Genutis, we made the changes. The ODNR and ODOW issued a permit for 20 deer and we worked in two zones. In addition, our program also is to educate the public. A representative from the Cleveland Metroparks will give a presentation May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at City Hall which will be about what you can plant in your yard to deter deer and other helpful techniques to deal with the deer and coyote populations.

Adjustment in Services: We adjusted the sewer and chipper services last year and are discussing adjusting the senior van service. The sewer service is three days a week and the chipper service is the first week of the month. We are now looking at how we deliver the service of the senior van. It is currently 40 hours a week. We are discussing whether to continue the service at 40 hours a week or possibly reducing the number of hours.

Sidewalk Program: The City did away with the sidewalk program years ago due to funds. We used to budget \$50,000 annually. We do recognize that sidewalks need to be addressed. The Service Department has worked with a local contractor to secure a price for the residents. Any resident looking to replace any of their sidewalk must contact Sirna Construction by June 15<sup>th</sup>. If Sirna contracts a minimum of 24 blocks, the price per square foot is \$6.35. If Sirna contracts for a minimum of 40 blocks, the price will be lower. The City's involvement is limited to trying to secure the lowest possible price for the residents.

Residential Water Meter Replacement: The water meters are over 20 years old and outdated. The City will be going out to bid soon to purchase meters. Every meter in the city will be replaced within the next two years. Further information will be provided in the future.

Trash Collection: The new program has been a success. The implementation of the new carts has increased recycling over 50 percent which further reduces the overall cost.

Maintaining our Neighborhoods: The City continues enforcing property maintenance. Maintaining the neighborhoods is important. The Water Department has identified the vacant homes with zero water usage and letters are now being sent advising them to maintain the property. If they do not maintain the property and because they have been given notice, the City can cut the grass immediately. We handled the grass issue this way last year and it made a difference in the neighborhoods.

A resident looking to make improvements to their home may contact the Heritage Home Program. It is a free resource and they will assist with estimates and offer professional expertise on any improvement with your home. The month of June will be free permit month. Any owner occupant looking to make an improvement to the exterior of the home, i.e. driveways, decks, fence, siding, roof, the permit fee for these projects done by a homeowner will be waived.

Community Outreach: It is challenging to get the word out. Code Red was used to get the word out about the Ward meeting this evening. We send out monthly inserts in the water bill and postings on Facebook and Twitter, but not everyone does that. We are working on a community app for smartphones and hope to release it this summer. The app will have a calendar of events and you would be able to take a picture and email it to a department. This is another area where we can better communicate with the residents.

Land Acquisition and Development: The City has acquired over 12 acres by Viaduct Park along with the Moonglow property. This was done with an overall plan to connect this property to the Bedford Reservation/Metroparks. We are working with the Metroparks to finalize the Clean Ohio grant for a bridge. The plan is to establish a trail which connects to an existing trail, a bridge will go over Tinkers Creek and connect into Viaduct Park, and the trail continues down Willis and connects to downtown Bedford. The trail would be for bikers and walkers. It is an approximate \$800,000 project. Also, we have sent out information to developers for all the property involved. At this time, we do not know what it is going to be, but it most likely will not be residential. We are looking and hoping to get a restaurant and some mixed use. This is a huge asset and we think there is going to be interest. The best part is the City acquired all the property for almost nothing. Other than the Moonglow, the City did not pay other than our time.

In closing, Mr. Mallis stated we will continue to keep working, even being short staffed. We are trying to deliver the services that we have all grown accustomed to. That is our number one priority. If you have a question, the doors are open. Please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone of the staff.

Mayor Koci opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

Inquiry regarding the Silver Sneakers program at the Bedford Heights Community Center. A month ago the resident was told this program was approved but waiting on the Bedford Heights Mayor signing it. The resident asked if we could assist to expedite it. Mr. Lewis has not heard about this program from Bedford Heights, but Mr. Mallis said he would look into it.

Inquiry regarding which parcel was being auctioned at the Meadowbrook property. Mayor Koci replied the parcel is off of Rockside Road, west of Hudec Dental and where the old TJ Maxx was.

Bernard Benewiat of Wenso Road stated that City officials have been to his house regarding various problems on Wenso, but it does not appear anything has been addressed. There are trucks hauling dirt in and out at the end of Wenso Road. Mr. Benewiat is concerned about the dirt and mud in the road and it getting into the sewer system. The dirt turns into dust and gets inside his house. One day he counted 71 dump trucks hauling dirt on Wenso. Mr. Mallis said he along with the Building Commissioner and Superintendent of Public Works visited the site. Mr. Mallis stated a notice has been sent from the Building Department to the property owner and the tenants.

A resident questioned if the City is looking to save by prohibiting grass in bags in the garbage collection. Mayor Koci encourages mulching and said we are trying to find a way, but have not been successful.

There was a concern about the Moonglow. The Moonglow is a historic building, it is the original Taylor house that was moved there by the Taylor family. She hopes the City does not plan on demolishing it, but use it in conjunction with the Metroparks and trails as a visitor or information center or somewhere to get snacks. Mr. Mallis replied the majority of the structure needs to come down because it is not safe. Someone who has the experience and the tools to actually apply for historic tax credits can obtain significant state funding and grants. We will be open minded to it, but will not promise to renovate the house.

Resident said the City is doing a great job tearing down homes. He inquired about huge trailers/utility trailers parked in driveways. There is a neighbor who has a lawn care business and the entire trailer is dropped in the front yard and it is an eyesore. He also sees many oversized vehicles parked in yards such as dump trucks and campers and they are not hidden behind fences. Mr. Mallis asked the resident to give us the address and we would follow-up. Mr. Mallis also stated we do not have areas that are blight, but we do have specific homes that are dilapidated. The City received grant money last year for demolitions. The old dilapidated warehouse on Harrison will soon be demolished and there is an end user for that property. We have already torn down homes on William, Archer, Southwick and Wellmon. There is an enormous amount of time and work that is required when demolishing a property.

Inquiry if there are any plans for Chanel High School. Mr. Mallis replied that they were very close to having a rehabilitation center, but it did not go through. There were some concerns with the funding partners regarding asbestos. There is another individual who has an agreement in place, but nothing is yet final. The odds of finding a school to go in that building are low. The rear of the property abuts to St. Pius and Mr. Mallis has suggested to the broker to contact the builder who is building homes there because they want to build more. The City is also open to an office building there.

Mr. Mallis stated we purchased a property on Wellmon and tore the house down. Part of the reason the property was purchased is because it abuts Taft Park. We are looking for various ways to utilize that property and one idea is to establish a dog park. Dog parks are very popular in other inner ring suburbs. A dog park is not set in stone, it is being talked about. It will be discussed in upcoming Council meetings. It is a good spot if there is proper signage, fencing and if maintained properly. Mr. Mallis stated he wanted to know if residents liked or disliked the idea. Mayor Koci stated that if the City decides to go forward with the dog park, there will be enough notice for resident input.

A resident stated there are items that are not recyclable and they are not garbage, for example, she has a rocking chair. Mayor Koci replied anything that will not fit in the cart may go on the treelawn for pick up. If the garbage company does not take an item, call the City and we will contact Kimble to return and

pick it up. Mr. Bellar added everything can go on the curb. Mattresses have to be wrapped in plastic. If in question, put it outside the can. If it is a recyclable item, Kimble will put it in with the recyclables.

Resident at 907 High asked if the sewer (catch basin) could be cleaned out in front of her home. It is supposed to be cleaned out twice a year. Water goes into her home and floods the basement. The water also goes into her neighbor's house.

A resident suggested that everyone in town pick up trash when they see it. On Grand Blvd. there is a sign that says please remember to pick up after your animal. She inquired if these signs could be spread around town.

A resident commented that he has heard the City has new dump trucks, salt trucks and SUV's for the Police Department and questioned the need for the bigger vehicles for police cars. Mr. Mallis replied that the vehicles are not brand new. They look good because we have tremendous mechanics who maintain the vehicles. We do have some vehicles that are in really poor shape. An SUV is used by the Detective Bureau. The detectives used to have a Dodge, but when they went to a crime scene all the equipment did not fit in one vehicle. In this case, the larger vehicle is warranted. Same with the Fire Department as the Chief and the Assistant Chief have lifesaving equipment in their vehicles and do respond to calls when needed.

The City purchases police vehicles on a cycle. For three years due to budget constraints, we did not purchase vehicles, but we are finally back on the cycle and are caught up. When we purchase police vehicles, the older vehicles are then absorbed in other departments. Every department utilizes an old police cruiser. During that period when we did not buy vehicles, we had a Dodge with a rusted frame, one had a cracked frame and another had a blown transmission. There was a time when police officers had to take out the auxiliary van to calls. That is unacceptable so we are back on the cycle. We bought two vehicles in 2014, two vehicles in 2015 and we are buying one vehicle this year. Chief Nietert added regarding the question about the size of the vehicles, the Police Department has gotten away from purchasing SUVs because of the cost difference. Any SUV now on the road is over six years old. There are only three Tahoes left. These Tahoes service well because they maintain and stayed in good working condition as opposed to the Dodges. The Police Department has since downsized and have gone to the smaller Explorer.

Mr. Mallis stated we have brought back the K-9 unit. The Automile made a generous donation of about \$20,000. The Chief worked with Oakwood who no longer has a K-9 unit and had a fully equipped vehicle. We worked with them to acquire that vehicle instead of purchasing a vehicle and having it outfitted.

The Police Department will have a motorcycle unit this year. The motorcycle unit is going to be addressing parking on side streets and in the downtown, speeding, running stop signs, and other quality of life issues that are concerns of the residents. Chief Nietert stated the motorcycle gives you more concealment and versatility as far as traffic enforcement.

Councilwoman Mizaak asked on behalf of a resident if the "Proud to Serve" detail could be put back on the police cars. Chief Nietert responded that periodically over the years the decals on the car are changed. We now have the city logo incorporated on the cars. It should not be an issue to add in the future.

Inquiry if there is a way to get owners of unoccupied homes to clean up the property. The resident has a property next door in which the front steps are falling apart, the gutter is falling down, the leaves are never raked and debris is getting into her yard. Mayor Koci replied this can be addressed through the Building Department. As far as owners of these properties, it is difficult to enforce when the properties are not local. The City is dealing with one house in which the owner is in Israel and other owners live in Florida.

Mrs. Spinks is frustrated because the Inspectors could write citations but with many of these homes there is no one to cite. The owner could be a LLC or there is an owner who lives in Israel. Another property has changed ownership 17 times. The Law Director is working on legislation that when a LLC or bank owns a home, there must be someone responsible and someone to cite. Mr. Mallis stated if you are buying a property in Bedford and it will be listed under a LLC (Limited Liability Corporation), there must be a statutory agent either in Cuyahoga County or an adjoining county. We need to know who we can go to if the house is dilapidated or the grass needs cut. The City would send a notice advising they need to maintain the property so we would not have to wait seven days to cut the grass because they received their notice. The City would cut the grass and charge them \$200 for that cut.

A resident stated there is a person that parks on the street (Greencroft) all the time and asked if that is permitted. Mayor Koci replied there is no parking between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Other than that, they can park on the street. Unfortunately, some use the street as a driveway to park a car.

Mr. Mallis stated there was a situation on Logan where they kept getting parking citations but kept paying the parking tickets. One of the things being looked at is changing legislation increasing the parking ticket fees after each offense. During the budget process last Fall, the fees for all departments were reviewed. Many fees have not been addressed since the 1980's and 1990's. The Administration chose to address the Recreation Department fees first before baseball, playgrounds and the swimming pool seasons. The Administration is also going to be looking at the fees in the Building Department and the Police Department.

Inquiry if there is an ordinance on the height of shrubs. Mr. Beverly responded 30 inches in the front yard, past the front line of the house, and in the back yard shrubs may be five or six feet in height. This is enforced by the Building Department.

A resident inquired if the traffic signal could be reinstated at Northfield and Avery because there are many speeders. The resident gets off the bus and has trouble crossing the street because of the speeders. Mr. Mallis responded there is no plan to install traffic lights. If there was a light there at one time and it was taken down, it was because it was not warranted. The City relies on the statistics such as traffic citations and accidents. If there is a concern, the Police Department could do a special attention and have additional enforcement there. The added presence of the police will hopefully curb some of the speeding.

A resident asked when the city garbage cans from the sidewalks on Columbus and Broadway would be put back. Mr. Bellar responded the cans on Broadway in downtown were removed because of the snow. The snow plows would push them over. The cans will be put back in the Spring. Mr. Bellar is not sure why the can on Columbus Road was removed and will look into it.

There was a question for the Fire Chief regarding maximum staffing and what does this mean to the Fire Department. Chief Nagy responded there are three shifts and each shift has nine firefighters assigned.

The minimum staffing is six firefighters on duty. At any time there are six or more firefighters on duty that allows us to put a fire truck and two ambulances on the road.

A resident suggested using Code Red for all communications to the residents. Mayor Koci responded Code Red is mostly for emergencies, but we have used it for meeting notifications. Mr. Mallis stated that complaints have been received that it should only be used for emergencies and not for general information. The City is always looking for other ways to communicate information. We have a website and a Facebook page. We are currently looking at an online newspaper. A resident stated there is a neighborhood website where neighbors talk to each other about problems called "next door Bedford". Another resident questioned the caller ID number on the Code Red system. Mayor Koci and Chief Nietert stated it is always the same number 800 number.

Inquiry regarding if the Columbus Road Bridge closing would affect the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Mayor Koci replied the City has been assured we will still have the parade. Mr. Mallis further explained the majority of the work would be completed by then. The City has been pushing to have the closure as soon as possible. The schools are concerned about the closure due to school bus traffic. It is a County project so the City has communicated with the schools on decisions made. When the bridge is closed, they must maintain pedestrian traffic because of the children walking to and from school.

Dana Best-Mizsak, Executive Director of the Bedford Historical Society, announced upcoming events: Spring Open House on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00, Northeast Ohio Local History Fair at Ellenwood Center on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the Strawberry Festival in June.

Mrs. Spinks announced the next FriDates concert is April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Church of the Nazarene. These free concerts are every second Friday at different places in the city.

Mr. Genutis stated the Mayor and City Manager do a good job and most of the concerns he has heard are not unknown to the Administration. Regarding the empty houses, many times the Building Inspectors are well aware of them, and they do a good job going after the property owners. He invited anyone who wants a garden plot at the community garden to contact him as there are plots available. The community garden is one of the greatest assets in the city that people do not know about.

Mr. Mallis announced the Rotary Pancake Breakfast and Automile Run at the high school on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Koci announced tomorrow is the Primary Election and to vote.

Mr. Gambosi advised there are phone call scams about the IRS. The IRS will not call you. The IRS should send a written letter if there is an issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.



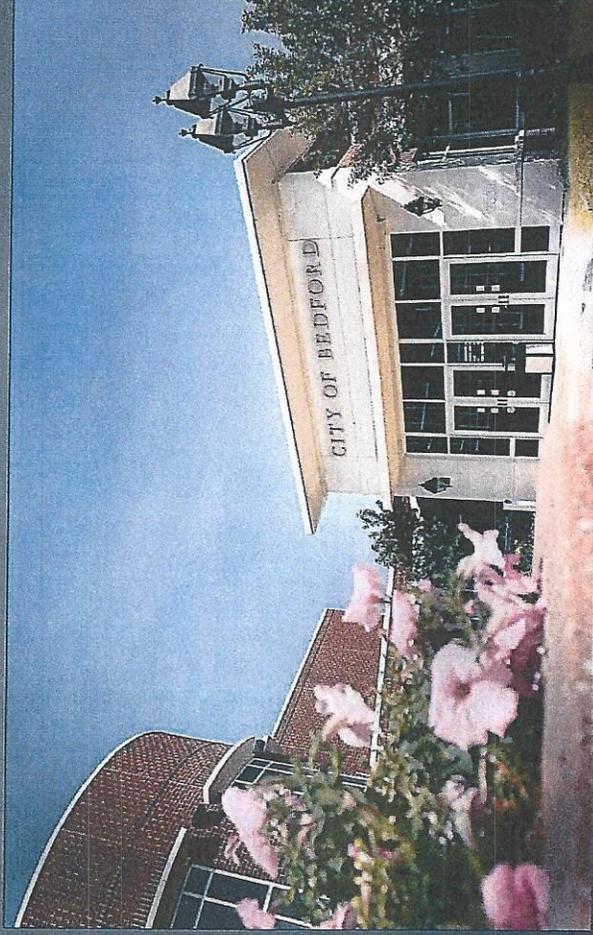
Clerk of Council Pro-Tem



Mayor - President of Council

# COMMUNITY MEETING WARDS 1 & 2

COUNCILWOMAN SANDY SPINKS  
COUNCILMAN WALTER GENUTIS

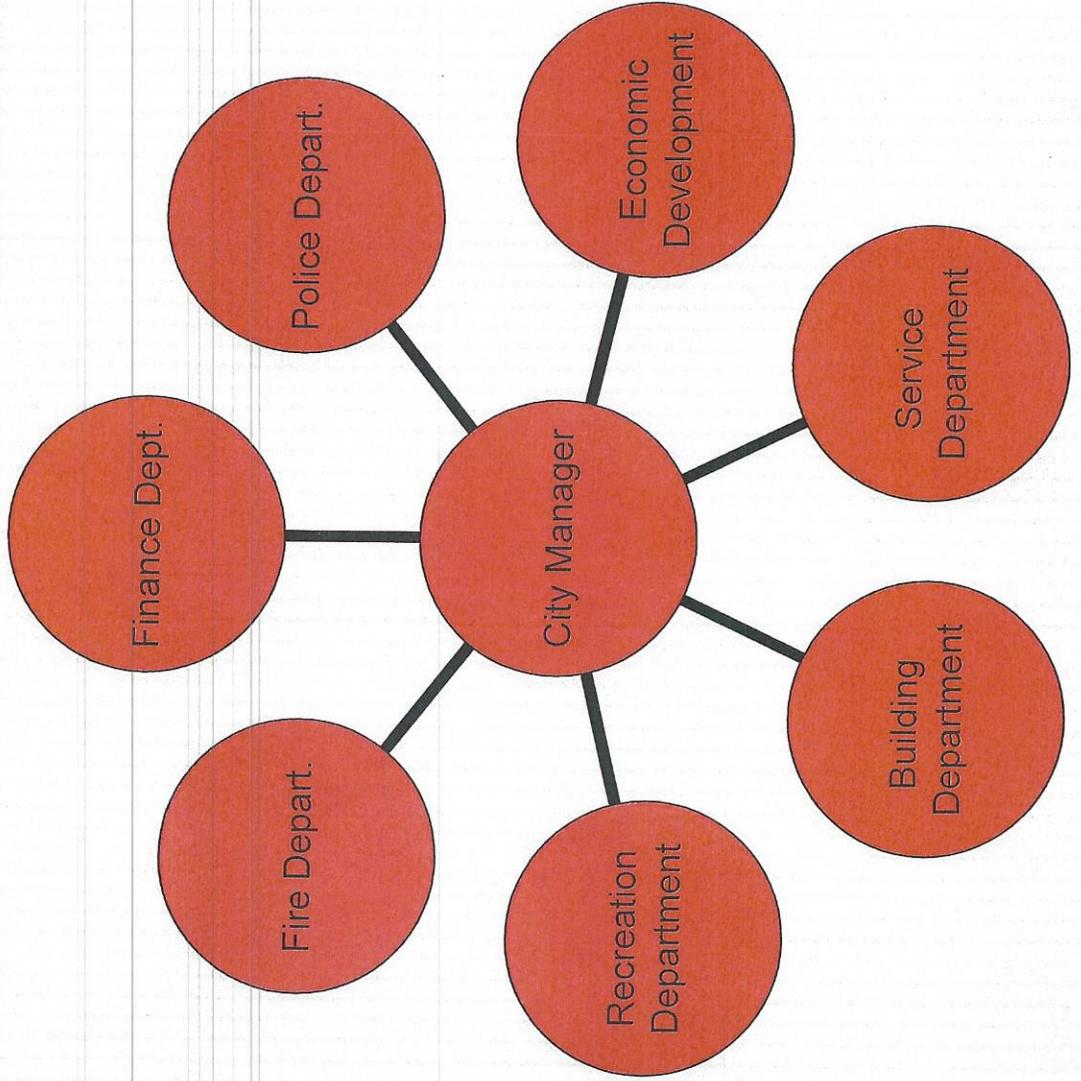


MARCH 14,  
2016

PRESENTED BY: MAYOR STAN KOCI &  
CITY MANAGER MIKE MALLIS



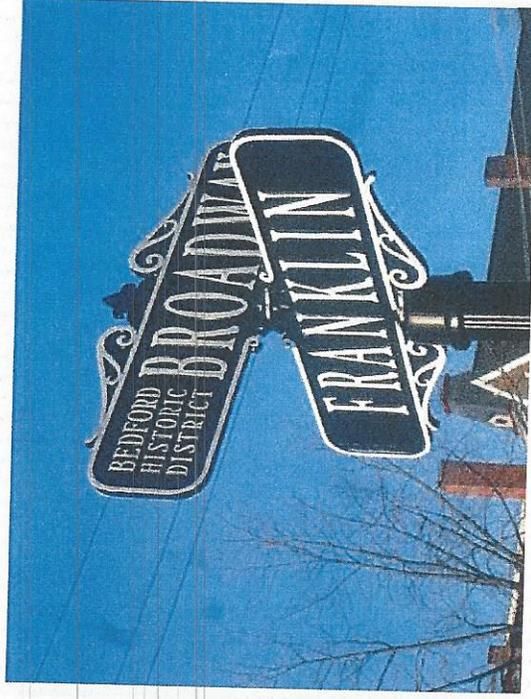
# MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS



# 2015 YEAR END



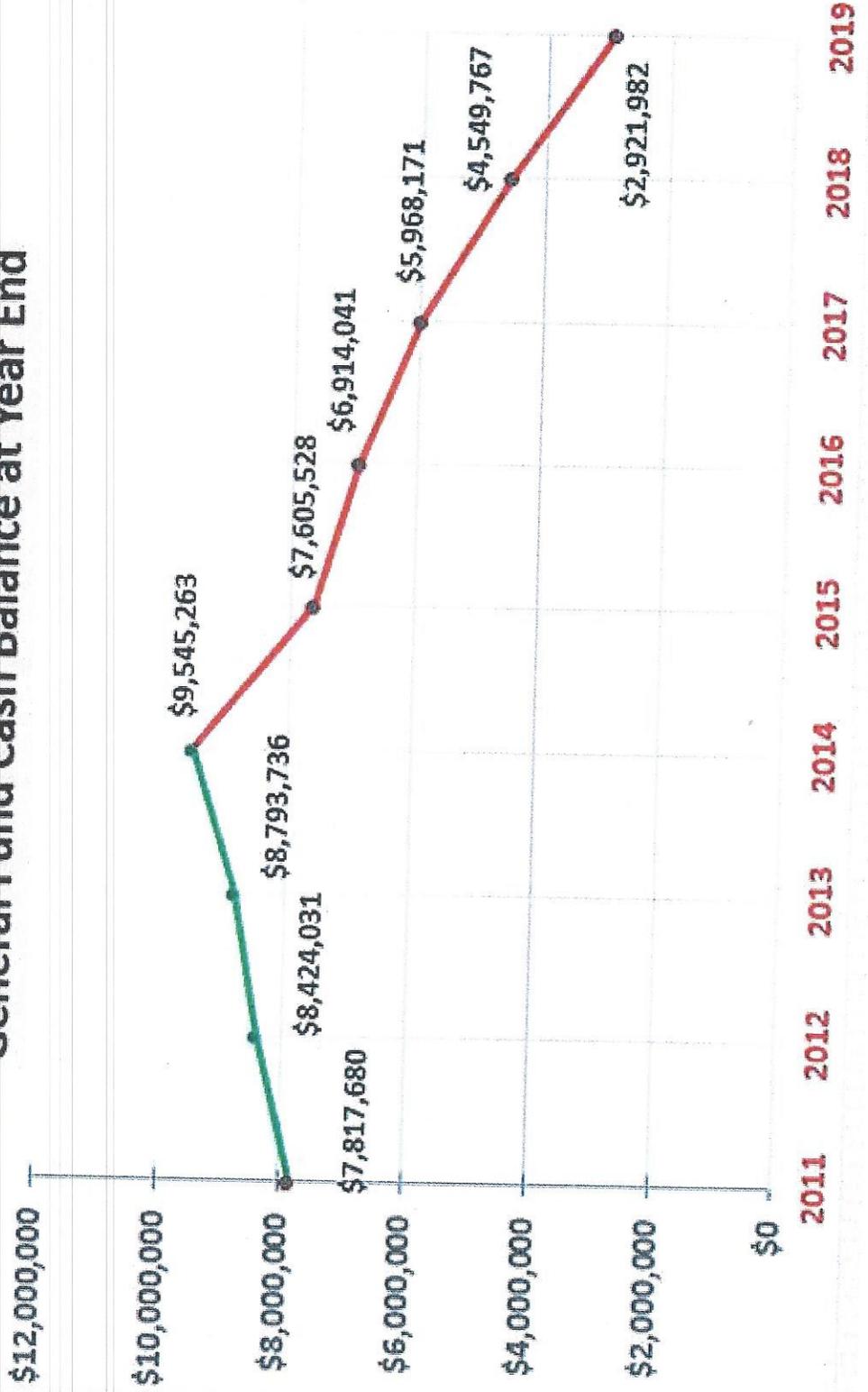
- ❑ City concluded 2015 with a \$1.8 million general fund cash balance.
- ❑ These funds were a result of the reduction in city income tax collections throughout 2015.
- ❑ We have experienced additional State revenue cuts and real estate tax collections over the last 3 years totaling \$1.9 annually!
- ❑ \$5.8 million reserve still intact
- ❑ Legislation exists requiring a 15% reserve be maintained
- ❑ As expected, the full affect of the Ben Venue closure in was felt in 2015



# GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE..... DECLINING



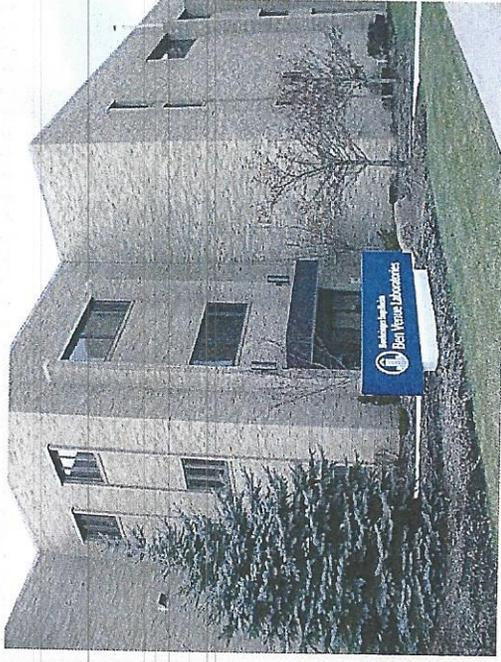
## General Fund Cash Balance at Year End



# 2015 YEAR END



- ❑ Xellia acquired a major portion of the West Ward facility in 2015.
- ❑ West Ward employment was phased down to about 100 in 2015 ( Over 1,100)
- ❑ The effect was roughly \$2 million in losses in 2015
- ❑ City officials have met with Xellia representatives and are optimistic on the future
- ❑ Xellia is committing to Bedford....new equipment, US packaging and shipping lines will be moved to Bedford with the goal of manufacturing returning to the site.



# 2016 NEWS AND INITIATIVES



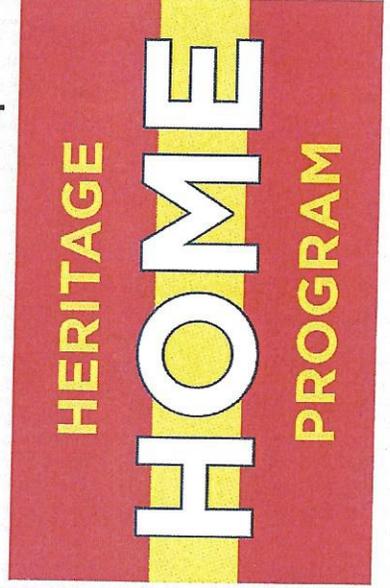
- ❑ Columbus Road Bridge:
- ❑ Closed 5/24 – 7/30
- ❑ Taft Park Improvements
  - ❑ Bark Park
  - ❑ Willard Housing Development
  - ❑ Meadowbrook Developments
  - ❑ Community Policing
  - ❑ Traffic enforcement
- ❑ Taylor / Willis Property
  - ❑ Bike and multi purpose trail
- ❑ Implemented a deer management program in 2016
  - ❑ Meeting on 5/9 with Metro Parks
  - ❑ Adjustment in services:
    - ❑ Sewer, Chipper & Sr. Van
    - ❑ Sidewalk Program
    - ❑
  - ❑ Residential Water Meter Replacement
    - ❑ 2016 & 2017
  - ❑ Trash collection
    - ❑ City wide recycling has doubled!

# CITY OF BEDFORD



## Maintaining our Neighborhoods

- The City will continue enforcing our property maintenance program
  - Pursue demolition when possible
  - June of 2016 will be "Free Permit Month".
  - All residential owner occupied exterior improvements.
- Partnership with the Cleveland Restoration Society
- Tremendous resource for home improvements



# CITY OF BEDFORD



## Community Outreach

- Our goal has been to inform our residents and businesses of as much information as possible
  - Monthly utility bill inserts, Facebook, Twitter and E-News digital notifications
  - Working to establish a community app
  - Timeline = summer release
  - Code Red sign-up form available



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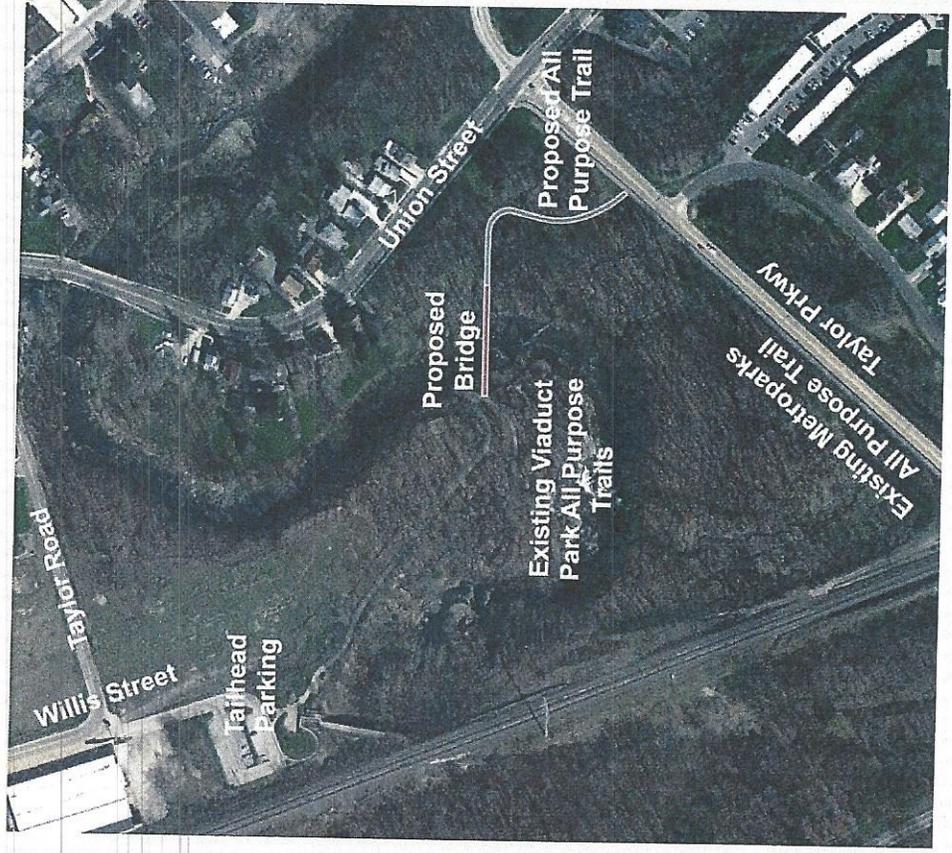
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# CITY OF BEDFORD



- Finalized the acquisition of the Moonglow & Rysar Properties vacant land adjacent to Viaduct Park
  - 12+ acres ready for development
  - City is working to both establish and extend the Metroparks bike paths throughout the City
  - The goal is to highlight parks attractions throughout the City

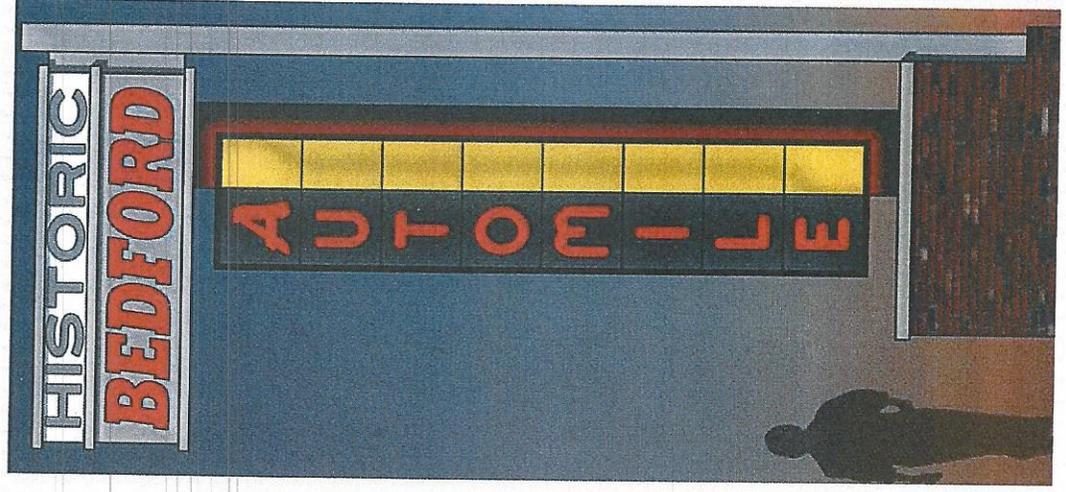


# CITY OF BEDFORD



## 2016 & Beyond

- Continue to work with Xellia Representatives
- Continue to market the City of Bedford as a whole....housing, businesses, service and overall quality of life
- Development of the Taylor / Willis property and the City trail-way.
- Collaborate with the developers of Meadowbrook Market Square to enhance retail in complex
- Collaborate with Hemisphere to market Tinkers Creek Commerce Park





# QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

