

Community Ward Meeting for **Wards 3 & 4** was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 9, 2012. Mayor Pocek called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Daniel Pocek, Stan Koci, Marilyn Zolata, Don Saunders, Paula Mizesak. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Henry Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Assistant Service Director Bob Duber, Police Chief Greg Duber, Deputy Chief Kris Nietert, Recreation Director Randy Lewis, Economic Development Director Mike Mallis, Fire Chief Dave Nagy. Absent: Warner Batten, Greg Pozar.

Mayor Pocek welcomed all residents in attendance tonight. He introduced the present Council Members. Mr. Angelo greeted everyone and introduced the Department Heads and Clerk Villers.

Mayor Pocek introduced Councilwoman Zolata of 20 years and Councilwoman Mizesak. He opened the floor to both Councilwomen for comments and reports.

Councilwoman Zolata reported the following for Ward 3:

- she wished more residents had attended this evening but figured that since there were only about 20 people things must be going fairly well and the residents were happy even though things were not perfect.
- the 80th year of Bedford's manager form of government.
- the 175th year of Bedford being a corporate municipality.
- Bedford still had an overall good quality of life atmosphere regardless of the minor everyday problems of speeders, traffic, rubbish, noise and animal issues.
- the City Administration and Council Members were working on the City Marketing Plan to promote Bedford to show its great quality as a fine City. She did not appreciate negative comments being said about Bedford. There was a lot of hard work from everyone that went into keeping Bedford a great place to live. She listed several good attractions: the Automobile, the City Square, University Hospital, waterfalls and so on.
- the City Administration and Council continued to maintain the economic security because of the State of Ohio budget cuts.
- the City was paying special attention to the foreclosed homes in the City, St Mary's Church and the convent.
- good news regarding St. Mary's Church, which she would allow a resident to speak on later.
- there was going to be a paper shredding machine at City Hall on May 12, 2012 and October 13, 2012 for the residents.
- the water bill insert that had a lot of important/valuable information on it for the residents.
- the new ADA doors that were installed at the Ellenwood Recreation Center to assist the senior population.
- the CDBG that Union Street in Ward 3 would benefit from that would beautify the bridge; add additional signage and Union Street road resurfacing improvements.
- the numerous beautiful waterfalls that was located in Bedford.
- the dye testing that had been done in Ward 3 that would help with some of the flooding issues.
- the World Changers Program would be back this summer to assist in home repairs for the qualified residents.
- she thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their professional assistance.

- the City was working on a regional dispatching center that would include other cities that she felt was a very exciting program.
- she enjoyed Student Government Day this year with St. Peter Chanel and Bedford High School students.

Councilwoman Mizsak reported the following for Ward 4:

- urged the residents to come forward throughout the year if they had any ideas or concerns for the betterment of the City.
- she thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their professional services.
- it is important for everyone to work together as a team so positive things could happen in the City.
- the residents should always call the Police Department if they had any concerns.
- thank you the residents in Ward 4 for allowing her another opportunity to serve them and the City as their councilwoman.

Mayor Pocek quoted James Madison, the 4th President of the United States and the father of the Constitution of the United States. -- "If men were angels, governments would not be necessary." He said the Administration/Council tried to do the best job they could. The current Council Members have served over 140 years total in government. He hoped their legacy would be passed on to the next generation in hopes they would shepherd the City. He has been the Mayor for 13 years but has served 29 years total in government. He stated Mr. Angelo was the former Mayor of the City of Warren and now has become a resident of Bedford. Mr. Angelo promoted for the City of Bedford the City Community Gardens and the water bill newsletter. Mr. Angelo said he was blessed with the administration, staff and residents that he currently worked with. He said everyone were team players.

Mr. Angelo announced the World Changers would be back this year starting July 9, 2012 to July 14, 2012. He briefly explained there were approximately 250 young high school/college students from 16 different states that volunteered in the World Changers Program that assisted in repairing some of the homes in Bedford and the surrounding areas in 2011. The group did several types of projects/repairs: painting, handicap ramp, gutters, steps, roofs and those types of improvements. He praised the help/assistance and quality work this group brought to Bedford in 2011. He told a story about the students that had made a card for one of the applicants with biblical scriptures that explained how they felt working for her for free meant to them. Reading the card brought tears to everyone's eyes. There was an application process and guidelines that the residents had to go through to be eligible for the program.

City Manager Hank Angelo started the evening with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting all City Departments: (PowerPoint hard copy attached to the March 26, 2012 Wards 1 & 2 Meeting Minutes)

Police Department: Mr. Angelo said the City always focuses on Community Policing to maintain the Quality of Life in Bedford. Chief Duber explained the NIXLE Communication System (www.NIXLE.com) was similar to the Code Red alert system. NIXLE alerted residents through cell phone texting and internet. Text on your cell phone 888777 and type in the zip code 44146 and the message would be sent to your cell phone. He added the alert/information would also go to the Police Department's Facebook, Twitter accounts and the Police Department's website at the same time. The Code Red alerted the residents through the phone of their choice and a recorded message would be left on the resident's voicemail. Chief Duber explained the Police Department was utilizing CompStat to focus on problem areas or specific issues whether it is accidents, robberies, drugs and so on.

Fire Department: Mr. Angelo said the Fire Department recently purchased a new rescue squad and Chief Nagy was able to sell the 14 year old squad for \$20,000. He stated Bedford continued to explore Regionalization and Resource Sharing opportunities with Maple Heights and Bedford Heights. One of the future joint purchases would be a new ladder fire truck for approximately \$1.4 million. He explained nine (9) cities were studying Regional Dispatching which would be located at Bedford University Hospital. The City was looking into a \$900,000 grant and the center would allow a combined savings of a few hundred thousand dollars after the center was up and running. He thought the dispatching center was approximately 18-24 months before completion. He added the center would save in personnel costs of \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year. The equipment cost and updates would also be a great benefit.

Economic Development: Mike Mallis, Economic Development Director explained this was a program through Cuyahoga County using federal monies in the amount of \$150,000. The money could be used in various ways to beautify some of the residential properties. The City partnered with Doty & Miller to design a home that fit ethically in the City but was energy efficient. He said there were about eight locations being considered for this home. The City still had eight (8) city owned properties available to sell. He explained the three 30 foot high monuments that were going to be installed in the Automile area by the end of the 2012 summer. The Automile consisted of 32 dealerships that employed 1,700 people. The City of Bedford was proud to state that it had the only Historical Automile.

Service Department Projects: Wood Creek Culvert replacement - \$672,842 (Issue 2 Grant), water line replacement project for Grand Boulevard, Franklin Street and Magnolia Avenue. The water line was installed but the project had to be put on hold because of the weather and the Public Works money. The City matched \$300,000 by issuing bonds and there was \$186,000 remaining for the road resurfacing. The asphalt plants usually do not open until warmer weather in May. The Solon Road water line replacement was paid from the Water Revenue Funds. The City did a UV Disinfection Improvement Program which was paid from the Waste Water Fund. The General Fund paid for the service employees, police and fire operations. Commercial Water Meter replacement program was additional revenue for the City because meters slow down and the commercial businesses were getting more water than what they were paying for so now the businesses pay the appropriate amount. He figured eventually the residential meters would be replaced. Bedford was a master meter community which meant Bedford purchased its water from Cleveland in bulk. Any water problem would be handled by a Bedford employee not a Cleveland employee. He stated the City would be getting a water rate increase from Cleveland in 2014 but that was Bedford's only source of water.

Recreation Department: Mr. Angelo said in June the City received a \$35,000 grant from the Cuyahoga County Office of Development to replace the main playground toy at Palmetto which will be installed in the spring of 2012.

Mr. Angelo stated the City was very fortunate to receive the amount of grants that the Administration had applied for. Mr. Gambosi said the City had received over \$26 million dollars in grant money in the past 8 years for various things.

Bedford Automile Dealerships: Mr. Angelo reported there were 1,700 employees combined at 32 dealerships. Mr. Mallis met with the dealerships monthly for good public relations. The City received a \$150,000 CDBG to enhance the district. The City will add additional funds to include digital signs, monuments, banners and landscaping this spring. The City of Bedford was enforcing the fact that Bedford is the Ohio Historic Automile.

Finance: Mr. Angelo listed the various departments and the amount of money it took to operate each department using taxpayers money and safety levies: Operating Budget – over \$32.5+ million – Police \$4.3+ million, Fire \$2.8+ million, Service - \$1.6+ million, Administration \$1.9+ million, Recreation \$1.1+ million, Municipal Court - \$2.0+ million and Water & Waste - \$8.0+ million, Debt \$1.1+ million and Health Insurance \$2.2+ million. Bedford did not have much debt. The City carried a \$5.8+ million reserve, a 2012 \$1.8+ million carryover and Council passed legislation that mandated to maintain a 15% reserve which was very important. Being fiscally responsible also added to the Bond Rating. He thanked Mr. Gambosi for all his hard efforts. Mr. Gambosi stated Bedford was just below the AAA rating of Solon, Beachwood and Westlake. He had been in great fiscal standing for over 25 years and 21 years just for the City of Bedford.

Marketing the City: Mr. Angelo said efforts were made to market the City on the new website, monthly utility bill inserts, Twitter and Facebook to get the word out of The Bedford Advantage. Clerk Villers submitted information to two newspapers on a regular basis. He stated there were so many amenities that people took it for granted.

City of Bedford: Mr. Angelo listed the following: Rail Project with Ohio Rail Commission: the City received \$1,000,000 in upgrades in the North Park, Powers and Willis area, Bedford Audi Improvements: assisted the dealership with incentives toward the \$3.5 million project along with five other dealerships, 600 Solon Road: a new business location, Milano Monuments: assisted with incentives for their new office on Broadway Avenue, and Energy Improvements: the City will be making over \$100,000 in energy improvements throughout numerous municipal buildings.

Quiet Zone: Mr. Mallis explained he had submitted two applications over a year ago and to date, the City was not clear on the rules or regulations. Depending on the rules and the length (100 or 200 feet), the installation of the median barriers and the traffic flow could be affected and changed. Some of the roads could be changed into one-way streets or right turn only. The median barriers were already purchased for the amount of \$16,000-\$17,000. The Administration was still waiting for clarification before the City can make a decision on how this could affect the areas that could lead to significant traffic changes.

2012 & Beyond: Mr. Angelo said the following projects were in the works of being taken care of – replacement of Broadway water line, CDBG road resurfacing and streetscape project with better signage for visitors, for example to Viaduct Park. He added other items the City wanted to pursue were the development of the old Taylor Chair property, collaborate with Meadowbrook Market Square developers to enhance the retail area and collaborate with Hemisphere to market Tinkers Creek Commerce Park. The Meadowbrook Market Square owner had three leases that were binding until 2018 so the units were going to set empty. Overall the City was land locked because of the limited vacant space available.

Mayor Pocek explained that Taylor Chair had been in continuous operation in Bedford since 1816 and was the oldest family owned company in the Country. The City made an effort when purchasing furniture for the new City Hall to buy locally. All the chairs the residents were sitting in were Taylor Chairs. He thought the Council Members were doing an excellent job for the tough times we all had before us.

Mayor Pocek opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

Roberta Moccia, 326 Zingales, complained about some of the rental property landlords allowing table clothes and sheets for curtains. She thought the City needed to be stricter regarding this. Mr. Angelo stated the City had no control over how a resident was to decorate their windows inside. It was explained to her that the City recently considered addressing this exact issue but found out it was not something that

could be enforced by the Building Department. Mr. Angelo stated if it were a health issue then the City could get involved. He told the story of the one house that was so infested with cockroaches that it affected two neighboring resident's homes. He explained the Point of Sale process but that wasn't something that was done every year. He noted there were 325 vacant homes out of 4,800 currently in the City, which he felt was low. Ms. Moccia asked if the City could enforce exterior painting. Mr. Angelo said the City could enforce exterior issues. Mrs. Moccia said she had called in complaints to the Building Department before and nothing was done. Mayor Pocek urged her to call her councilperson or the Administration with the addresses.

Kathy Skalak, 290 West Glendale, questioned if the cable TV was a monopoly of some sort. Mayor Pocek said she answered her own question. The Federal Government stated the contract for Cable TV had to be between the resident/customer and the company. Mr. Angelo suggested Dish, Direct TV or the Internet because the other options were less expensive. Mr. Koci said other Cable TV companies could sell their services in the City but they chose not to, there were no restrictions. Mr. Saunders stated AT&T currently was working in Bedford in certain sections.

Joyce Howard, 402 Union Street, had concerns about two rental homes located at 358 and 410 Union. She stated both homes had revolving doors. The one renter was selling drugs out of the home. She questioned how a city rehab home was sold. She hoped there was some law that stated the property owner had to live in the home instead being able to turn it into a rental. Mrs. Zolata clarified these two homes were not City rehab homes but rather foreclosed homes that were turned into rentals. A City rehab home had to be lived in for five years and not rented.

Larry Malik, 237 West Glendale, had a safety issue regarding the train that stopped on the tracks over the road. The Chiefs agreed with him but the railroad operators didn't view it with the same amount of safety concerns. Chief Nagy explained that when there was a fire, the alarm automatically called Oakwood Village, Bedford Heights and Maple Heights. The location of the fire was the factor of which Fire Department was used. Mr. Mallis stated tracks and the property were owned by the railroad and sadly enough nobody was going to tell them what to do. It was determined that the railroad had cut down their downtime to five minutes when it used to be up to 15 minutes. Mr. Angelo thought the City was in better condition now than it had been before because of the joint efforts of the surrounding fire stations. Chief Duber said the Police Department had a few incidents with the railroad. One time an officer had to direct traffic around the gate and the other incident was when the train stopped before the crossing and when the officer asked the operator to move back the officer was informed by the operator, NO, he was eating his lunch. He stated the Police Department sent a letter to the railroad that they were going to be billed for these types of things. Mrs. Mizesak remembered a time when there was a suggestion to build a station by the waste water plant.

Vince Abbadini 1224 Broadway Avenue, complained about the playground located on Broadway Avenue because he felt it was unsafe. He thought Mrs. Zolata and the property owner Frank Thome constructed the playground beside his house. Mrs. Zolata assured Mr. Abbadini that she had nothing to do with it and this was not a playground. The equipment was on private property for possibly their grandchildren. The Administration explained to him that the City could not do anything about the playground equipment because it was on private property and not a city owned park. Mr. Angelo and Mayor Pocek assured Mr. Abbadini that the City would look at it.

Robert Kudla, 70 Greencliff Drive, wanted to know when his street was going to be fixed after three years of waiting. Mr. Angelo reported the City had no additional funds for capital improvements. He said there were no plans unless the City could get CDBG funds. Mr. Gambosi explained the State of Ohio cut

\$800,000 of Bedford's operating funds, the local government funds at 25%, then another 50% in the next year totaling \$300,000 a year. He explained if 33 dealerships sold 30 cars for \$25,000 each per year that would generate \$1,250,000.00 in sales tax. The City would only get \$300,000 out of \$1,250,000. He said he had his work cut out for him trying to come up with the funds that the City normally received while trying to plan for future projects. Mayor Pocek stressed the Administration and Council Members were doing the best they could with all the budget cuts.

Eileen Barto, 155 West Glendale, thanked Mr. Lewis for Palmetto Park improvements. She thanked the Fire Department rescue squad for the professional response to the accident her son and husband were in recently. She asked if the discussion this evening was different than what she had read on Cleveland.com in January 2012. She asked who the governing body was going to be. Mr. Angelo explained the Council of Governments (COG) would manage the Regional Dispatch Center. The COG would be agreed on by the three City's Council Members and Administration from Bedford, Bedford Heights and Maple Heights. He added the center would not be up and running for another 18-24 months. Mrs. Barto asked how the non-emergency calls were going to be handled. Mr. Angelo said that hadn't been decided yet. The non-emergency calls were either going to be handled at the Regional Dispatch Center or individually at each of the City's dispatch center. There was discussion that the January newspaper article that Mrs. Barto read was a study from Cuyahoga County telling the cities that there was not enough money to support all the Police Department upgrades or a 9-1-1 system. Chief Duber said the residents would receive the same service and they would not experience or notice anything different than what was currently happening.

A resident asked if the helicopter she was seeing frequently was "life flight". Mayor Pocek figured it was.

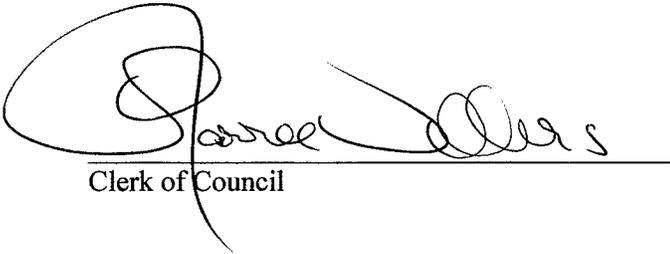
Mary Kay Wheatly, 1322 Caryl Drive, asked if Tim Anderson was going to be replaced at the Recreation Center. Mr. Lewis explained he was in the process of interviewing people for the position. He added that it was important to find a replacement that was very experienced because he would be in a position to retire in a few years. His focus was to look toward the future of the Recreation Center during this hiring process.

A resident had concerns regarding the damaged telephone poles on Broadway. Mr. Duber had just called on that specific pole and unfortunately CEI addresses the poles on their own terms. Mr. Angelo explained he had been in contact with Terry Kileen at CEI and CEI was in the process of doing a pole audit and the pole would be taken care of at CEI's discretion.

A resident said in 1962 the City had a weeklong celebration regarding the 120th year of Bedford being a corporate municipality. He said he hadn't heard anything regarding the 175th year. Mayor Pocek said discussions had already taken place and it was being worked on.

Mrs. Mizsak informed Roberta Moccia that the city could not enforce window treatments. Ms. Moccia said after visiting Hudson, Solon and Sagamore Hills; she thought Bedford, Bedford Heights and Maple Heights looked like slums. Mayor Pocek disagreed with Ms. Moccia and he took issue with her negative statement. He stated Bedford was not a slum and the City was doing their best to maintain the quality of Bedford.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.



Clerk of Council



Mayor - President of Council