

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2010**

6:00 P.M. PROMPT

DINNER AT 6:00 P.M.

- **BUDGET HEARING – 6:00 P.M. – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Immediately followed by the budget hearing for the City Manager and
Finance Department**

Bedford, Ohio

November 29, 2010

Bedford City Council met in a work session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, November 29, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Dan Pocek, Warner Batten, Stan Koci, Paula Mizensak, Marilyn Zolata, Greg Pozar, Don Saunders. Also Present: Clerk of Council Kathleen Lynch. Administration: City Manager Henry Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi and Police Chief Greg Duber. Absent: Law Director Ken Schuman.

Mayor Pocek began the Work Session with the budget hearing for the Police Department.

Chief Duber began by giving each member of Council a handout of last year's statistics. Most incidents decreased during the last year.

The Mayor asked Chief Duber why he believes the City did not receive the COPS Grant (funding for additional personnel). Chief Duber has no idea. They have also submitted a grant application for a vehicle but he does not believe they will be successful in attaining this grant. There are quite a few departments that have applied with vehicles that have 130,000 to 140,000 miles on the police car, ours have a lot less.

Councilwoman Mizensak asked Chief Duber about the warranty on a police vehicle. The Chief said it is three years or 75,000 miles. Councilman Koci asked if the department utilizes the warranties. The Chief said yes, it saves quite a bit of money.

Councilman Saunders asked which cars are better, the Ford or Dodge. The Chief will never buy another Dodge for the department, the Fords hold up much better. Ford is coming out with a new police car in the fall of 2011. The vehicles that are working the best are the SUV.

Councilman Batten asked what the cost difference was between a car and SUV. The Chief said not much, if the SUV only has two wheel drive instead of four wheel drive. However, Ford is supposed to come out with a police utility vehicle (PUV). The Chief said the Dodge is better performing than the Ford but much worse to maintain.

Councilman Pozar asked about the Officer Phil program. Chief Duber said the program is in approximately 22 states and they solicit area businesses to put on a safety program for children up to grade 5, a ventriloquist comes in and does an assembly. The Chief, City Manager and representative from the Bedford School District are going to Olmsted Falls tomorrow to observe the program. The Chief said the company that puts on the program solicits the businesses directly. The City pays nothing, or solicits nothing on its behalf.

Councilman Pozar asked about the possibility of utilizing the local clergy in the area in cooperation with the department. Chief Duber said the community is changing, it is becoming much more diverse and the opportunity to involve the clergy to help with cultural sensitivity is beneficial. It is more likely for the individuals, especially juveniles, to open up to the clergy to find out what is causing these issues.

Councilman Pozar asked if the Chief saw value in the relationship. The Chief said yes. Mr. Angelo said the clergy have a story to tell to the youth, and it would be very beneficial.

Mr. Angelo said the ministers are looking to put a full-time person in the schools. They will be soliciting funds from all four cities served by the Bedford School District.

Chief Duber said the department is open to having the ministers ride along with them too. The Mayor said that is important because the clergy know the cultural differences.

The Chief briefly explained the department's use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

Councilman Koci asked about the line item that has hospitalization as \$600,000 but salaries only at \$200,000. Mr. Gambosi said the 219 Fund, which is the Safety Levy, has the payroll for the Police Department. This was done for accounting purposes.

Councilman Koci said three new vehicles are budgeted for next year, which that seems like a lot. Also, professional services went from \$8,000 to \$15,000. The Chief said the County Coroner now has a lab that will be handling forensic evidence for the department, instead of BCI. That is the increase.

Councilman Koci asked about the line item for unemployment compensation. Mr. Gambosi said that is when Officer Kiehl was laid off.

Councilman Batten said the line for Supervision/Office increased from \$164,000 to \$200,000. Chief Duber said that now includes Penny Jarrell, for the Juvenile Diversion Program. Last year, the City received a grant for that position.

Councilman Batten said in 2009 the line item for chemical/hardware was \$30,000 and for 2010 it was \$20,000. The Chief said in 2009 there was approximately a 24 month waiting period for ammo, and the department purchased a large amount because of that.

Councilman Batten asked about SEALE dues. Chief Duber said \$20,000 is collected for dues. Mr. Batten asked about the clothing allowance. The Chief said the City used to pay for the items directly, but now the employees get a check through payroll twice a year.

Councilman Saunders asked if the payout amounts for the officers leaving next year are included. Chief Duber said yes. Mr. Saunders asked about the auxiliary reduction. The Chief said the department just recently applied for grant money to specifically deal with the juvenile issues, i.e. the grant would be used for overtime money for this purpose.

The Mayor said there have been more incidents with cars on lawns. Mr. Angelo said a special attention is in place.

Councilman Saunders asked if auxiliary officers can write tickets. The Chief said yes, certain types. The Chief wants the department to get back to the community, so they will be holding community meetings, just with the Police Department. There will members from the department to answer questions specifically about police issues.

Councilwoman Mizsak asked who is in charge of the auxiliary officers. Chief Duber said Lt. Nietert. Councilwoman Zolata said if the grant for overtime is received, it would only be used for juvenile patrol. The Chief said yes. Mrs. Zolata asked if Penny Jarrell could also work with the ministers. The Chief said yes, that could be implemented.

Councilman Pozar asked about the prisoner flow from Cuyahoga County. Chief Duber said there is none, the City is down 57%. Mr. Pozar asked about the enforceability of robot ticket writers. Chief Duber said until the Supreme Court makes a ruling, they are strictly civil matters.

Councilman Pozar asked about the 4th of July this year, what does the Chief expect. Chief Duber said there will be the same police presence as there was in 2010. Mr. Angelo said there will be the same amount of men, if not more.

Councilman Pozar asked if there have been any incidents at sweepstakes terminal cafes. Chief Duber said there are some in Streetsboro and Garfield Heights, and he has not heard of any issues.

Councilman Pozar asked the Chief what he saw as the biggest challenge for the department in 2011. Chief Duber said maintaining with the loss of employees. The department is down four officers this year, and will lose three more next year. It is essential to find good people to come into the department.

Councilman Pozar said the total cost of the department in 2008 was \$4.39 million, 2010 and 2011 it is the same at \$4.3 million. It is a good department.

The budget hearing for the Police Department was concluded.

The budget hearing for the City Manager began immediately.

City Manager Angelo said this year will bring changes that include upgrading the computer hardware and software systems. All departments, with the exception of the Police Department, will switch from using TAC to Devore Technologies. The phone contracts are also being looked into.

Mr. Angelo said recently the issue of shoe allowance for non-union employees has been brought to his attention. If someone is not in the union, and therefore not covered under contract, they will no longer be paid a shoe allowance as they have in the past. Mr. Gambosi said the Building Inspectors were included as were employees at the Service Department.

Mr. Angelo said the City has no authority to pay for this, unless a uniform is necessary for the job. Mr. Angelo said the housing program is being reviewed, as is the website. Council passed legislation for a new website to cost approximately \$20,500 and the computer upgrades will cost \$40,000. There will also be a change in the way utility bills are done. Mr. Angelo said the budget is no more than it was last year.

Councilman Pozar asked if Mr. Angelo had concerns with the housing program. Mr. Angelo said the repairs are being better reviewed between him, Mr. Gambosi and Mr. Mallis. Mr. Pozar asked if Mr. Angelo thought the program should be discontinued. Mr. Angelo said spending \$30,000 to \$35,000 to correct code violations is where the program should be headed.

Mr. Angelo said some of the money is grant money and the City is following the guidelines set by those grants. Mr. Angelo said Mr. Gambosi is doing a great job with keeping track of everything for the reimbursements. Mr. Gambosi said unfortunately the grants required that the projects be established in a very sharp timeline.

Councilman Pozar asked if this was the greatest challenge Mr. Angelo faces in 2011. Mr. Angelo said not the greatest but one of them.

Councilwoman Zolata asked if there were any programs for residents that needed help with maintaining their residences. Mr. Angelo said no, as far as grant money is concerned. However, in July an organization called World Changers will be coming to the City with 100 volunteers. They will be here for one week, will complete 10 projects in the community and there are no eligibility requirements. It is a Christian based organization, and only do work on one level homes.

Councilman Koci asked about the Law Department on page 16 of the budget. The base salary for Mr. Schuman is \$86,000 a year and the hospitalization is \$27,000. Mr. Angelo said the Assistant Law Director John Montello does not receive a salary, but does receive hospitalization coverage, so that includes both Mr. Schuman and Mr. Montello.

There was no further discussion and the budget hearing of the City Manager was concluded.

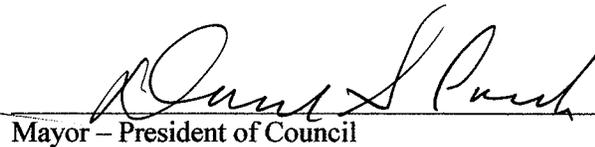
The Finance Department budget hearing began. Mr. Gambosi discussed the Income Tax Department. They are up 5% this year so far, however, there are signs of much unemployment in the City, which is troubling. Mr. Gambosi said the City is where he predicted it would be as far as property values, they have increased 2.2% but there is a new board coming in January.

Mr. Gambosi said over the next 8 years the CAD tax will be taken out of the budget by the State. That is a loss of \$400,000 over the next 8 years. This year the City does have a balanced budget, about \$130,000 ahead. This amount includes the 3% raise for AFSCME employees this year, but no other employees. If the City were to give a 1% raise, it would cost approximately \$125,000, and beyond that the City would be in the red.

Councilman Pozar said the general fund cannot afford that. Mr. Gambosi agrees but with negotiations, it is yet to be determined what will happen.

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


Clerk of Council


Mayor - President of Council