

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 19, 2024

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In accordance with Ohio Sub. HB 197, the City of Bedford Heights Council meeting was held in person on the above date. Council President Tinker called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

All present pledged allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: Mayor Stevens Councilman Anderson  
Councilwoman Thomas Vice Council President Kelso-Perez  
Councilman Willis Councilwoman Henderson  
Council President Tinker Councilman Bounds

Absent: None

Also Present: Law Dir. Ridenour Fin. Dir. Gordon  
Asst. Law Dir. O'Donnell Chief Ledford  
P/S Dir. Baucco W/R Dir. Pocaro  
Chief Marotta Ec. Dev. Dir. Bell  
City Eng. Bierut Clerk of Council Stahl  
Com. Life Dir. May

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT YET APPROVED:

MOTION by Henderson, second Kelso-Perez to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2024 Regular Council meeting as received.

Roll Call: Yeas - Anderson, Bounds, Henderson, Kelso-Perez, Thomas, Willis, Tinker  
Nays - None 7 yeas - 0 nays  
Motion carried

### CONSENT AGENDA:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2024-019

Introduced by: Mayor Stevens and Council Members Tinker, Kelso-Perez, Anderson, Bounds, Henderson, Thomas, Willis

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF KENNETH LORENZO MARSHALL.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2024-020

Introduced by: Mayor Stevens and Council Members Tinker, Kelso-Perez, Anderson, Bounds, Henderson, Thomas, Willis

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CHRISTOPHER EMMANUEL DAVIS.

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Anderson that the rule requiring two readings be waived pursuant to Section 6.06 of the Charter, and all items on the Consent Agenda be adopt.

Roll Call: Yeas - Anderson, Bounds, Henderson, Kelso-Perez, Thomas, Willis, Tinker  
Nays - None 7 yeas - 0 nays  
Motion carried



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### REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Stevens:** Mayor Stevens announced that we have a new Economic Development person, David Bell. Mr. Bell said that he formerly worked in the Building Department and is now in the Economic Development Division. He said he is a resident and has been here for 20 years, married, four daughters, ten grandchildren.

Mayor Stevens commended and thanked Chief Marotta and his staff for coming out to his community engagement meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. He said he and his staff came out and told the community about a few things and it was a great, informative event. He said that is what he would like to do is to have some of our departments come out and meet the residents so they get to know who is serving them in whatever capacity that is. He noted that the month before, Nick Baucio and his crew in the Service Department came out and spoke to the residents and it was very informative.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE, Chairman Anderson:** Chairman Anderson reported that we have opened up our jail recently. We also have a new officer attending the Police Academy. He noted we will have a Safety Committee meeting coming up next week and the time and date will be forthcoming.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Kelso-Perez:** Chairwoman Kelso-Perez reported that the Finance Committee and all of Council passed our budget today and we have completed all of our meetings to send our budget down to the County. She thanked everyone on the committee as well as all of Council.

**COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE, Chairman Bounds:** Chairman Bounds acknowledged Roderick May, the new Community Life Director. He said there are a lot of things going on at the Community Center, new carpeting, painting. This weekend between the hours of 11 - 2 is the Lunch with the Easter Bunny. If you have not registered, please register your children and grandchildren. He pointed out that if you want to volunteer your time, please do. The enrollment for Summer Camp June 10 - August 9, has begun. He said that the Director has taken the personal initiative to move things forward with regard to the pool, bringing on new lifeguards and increasing staffing and you will start seeing more programming in the aquatic division.

**PUBLIC SERVICE/WATER RECLAMATION COMMITTEE, Chairman Willis:** Chairman Willis reported that the Public Service Department resold a couple of our old trucks.

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, Chairman Tinker:** Chairman Tinker welcomed Mr. Bell and said they will be working very closely and said his first task with Mr. Bell is to study Chapter 1179, Sign Ordinance. We have an existing Chapter 1179 and a recommended Chapter 1179 from our consultant, CT Consultants, who recommended several changes to our sign ordinance. Once Mr. Bell gets acclimated with that chapter and has the chance to talk to some of the businesses, especially the ones that would be affected with the changes, we will have a committee meeting.

**PLANNING COMMISSION, Chairman Stevens:** No Report.

**BUILDING & HOUSING COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Kelso-Perez:** Chairwoman Kelso-Perez reported the committee will meet tomorrow, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M.

**INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Henderson:** Chairwoman Henderson reported that the city has a list of stormwater issues that are a priority and we intend to start working on them.

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MOTION by Henderson, second Willis to authorize advertising for bids for project #1 Cranfield Road catch basins and storm sewers, Buckthorn Road catch basin repair project #5, and Bartlett Road near Aurora Road project #4 for sewer pipe replacement.

Roll Call: Yeas - Anderson, Brown, Henderson, Kelso-Perez, Thomas, Willis, Tinker  
Nays - None  
7 yeas - 0 nays  
Motion carried

MOTION by Henderson, second Thomas to authorize advertising for bids for the 2024 asphalt program.

Roll Call: Yeas - Anderson, Brown, Henderson, Kelso-Perez, Thomas, Willis, Tinker  
Nays - None  
7 yeas - 0 nays  
Motion carried

Chairwoman Henderson pointed out our City Engineer, Don Bierut is here and asked if he wanted to say anything about the projects. He had no report.

**LEGISLATIVE/EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Thomas:** Chairwoman Thomas reported that the Scholarship Committee will not be meeting tomorrow, there are no agenda items. They have extended the application deadline to this Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> in hopes of getting more applicants noting that we only received one application so far. She said also, there was a motion that came out of our Legislative Committee meeting to go back to two in person meetings, by a vote 3-0, we voted on that this evening and it did not pass, so we will continue with one Zoom meeting and one in person meeting.

Council President Tinker asked how many scholarships can we award. Chairwoman Thomas responded the scholarships are \$1,000 per person and we have enough for four scholarships. Council President Tinker commented that if you know anyone that lives in Bedford Heights, they do not have to attend Bedford High School as long as they are a Bedford Heights resident and they are going to a trade school, or any higher education, they will qualify to apply for the scholarship.

**COUNCIL CABLE T.V. COMMITTEE, Chairman Willis:** No Report. Civil Service Commission will be meeting on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 A.M.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vice Council President Kelso-Perez:** Vice Council President Kelso-Perez reported that the Clerk has requested that Council fill out the green sheet for the NLC conference and asked that Council return that back to her as soon as possible. The Committee of the Whole meeting began at 6 P.M. Our next Regular Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Council meeting beginning at 7 P.M. and will be held on Zoom. March birthdays: March 2<sup>nd</sup> Mitch Michalec, Asst. Finance Dir.; March 6<sup>th</sup> is McKinney Huff, BZA. She said please be advised that March 29<sup>th</sup> is Good Friday and City Hall will be closed. March 31<sup>st</sup> is Easter Sunday, have a blessed Easter.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No Report.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Councilwoman Henderson said she received a call from a resident concerned about the garbage cans not being removed and they asked that she share information as far as when you can take your cans out and when you should bring them back. She said that garbage pickup is on Thursday or Friday depending on what side of town you live on. The cans should not be brought

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out before 6 P.M. then they should be brought back within 24 hours. If they are not brought back and you are noticing that someone is habitual with leaving their cans out past the 24 hour requirement, you can contact the Service Department. She said she was not able to attend the Garden Club event over the weekend but Councilwoman Thomas was and asked her if she can share a little about that. Councilwoman Thomas said that it was a great event, very informative and received gardening tips. She noted that there are plots available for \$20.00 and you can sign up at the Community Center.

Mayor Stevens commented that he was also able to attend the Garden Club event and said that it was interesting to see the amount of folks that was there. He said that Ms. Harrison really has a good program for those who are interested in gardening. He also said that same day he attended a kidney awareness event this past Saturday, he said it was great, there were vendors and folks to talk about kidney awareness and there were different activities. He said it was a great opportunity to learn a lot about kidney awareness. He thanked Ms. Starks for hosting the event.

Councilwoman Thomas stated there will be a job fair for our youth tomorrow at the Bedford High School from 10-12:30. The four municipalities that incorporate the Bedford High School, Bedford, Bedford Heights, Oakwood and Walton Hills are participating and want to engage our youth and community and get them summer ready. There will be applications and we will show them how to fill out the applications and conduct mock interviews. She thanked the Service Department for their support and Nick's team who is providing applications, and noted that Community Life Department Director Rod May will be there and he will also be looking for summer help for our community center.

Councilwoman Thomas thanked Chief Marotta who will be present, or if he will not be there a representative from his team will be there to talk about any opportunities that he may have in the Police Department. She noted that it will be during the student's lunch hour and they receive extra credit for coming over. She said that all of the teachers are involved and they also want to open up the school for students coming back to interview, and there will be opportunities for them to register to vote as well. She also thanked Mayor Stevens for his support with this event.

***At this point, Council President Tinker opened the floor for comments from the public and responses were provided to each individual's questions.***

Derek Funderburk, 24646 Ronan Road, said that he said that Kappa Alpha Psi is holding their regional conference that will be coming to Warrensville Heights Marriott April 11-14, 2024. He said that he sent an email to Mayor Stevens along with all members of Council regarding the multiple events that they will be doing, one of which is a job fair. We will be doing all kinds of events and said that he will also send that to all members of Council so you get an opportunity to see what we are actually doing. He said on Friday evening at 7 P.M. we will be hosting our opening meeting with a keynote speaker, Congresswoman Shontel Brown.

Mr. Funderburk said we have also sent out invites not only to the City of Bedford Heights, but we sent it out to all of the communities around, all Mayors and City Councils including Mayor Bibb and his City Council President and members. We are looking to have approximately 100-200 individuals there and it should turn out to be a very good time. We will have members from the Warrensville band and other events that will be taking place as well. He pointed out that we will have blood testing to look for any diseases that may be potential for African Americans particularly.

Mr. Funderburk said his second topic is, he wants to approach Council and understand who he needs to speak with in order to have a job fair in conjunction with the company he works for which is called nVent. He said we are looking to have a job fair that looks for not only CNC operators but also those who are in assembly lower level and entry level jobs as well. He said we want to partner with Bedford Heights and any other communities that are looking to have their residents and maybe

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partner with another city as well, but we definitely want to get n-Vent into the City of Bedford Heights. He said he is a resident and the Plant Manager of the facility in Solon and they have over 300 employees in that facility and is looking to add approximately 20-30 more first, second and third shift.

Council President Tinker encouraged our Economic Development Director David Bell to assist with a job fair. Councilman Bounds asked if Mr. Funderburk has checked with the County and said if he needs to make a connection he can assist. Council President Tinker asked if it is a paid event. Mr. Funderburk responded that it is free to the public, anyone can come. He said the date of the event is April 12, 2024 at 7 P.M. our opening/public meeting.

Councilwoman Thomas asked Mr. Funderburk if he can give her his contact information because she is in contact with the Counselor at the High School and there are a lot of students not opting to go to college, so if there are opportunities within our surrounding communities, if he can pass that information to her and she will forward that to her. Mr. Funderburk commented that she should be well aware that we have an event there during April 11-14 it is called Learn to Live, we are doing it at Bedford High School and we also doing Room to Read at Glendale Elementary School, those are all of our national initiatives and we will have members of our national board that will be here to take part in that. Clerk of Council Stahl noted that Mr. Funderburk is on our Planning Commission.

Mayor Stevens thanked Mr. Funderburk for bringing that up and received his email regarding the event. He said that he is a Fraternity brother of that Fraternity and will do his very best to be there.

Councilwoman Thomas stated that Congresswoman Shontel Brown in District 11 had hosted an event at the High School this past Friday, it was the premier of the movie Shirley Chisholm was shown in their beautiful auditorium on Friday. It was a great event, there was food, popcorn and it was very educational. The movie will be premiering this Friday on Netflix so if you get a chance to see it. She also said to follow Shontel Brown on social media, she is doing a lot of great things in our district. She noted that Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman to run for President.

Michelle Jones Johnson, 6303 Tonbridge Ct., asked how long do we keep the recordings of Council meetings.

Eva Boyington, 5431 Millbrook, said she was sorry to hear that we are not going to have in person meetings and asked if Council considered having the meetings on You Tube. She also noted that she enjoys the Mayor's community engagement meetings.

Cynthia Johnson, 5964 White Pine Drive, commented that Facebook Live can be done by anybody here.

Ed Keglovich, 24325 Randolph Road, commented that he was disappointed that both Council meetings are not in person and said that Zoom was a pandemic thing and it is old now and most places are having in-person meetings. He pointed out that he supports live meetings.

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Willis to recess into an Executive Session regarding personnel.

Roll Call: Yeas - Anderson, Bounds, Henderson, Kelso-Perez, Thomas, Willis, Tinker  
Nays - None  
7 yeas - 0 nays  
Motion carried

