

Community Ward Meeting for **Wards 3 & 4** was held at Bedford City Hall on Monday, April 22, 2013. Mayor Pocek called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Daniel Pocek, Marilyn Zolata, Don Saunders, Paula Mizsak, Warner Batten, Stan Koci [joined at 7:38 pm]. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Henry Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Deputy Chief Kris Nietert, Recreation Director Randy Lewis, Assistant Recreation Director Jeff Fiala, Economic Development Director Mike Mallis, Fire Chief Dave Nagy.

Mayor Pocek welcomed all residents in attendance tonight. He introduced the present Council Members. Mr. Saunders was pleased to see the residents in attendance and urged everyone to ask questions. He introduced the Finance Director Frank Gambosi and Clerk Villers who worked for Council members.

Mayor Pocek introduced Councilwoman Zolata and Councilwoman Mizsak. He opened the floor to both Councilwomen for comments and reports.

Councilwoman Mizsak reported the following for Ward 4:

- it has been an honor to be the Ward 4 Councilwoman for 16 years and she was always available to answer questions and address concerns for her constituent friends.
- listed five (5) streets that were going to be resurfaced this season: Grandmere Drive, Santin Circle, Greencliff Drive, Brune Drive and Broadmore Avenue.
- thanked Mr. Bellar for his quick response regarding the graffiti that was poorly displayed on Turney Road.
- thanked the Administration for their professional support, being present this evening to answer questions and the provided safety services.
- urges everyone to attend the 10 year Anniversary of the City complex.
- invited everyone to attend the events on the City Square.

Councilwoman Zolata reported the following for Ward 3:

- thanked the Administration for all the information that was distributed in the monthly utility bill and the quarterly newsletter.
- noted the street sweeper and brush pickup would be out.
- urges everyone to recycle on behalf of Earth Day today and every day. She offered recycling "blue" bags for the residents. The more residents recycle, the less the City paid for refuse tonnage.
- pointed out the water and sewer lines replacement in Ward 3 which was possible through the excellent AA2 Bond rating the City has acquired.
- some of Broadway Avenue area would be included in the water and sewer line project along with some street resurfacing project at cost of \$1.6 million:
- improvements would be completed at the WWTP.
- listed several streets to be resurfaced was Avery Avenue (Lincoln to Northfield), Interstate (Northfield to Paul), Old Egbert, John Street (Northfield to Paul) and Henry Street (Northfield to Paul).
- invited everyone to attend the 10 year Anniversary of the City complex.

- mentioned the expansion of the storage facility on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Forbes Road.
- urges everyone to contact her if they had any questions or concerns.
- invited everyone to the events on the City Square.

Mayor Pocek explained when the new City Complex was built 10 years ago, the Fire Department staff moved in first, the Police Department staff moved in second and lastly the City Hall staff on May 3, 2003.

Mayor Pocek spoke about the efforts the City of Bedford and the Elmer Flick Committee were conducting for this dedication in Mr. Flick's honor. Mr. Flick was from Bedford; he was an inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963 so the City was holding a dedication later this summer. He was recruited in front of Bedford's own Train Depot. Mayor Pocek explained the sale of bricks would help fund the project and they would be placed throughout the site. This was a 7 ½ year project but Mr. Flick was very deserving of a statue in his honor. There were only 243 players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He said Mr. Flick passed away in 1970 at 95 years old and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Twinsburg. Donations were being accepted in any amount, however, the bricks were being sold for 4 x 8 for \$50 and 8 x 8 for \$100. Donations would be made to a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and be completely tax deductible. The checks should be made out to Bedford Community Development Corporation and dropped off at City Hall. Mayor Pocek said the dedication was going to include the former and current Cleveland Indian players and Slider.

City Manager Hank Angelo explained some of the Administration attended the Bond Presentation in Chicago recently. He stated the residents were the "stakeholders" of the City which was part of the Bond Presentation because they get involved in the City. The City of Bedford owned and maintained its own WWTP which saved the City a lot of money. It was built in 1936 and was in need of repair at a tune of \$3.4+ million.

Mr. Angelo started the evening with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting all City Departments. He read the attached PowerPoint in its entirety. Bedford's current total budget was \$31 million with a general fund budget of \$17 million and in the last ten (10) years the City applied for \$25 million in grants alone. He introduced the Department Heads that performed operations under his direction as: Fire Chief Nagy, Deputy Chief Nietert, Economic Development Director/temporary position Building Department Director Mallis, Service Director Bellar, Recreation Director Lewis and the new Assistant Recreation Director Fiala. He announced the retirement of Police Chief Duber after 33 years who could not be present this evening. He added the employees under Council's supervision were: himself, City Manager Angelo, Finance Director Gambosi, Law Director Schuman and Clerk of Council Villers. He noted all the departments work together as a team to ensure quality service the residents received.

He added points of interest throughout the PowerPoint presentation as listed:

Police Department: Mr. Angelo corrected one thing this evening; Chief Duber had 33 years at the City of Bedford rather than what was stated in the PowerPoint. He added this department ran on a \$5 million budget. The focus was the Quality of Life in Bedford.

Fire Department: This department ran on a \$3.5 million budget.

Roads, Cemetery and Refuse: This department ran on a \$1.6 million budget.

Administration and Miscellaneous: This department ran on a \$2.8 million budget

Service Department: Bedford, Bedford Heights, Orange Village and Walton Hills worked together regarding the sanitation system for a better price. This department ran on a \$1.7 million budget.

Recreation Department: This department ran on a \$1.2 million budget.

Municipal Court: This department ran on a \$2.7 million budget.

Water & Waste Water: This department ran on a \$7.5 million budget. The WWTP was built in 1936 and it was important to make the repairs.

General Fund Debt: This department ran on a \$1.3 million budget. Mr. Gambosi sought a way through refinancing to lower the previous debt.

Health Insurance: This department ran on a \$2.5 million budget.

Upcoming Capital Improvements: 22 streets would be resurfaced at a cost over \$1.4+ million, Broadway Avenue water main project of \$1.5 million and WWTP at \$3.4 million; a total investment of \$6.5+ million for all these projects. Recent Projects of Scale: Ben Venue Remediation renovation, Ganley Jeep/Dodge Project, Bedford Audi, Ganley Subaru and Rockside Road ER a total estimate of \$4+ million.

Operating Budget: Bedford's total budget was \$31,800,000.00; it took a lot of money to run the entire City of Bedford with all the repairs and maintenance.

Bedford Auto Mile Dealerships: A lot of the dealerships were making fantastic improvements to their facilities to the tune of \$25 million of improvements. These dealerships were dedicated to Bedford. The City had a good relationship with them. On April 15, 2013, there was a dedication for the new Automile monuments. He urged everyone to visit; they were absolutely beautiful.

Marketing the City: Mr. Angelo explained the employees had received customer service training to ensure the resident/customer received a quality attitude and customer service.

2013 & Beyond: Mr. Angelo listed several exciting things that were happening in 2013: CDBG road resurfacing and streetscape project, marketing the City for overall quality of life, pursue the development/remediation of the old Taylor Chair property, collaborate with the developers of Meadowbrook Market Square for enhancements and collaborate with Hemisphere to market Tinkers Creek Commerce Park.

Mr. Angelo mentioned the 20 acre Villa property on Broadway Avenue was still for sale with no prospects. The 35 acre St. Peter Chanel School was on the market for \$1.9 million. Council had recently decided not to allow the owners to board the windows at the St. Peter Chanel building after it was closed at the end of the school year.

Mr. Angelo reiterated the Elmer Flick dedication that the Elmer Flick Committee members were working very hard on in attempt to unveil the statue late summer of 2013. The statue would be located on the City Square near Broadway Avenue. It was important to showcase the Elmer Flick project; the cost would be \$40,000+ for this project. Brick flyers were available for those who wanted to purchase a brick.

Mayor Pocek opened the meeting to questions from citizens.

Mr. Mizesak remembered 10 years ago when the new City Complex was built, it was ahead of schedule and under budget. Mayor Pocek noted the project was completed saving approximately \$250,000.00.

A resident urged the Administration and Council to keep up the good work. Mayor Pocek stated in the last 10 years the Administration had applied for \$30 million in grant monies, which was free money.

A resident understood the World Changers program was not available this year but she wanted to know if the City was going to do something else. Mr. Angelo explained the first year was assisted by a grant, the second year was funded through participating businesses; however, in 2013 the City was not able to raise the money for the program. World Changers was still willing to assist resident needs by providing the labor but the resident would have to pay for the materials.

A West Glendale resident had a City owned home on her street and she wanted to know if the homes were selling. Mr. Mallis explained in 2012 the homes were completed. Some of the houses still needed landscaped for curb appeal. The economy was picking up and there were interested parties for some of the homes. One of the biggest challenges was dealing with the banks because these institutions wanted 20% down. Mr. Angelo explained the 10% discount program for someone who purchased one of these specific homes and lived in it for five (5) years. This was a great way to save money.

A resident asked if there was a cost to the City regarding the recently closed Taylor Chair Company. Mr. Angelo replied, no. Mr. Mallis explained the City had been working with two prospects for the building. The State of Ohio controlled this property; the City and the State disagreed on the price of the property, so it was currently being appraised. The City hoped whoever moved into the facility would employ more than the 25 employees Taylor Chair employed. The understanding was the interested parties would employ 60-70+ employees. The City had to deal with some bad public relations in the paper because this business had been in Bedford for many, many years. Inspections would be done by the Fire Department this week. The reason the State of Ohio was involved was because Taylor Chair had a \$3 million+ loan with the State. The State currently was asking \$4 million.

Joyce Howard asked about the former Vincentian building on Broadway. If it were to be sold, how would the City allow the property to be redeveloped; she lived near the facility. Mr. Angelo explained the City had been attempting to deal with the owners located in Cincinnati. Without knowing all the facts and particulars regarding this property, there could be several different options. The Administration, Council and possibly the Planning Commission would do what was in the best interest for the City of Bedford. Mr. Mallis said after meeting with the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS), he and Mr. Angelo, felt this property would be ineligible for Historic Tax Credits. The CRS informed the City there were approximately 12-16 investors that specifically seek these types of properties for redevelopment. The City would be contacting these investors very soon. Mrs. Zolata reiterated the City had been working on this property for some time. Mrs. Howard mentioned a survey that was conducted years ago and wondered if there was going to be a survey mailed in this case. Mayor Pocek explained the survey was not conducted by the City so he did not know how this was going to be handled. There was discussion regarding Alternative Education facility that was also in the area. Mrs. Zolata noted there were a few issues when this facility first opened but those issues had disappeared. Alternative Education facility was a very good school/business in the area. She had a small packet for the residents to take which had: an application for the Elmer Flick donation brick order form, a copy of the FriDates schedule, an event list and a recycling magnet.

Mrs. Zolata heard Giant Eagle was considering opening a store in the Meadow Brook shopping plaza and closing their two other stores in the area. Mr. Angelo did not have any concrete information regarding her comment. She hoped if the Solon Road Giant Eagle closed; there would be a quality store opened in its place.

Mr. Angelo stated the four entrances into Bedford were being addressed as far as beautifications. Recently the Planning Commission approved the new three story construction of Uncle Bob's Storage units on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Forbes Road. The applicant still needed to submit another drawing for the front of the facility that faced Broadway Avenue. The BP gasoline station was in the process of cleaning up this station; there were a few issues with the owners.

Mrs. Mizsak asked if the Farmer's Market was available this season. Mr. Mallis had no commitments. Mrs. Mizsak referred to the Boston bombing and strongly felt the American people needed to be proud and keep their heads high.

Mayor Pocek thanked everyone for attending this evening. He stated he would not be seeking re-election in 2014. He had been in government service for 30 years; he served as Mayor the last 14 years and 16 years as Ward 5 Councilman. It was time to be a husband and grandfather. He stated this would be the last time he would be at the Ward 3 & 4 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.


Clerk of Council


Mayor – President of Council