

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

**6:00 P.M. PROMPT**

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• **BUDGET HEARING –**

- **6:00 pm – Fire Department**
- **6:45 pm – Economic Development --**

**Building Department and Public Building**

Bedford, Ohio

November 13, 2012

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Daniel Pocek, Warner Batten, Stan Koci, Marilyn Zolata, Greg Pozar, Don Saunders. Also Present: Clerk of Council Pro-Tem Michelle Hollo. Administration: City Manager Henry Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Fire Chief Dave Nagy, Asst. Fire Chief Shawn Solar, Economic Development Director Mike Mallis. Also Present: Jon Lindow, Chris Neading. Absent: Council Member Paula Mizensak.

Mayor Pocek stated he spoke with the VFW regarding honoring Lou Diamond, a marine born in Bedford in 1890. He served in WWI and between wars. Councilman Pozar stated Janet Caldwell, of the Bedford Historical Society, has been unable to find anything on Lou Diamond. Mrs. Caldwell is expanding the search to surrounding communities.

#### **Budget Hearing – Fire Department**

Fire Chief Dave Nagy and Assistant Chief Shawn Solar in attendance to present the 2013 Fire Department appropriation budget.

Chief Nagy stated the new rescue squad is in service. This would be the last major vehicle purchase for at least eight years.

The Fire Department received a grant from the Bureau of Workers Comp. The grant funds were used to purchase a power cot loading system for the rescue squad which will reduce the amount of lifting by firefighters and should reduce the number of back injuries.

Chief Nagy estimates an increase of 3 percent in EMS calls and a decrease of 13 percent in fire dollar loss this year. Bedford's increasing aging population contributes to more EMS calls. This is the highest total of EMS runs in a year including when covering Walton Hills several years ago.

Chief Nagy stated the department has been working on a regional basis with the Maple Heights and Bedford Heights Fire Departments. The three fire departments (Bedford, Maple Heights, Bedford Heights) continuously train together and are operating by "the same play book".

Bedford is one of three cities involved in the creation of a regional dispatch center. Maple Heights and Bedford Heights City Councils have passed legislation creating the Council of Governments (COG). It is on Bedford's agenda November 19<sup>th</sup> and it is the intention of Council to pass this legislation.

A grant was awarded from FEMA (\$720,000) with a match from Cuyahoga County (\$180,000) to be used for the regional dispatch center. Another FEMA grant has been applied for (\$1.2 million) for end user equipment, i.e. radios.

The dispatch center was originally planned for UH Bedford Medical Center, but is now being considered at Bedford Heights City Hall/Police Department site. UH wanted the dispatch center at their location but a satisfactory lease agreement could not be reached. Cuyahoga County is working on an architectural study of the Bedford Heights facility which is being funded by the grant. The study involves what needs

to be done to build-out this space and what is needed pertaining to technology. The results should be ready in January.

Chief Nagy was informed last week the Fire Department received a \$297,000 FEMA staffing grant. The grant funds would pay for two firefighters for a 24 month period. Asst. Chief Solar has applied for a "bump up" of \$61,000 to fully fund the two firefighters. Discussion held on conditions of the grant. With two additional firefighters, the second squad could be put into service. Chief Nagy estimates an increase in revenue of \$40,000 with a second squad in service and a \$20,000 reduction in overtime with two additional firefighters. If the grant is accepted, the City is obligated to not reduce staffing levels regardless of circumstances or reduced revenues during the 24 month period. The administration needs to review these conditions, future staffing and projected costs before a decision is made to accept the grant.

Inquiry regarding \$29,000 for fire department phone payments. It was explained this line included all station landlines, cell phones and MDT air cards for the fire department.

Question regarding supervision line. Chief Nagy explained this line includes compensation for the Chief, Assistant Chief and Lieutenants. The operations line comprises firefighters' compensation.

Inquiry about cardiac monitors. One will be purchased this year. Chief Nagy said these cardiac monitors become obsolete quickly like computers. Parts are not available to fix these monitors, therefore, the need to buy new.

Concern about carbon monoxide calls. Chief Nagy stated there has been no spike in these types of calls. The department has a detector to check carbon monoxide levels. The department also has six loaner units. One will be left with a resident for a few days until they are able to buy their own.

### **Budget Hearing – Economic Development Department**

Economic Development Director Mike Mallis in attendance to present the 2013 Economic Development appropriation budget.

Mr. Mallis stated this year has been better than the past three years. He has been meeting with Ben Venue and Hemisphere (Tinkers Creek Commerce Park) and the outlook is promising. Downside this year has been the closing of Taylor Chair, but it is only 22-23 jobs. Mr. Mallis has had contact with four interested parties regarding the Taylor Chair building and TCCP. Mr. Mallis and Mr. Angelo recently met with an interested party for the Bentbrook property. There has been no interest in that property for a few years.

The Bedford Falls/Rysar property needs to go through the foreclosure process. The County Land Bank is taking the lead. The property started out on the judicial foreclosure docket, but it is now on the tax foreclosure docket.

Open projects Mr. Mallis is working on involve TCCP, Torq, Metroparks and quiet zones.

Mr. Angelo met with associates of Mr. Goudreau today. They are getting more inquiries on the property and Mr. Goudreau is seriously considering a couple projects. Wal-Mart brings in \$318,000 in income tax revenue. A couple more anchors in Meadowbrook would bring in necessary tax revenue. Mr. Angelo shared his concerns with Mr. Goudreau's associates regarding the snow fences and accumulation of construction debris.

The Automobile Enhancement Project is continuing. In addition, several dealerships are doing major renovations. These dealerships are Toyota, Volkswagen, Kia, Jay, Ganley, Mercury and Infinity. These major renovations are an investment and commitment to our city.

Mr. Mallis spoke of an idea that he and the Arts & Culture Board are considering for attracting certain types of businesses to the downtown business district. The City would create a package to market to genres the City wants to locate here and offer incentives. We would share this package with the property owners so they could market to those possible tenants. Once the details of this package are finalized, it will be presented to City Council.

Subway has submitted plans to renovate a property on Northfield Road.

Under the special projects fund, inquiry made as to what is the judgment line item. Mr. Gambosi explained the City receives an invoice from the court for court costs we are responsible for.

Inquiry made as to the expenditure for birth and death certificates. Mr. Gambosi explained we forward to the State of Ohio a large portion of the fees we collect.

Mr. Gambosi explained we have approximately 100 residents who use the Bedford Heights Community Center that we refund a portion of the membership.

Inquiry regarding the decrease in the Arts and Culture line (\$11,000 to \$6,000). Mr. Gambosi explained that originally the \$11,000 included the \$5,000 for the FriDates concerts. A FriDates line item has since been created and \$5,000 was moved to that line.

Mr. Mallis shared with Council an idea the administration has been considering for marketing Bedford. Instead of the fireworks, use those funds to have concerts at the Bedford Commons. The City would hire tribute bands and the civic organizations could alternate operating a beer tent to raise funds for their organization. Automobile dealerships would be asked to sponsor a concert and they could display a couple new cars at the Square for their sponsorship. The idea would be to market to young families, singles, and those in their 40-50s. The Party in the Park on Wednesday evenings attracts seniors. Discussion held on current festivals. There is consensus that some of the festivals are declining and changes need to be made.

Inquiry regarding increase in the professional services line in the Economic Development fund. Mr. Mallis explained that in previous years two resident newsletters were done. The summer newsletter was hand delivered by pool employees. The City is now doing four citywide newsletters a year which are being mailed.

Discussion held on Tinkers Creek Commerce Park and Hemisphere. Hemisphere is selling the property for approximately \$150,000 an acre but if someone builds, they would come down on the price. Hemisphere has had discussions with Ben Venue.

Discussion held on blue recycle bags for the residents. Mr. Mallis was able to save \$5,000 this year by changing to a local vendor.

Mr. Gambosi discussed how the general fund subsidizes the Economic Development Department to pay for business grants, job credits, and payments to the Bedford Board of Education that come from the ED fund.

Mr. Gambosi and Mr. Angelo explained to Council the general fund will see a substantial reduction in revenue because of the state cuts and decreases in revenue. They informed department directors that vehicles and equipment have been removed from the 2013 appropriation budget because there is a \$450,000 deficit to make up. These items total \$311,000. No road improvements have been budgeted for in 2013. They also expect the departments to give back three percent of their budget this year which will also help balance the 2013 budget. In 2014, a sewer debt issued 20 years ago will be retired. This will add \$350,000 to the general fund in 2014. Further discussion held.

### **Budget Hearing – Building Department**

Economic Development Director Mike Mallis in attendance to present the 2013 Building Department appropriation budget.

Mr. Mallis stated there is improvement in the function of the department. He referred to the year-to-date report that was given to Council in August. All aspects of the department have increased, i.e. permits issued, revenue collected, property maintenance inspections and building inspections. In 2010, 70 property maintenance inspections were done compared to 590 so far this year.

The housing rehabilitation program is continuing. The goal is to be finished rehabbing the houses by the end of the year or shortly after the first of the year. When the repairs are made, landscaping will be done to improve curb appeal and they will be sold.

Council will be considering an ordinance at the next meeting regarding rooming houses requiring inspections. The administration is considering changing to annual or bi-annual inspections on rentals. Currently inspections are only required at change of occupancy.

Mr. Mallis is recommending a software upgrade to improve scheduling and permit reporting. The cost of the upgrade is \$3,000.

Question regarding supervision line. Mr. Mallis explained this line is compensation for a Building Commissioner. The office line comprises three clerical employees' compensation and the operations line comprises two inspectors' compensation.

General discussion held about the need to increase property maintenance and rental inspections to get the neighborhoods where they were years ago.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council Pro-Tem

  
Mayor – President of Council