

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011**

**5:30 P.M. PROMPT**

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**Dinner will be served**

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- **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel**
- **BUDGET HEARING –**
  - **6:00 pm – Police Department**
- **COST OF LIGHTS - DONATION TO AREA FOOD BANK**
  - **7:00 pm – Recreation Department**

Bedford, Ohio

October 24, 2011

Bedford City Council met in a work session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Dan Pocek, Warner Batten, Stan Koci, Paula Mizesak, Marilyn Zolata, Don Saunders. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Henry Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi and Police Chief Greg Duber, Recreation Director Randy Lewis Law Director Ken Schuman.

Absent: Greg Pozar.

Mayor Pocek began the Work Session with an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. and the session would include Council members, Ken Schuman and Henry Angelo. The Executive Session concluded at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Pocek revised the upcoming budget work session schedule as follows: to move the Municipal Court discussion to November 7, 2011 and the Service Department to November 21, 2011. This would allow November 28, 2011 to be freed up.

Chief Duber began by reminding Council that this year was a tough year due to contract negotiations. He noted there was an increase in problems throughout the city. The department's original focus was in certain areas such as Greencroft Road and Turney Road apartments but now the focus had to be redirected to the entire City because of various issues.

The Mayor asked Chief Duber about the peeping Tom on Wandle Avenue. The Chief noted nothing had become of that situation. He noted there had been some problems with car break-ins on Southwick Drive. He said the officers were focusing on certain areas such as Broadway Avenue, Rockside Road and Northfield Road regarding vehicle accidents but the accidents were occurring all over the City. He said the department was addressing the increased robberies versus the traffic violations and stated with all the vacant homes in the City, copper theft has increased along with TV's. The Chief told a story about a group of kids in Maple Heights that had stolen a TV and games from one of their friends because they had a fight and during a traffic stop, the TV was recovered in the trunk of a friend's car with the friend in the car that had no idea his own TV was in the trunk.

Mr. Koci and the Chief had a short discussion regarding the theft of video games. The Chief mentioned the Games Stop games that were stolen were returned.

Mrs. Mizesak mentioned the theft of sewer covers and how they needed to be secured which she thought resolved the issue.

Chief Duber noted the department was trying to address active warrants but the problem was the man power. He stressed the department was very active in Community policing. The officers were placing notes on resident's front doors if there was a bicycle left outside or a garage door left open. He stressed this only invites theft.

The Chief explained the DVD's that were being played at the schools to send the message that police officers were friends, not enemies. He noted the schools were very happy with the results of the message to the young children. He added there was an Officer Phil Program activity book offered to first through third graders, which was a good program for the children.

The Chief was happy to share that there was 817+ Police Department Facebook members that follow the department. He added the Police Beat has all types of information. He noted the internet was how the new generation communicated. He urged Council to submit their email addresses so they could receive information. The email address was [chiefofpolice@bedfordoh.gov](mailto:chiefofpolice@bedfordoh.gov).

Mr. Angelo suggested some of tonight's information could go in the next water bill flyer so residents would be informed of what's available to them.

The Chief was very pleased with the newest police car logos. He explained there was going to be a slight change to it.

Mr. Angelo pointed out the Police Department had a very good budget for training. Council agreed.

Mr. Saunders asked how often the vacant homes were checked. Chief Duber explained the checks were being done three times a week. Mr. Saunders asked if the police car plate reader was being used and if the officers were finding violators. The Chief listed the various ways the device could be programmed but he felt if the officers were not utilizing it to its fullest capacity then the vehicle could be used in another department. He told his officers that if they weren't going to utilize the plate reader then they were not permitted to drive the car for other duties.

Mrs. Zolata commented some of her constituents noticed the police were patrolling their streets more often. She noted the police officer did a good job regarding the Old Egbert problem. She expressed concern regarding unusual silver Honda Civic that had been parked on Mitchell Avenue all day, license number DGZ 8049. The Chief made a note for follow up. Mrs. Zolata asked if St. Mary's Church was continually being checked and she noted the house on the property was being leased by Educational Alternatives Program.

Chief Duber commented that he was still down four officers .

Mr. Koci commented on the unlicensed cars that were being parked at the church and the nearby rental house. On another note, he had great concerns about a situation about an armed and dangerous resident that Channel 19 News reported and wondered why the police station did not alert the public under the Code Red Alert system. He said he was watching over a 7 year boy that was raking leaves to make sure he was safe. Mr. Angelo noted that it usually took 10-15 minutes to program the alert. Mr. Koci replied what he thought was an unsafe situation carried on for over an hour. Chief Duber explained the situation and felt the alert was not necessary because the man did not have a gun which was wrongly reported by Channel 19 News.

Mr. Saunders asked the Chief about the retirement of Lt. Kohn and if he was in the drop program. Chief Duber replied that Lt. Kohn would be retiring soon because of the drop program. He explained he would like to start training the officer six months prior to Lt. Kohn's retirement. He added he would also like to train well in advance for the replacement Chief's position for when he retired, which would be within in the next two years. He briefly explained his idea of having two Deputy Chiefs, which he wanted to be very active in the training of the top three candidates. He also explained that there was no need to have the amount of officers per shift working side by side with a Sergeant and Lieutenant. He said this would eliminate two tiers so he figured it was best to abolish the Lieutenant positions. He noted the Chief's test would be in 2012. This position would be appointed by the City Manager and would not be a union position. He said there would be three candidates for the Chief position and five candidates for the Deputy Chief position. He stressed he had some very good men available to fill these positions. He noted the Lieutenants and Sergeant were paid the same salary and doing the same jobs. Mr. Koci felt the new position should receive the honor of the name change. Mr. Gambosi noted that the Police Department

could hire for these positions either internally or from the outside. Mayor Pocek noted the hiring of such positions were usually internally.

Mrs. Mizsak asked why there was a difference in the clothes allowance as presented on page 1. The Chief referenced page 71, which used to be included. Mr. Angelo commented the amount was the same but they were listed in two different accounts.

The Chief and Mr. Gambosi explained the cost of overtime for hours worked was reduced but the overtime for sick time had increased because of some surgeries. Mr. Gambosi explained the Finance Department was going to create a report to track overtime every pay period.

The budget hearing for the Police Department was concluded.

Mayor Pocek announced Mr. Koci had some additional information regarding the idea of raising money for charity for the cost of lights donation to an area food bank. Mr. Koci clarified Beth Housiauxsteward was not asking the City for a donation but rather the City's means of advertisement to get the idea/word out to the public. So basically she was looking for a sponsor. He said she thought it would be best to have at least one Council member be on the committee. He noted this idea would be a good one to take to NLC to show them what Bedford has accomplished. Mayor Pocek reminded Council that he was stepping down to allow another member to step forward and assume the responsibilities of the NLC. Mr. Koci volunteered his services for this committee.

Mayor Pocek began the budget hearing at 7:20 p.m. for the Recreation Department.

Randy Lewis said everything was pretty much status quo. He added that Bedford was the hub of youth baseball. He said Bedford Heights, Oakwood and Walton Hills played here as well. He explained the problems that were found with the existing Ellenwood flower beds and the broken drain tile. He listed the flower beds had been fixed and replaced, two more flower beds were created, a couple benches, some flower boxes and handicap doors. He added the department experienced some software issues and he hoped they could get the system to work with the citywide software.

Mrs. Zolata asked how the Senior Program was doing. Mr. Lewis replied it was ok but they needed more people so he needed some type of an event to bring them in. He added there was a Wee-bowling league but it was a non-senior activity. Mrs. Zolata listed several professional services from page 35. Mr. Lewis explained these were used on an as needed basis and he only used the monies if he needed, it not just because it was in his line items.

Mr. Gambosi noted the budget was reduced over \$200,000. He commented salaries and benefits consumed 50% of the entire budget.

Mrs. Zolata referred to page 38 and asked what the pool attendance was this year. Mr. Lewis explained if the weather was warm in the spring; it was more likely to have better pool pass sales; if the weather was cooler and rainy like this year, and the sales were down. He noted people were not buying a pool pass but they had good attendance.

Mrs. Mizsak asked what involvement the two employees had for Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lewis listed several activities and duties the two Recreation employees performed. Some of Council assumed the Service Department employees handled these duties.

Mr. Saunders suggested that Mr. Lewis find a company to fund or donate a new score board because the current one has legibility issues because of its poor condition. Mr. Lewis said he would check into it for a sponsor.

Mr. Gambosi noted the hospitalization had increased due to some health issues. Mr. Koci questioned the hardware supplies and stationary line items. Mr. Lewis noted they were doing a better job in inventory and they had used all their supplies up. He also noted they needed to address a plumbing issue in the kitchen so they were going to do the upgrade to the fire system at the same time. He said there were some housekeeping issues that needed addressed.

Mr. Saunders had concerns about the new bat requirements. Mr. Lewis explained the safety issue with the aluminum bats so all the bats were in need of replacement.

Mr. Angelo passed out a map for Council to refer to. Mr. Lewis noted the location of Taft Park and the other city owned properties. There was discussion for the need of additional parking and Mike Mallis was in the process of checking the rules to see whether the City could build the NSP3 energy efficient house on one of the lots if the City was to purchase the property. It was discussed that there was the need for more visibility for this area so Mr. Lewis was currently maintaining some of the area.

Mr. Angelo said the Recreation Department was under rated and was more than adequate for what was being done.

Mr. Saunders asked how the skateboard park was doing. Mr. Lewis replied, ok but there was an upset visitor/resident this past summer because her child's hands got burnt on the hot metal. Mr. Lewis thought the parent should have supervised their child better. He also informed Council that a camera had been installed aiming at the playground equipment and that general area due to some issues happening in this area for the Recreation Center.

Mayor Pocek noted the golf outing was very nice. Mr. Angelo closed by describing the beautiful job that was done by the Recreation Department of the very large flag that was painted in the grass along with the red, white and blue flowers.

Work Session was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Joanne Sellers  
Clerk of Council



Ronald S. Pocek  
Mayor – President of Council