

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

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

**MARCH 5, 2024**

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In accordance with Ohio Sub. HB 197, the City of Bedford Heights Council meeting was held via Zoom on the above date. Council President Tinker called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 | Clerk of Council Stahl |

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

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Thomas to approve the minutes from the February 20, 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. 2024-016

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 BRENDA LAVERN HUDSON.

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

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

MOTION by Henderson, second Kelso-Perez to move all Ordinances and Resolutions listed under Item 4; Consideration of Petitions, Remonstrances, Communications and Proposed Legislation and referral of same to Committee of the Whole for Immediate Action on the Council Agenda to Item No. 5.

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

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### CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2024-017

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COMMERCIAL CREDIT CARD AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Thomas to suspend the rule requiring two readings.

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

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Thomas to adopt.

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

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2024-018

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER A CONTRACT WITH CIUNI & PANICHI, INC. FOR CONVERSION TO GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP) FOR DECEMBER 31, 2023 BALANCE SHEET FOR BEDFORD HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Thomas to suspend the rule requiring two readings.

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

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Thomas to adopt.

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

Fin. Dir. Gordon thanked Council for getting these items on the agenda and passed this evening.

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Stevens:** Mayor Stevens reported that we've talked on many occasions regarding the opening of our jail and the opening started yesterday. He noted that a portion of the jail location is being utilized and eventually we will get back to a full service facility, but right now we will be housing 12 inmates. There are still some things that need to be done on the other part of the jail, but yesterday was the beginning stages of opening up. Also, after speaking with Chief Marotta, they are applying for a grant based on the body cams grant which is \$104,000.00 and hopefully that grant will come through. He stated our Community Life staff is preparing for Lunch

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with the Easter Bunny and egg hunt, that will take place on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are diligently preparing for our summer camp preparations and noted that things are in order to get that started and up and running. He noted that we are also looking at certifying those staff members who are not CPR certified.

Mayor Stevens said that the weight room will be closed tomorrow and Thursday because they will be laying down carpet, the area has been painted already. He said that he is still waiting on the Hastings contract and said our Law Department has been revising and working with John Hastings on finalizing the contract for lifeguards, but in the meantime we are continuing to try to recruit and get as many lifeguards as we can. We are looking at fully staffing our lifeguard aquatics area with Hastings and we are still waiting on Legal to complete the agreement. He said he is in the final stages of the Economic Development position, Housing position and waiting for discussion to take place on our HR full-time position. He said that he looking forward to the Community Life Committee meeting on Thursday because we have a lot of great input that has been shared and moving forward he is looking forward to the meeting.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE, Chairman Anderson:** No Report.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Kelso-Perez:** Chairwoman Kelso-Perez reported that the Finance Committee will be Wednesday at 4:30 P.M. in order to get the legislation ready for the passing of our budget at the next Council meeting.

**COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE, Chairman Bounds:** Chairman Bounds reported that we have our first Community Life Committee meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M. We have a very engaging agenda, review of the mission statement and vision of the committee, as well as review and ranking of particular priorities for the Community Life area as well as parks and rec. Also, there are a couple of ordinances regarding engagement with the Community Life Committee in terms of getting resident engagement. He said he is very excited about the meeting. He reminded that if anyone knows anybody who is interested in volunteering, the Community Life Department can always use volunteers to help keep all of the kids happy on that day.

**PUBLIC SERVICE/WATER RECLAMATION COMMITTEE, Chairman Willis:** Chairman Willis reported there is no report for Public Service. No report for Water Reclamation but will give Civil Service Commission report. They met on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, topics were the hiring of three new police officers, two lateral transfers, one new cadet that is going through the academy and we have one new dispatcher that was hired. There will be testing for a maintenance custodian on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The next Civil Service meeting will be March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 A.M. via Zoom.

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, Chairman Tinker:** No Report. Chairman Tinker said once we hire the Economic Development Director we will have a meeting. There are a couple of things on the agenda for this year, Chapter 1179, Sign ordinance, we also want to review our tax incentives to make sure whether or not we want to revise that. Also, he had a chance to look at some of the tax incentives that we currently have with several companies and we also need to review that to make sure that the companies are adhering to the numbers that they said they would in terms of the employees and the numbers for payroll.

Chairman Tinker noted that those things are supposed to be reviewed annually, internally, by the administration and said those have not been reviewed for a few years, we need to make sure that those companies are living up to what they promised us. Once we get the Economic Development Director those are the main things that we will tackle right away. Mayor Stevens asked if he heard him correctly, in order for you to move forward with those items, especially with the signage, you would need an Economic Development Director. Chairman Tinker responded no, we don't need an Economic Development Director to talk about the signage, we will have a meeting after we are finished with the Finance meetings. For the tax incentives we do need an Economic Development

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Director for those two items.

Chairman Tinker said we like to get input from the Director of the department because ultimately they are the one that is out there every single day and are hearing the voice of the businesses. It is always good to get somebody from that department to give us some guidance as we make these laws. We create the laws, but the administration carries those laws. We do have the ability to have a meeting and create these ordinances, but we want to make sure when we create an ordinance that we are not going back and have to correct it because the businesses start complaining about the decision that was made. That is the reason why we say we always work with the Director of Economic Development whenever we are creating legislation.

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

**BUILDING & HOUSING COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Kelso-Perez:** Chairwoman Kelso-Perez reported we need to have a meeting and noted right now we have not signed a contract for Safebuilt but we also do not know what Safebuilt's obligations are to the city. We need the contract that the Law Department has reviewed to be re-sent out to the committee. We have no idea what is in there and what has been changed. She asked Law Dir. Ridenour to help us with that. Law Dir. Ridenour said that everything that you asked for they have given us thus far, other than reviewing the contract to make sure is correct. She said we have a new inspector, we have a one-year contract that is non-renewable without our permission and we got them to decrease the automatic raise from 4% to 3%. She asked Asst. Law Dir. O'Donnell if he had anything to add to that.

Asst. Law Dir. O'Donnell said that he thought we circulated that and said we can circulate the most recent draft if people need to see it, but we can also discuss that at the committee meeting, but it is up to Council. Chairwoman Kelso-Perez said we need a committee meeting because we do have a new inspector, but we have no idea what his duties are and how many times a day he is in the city, or what to expect from that person. She set the meeting for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M.

Mr. O'Donnell commented that he met with the Building Department earlier today, with Parrish Mines as well as Jim Decker and we discussed many things including the case we had this morning. He said that they are already gearing up and have been gearing up to start inspections of residences. He noted they will be meeting again later this week or early next week to see how things are developing. Chairwoman Kelso-Perez said since the contract was passed from the Building Department, if you are meeting with them, she will get with you to find out whether we need to have them at our meeting so that any questions can be asked and guidelines set at that time.

**INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Henderson:** Chairwoman Henderson reported that the committee will meet on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M. in person and we will discuss the stormwater issues and try to move forward with that so that we can start to go out to bid for these projects for 2024. Councilman Willis said that if possible since he will be unable to attend that meeting, is it possible to get a list of that agenda. Chairwoman Henderson said that the agenda should be sent out to all Council members.

**LEGISLATIVE/EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Thomas:** Chairwoman Thomas reported that the Scholarship Committee met on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 P.M. They provided updates on the senior parent meeting that they had and also updated their work plan. We have reserved the senior room for their interviews on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9-2. There will be an adjustment in the facilitation of the meetings that they have because the committee chair will not be able to attend due to a conflict in her schedule. She pointed out that Michelle will be the facilitator for the meetings from March 13 - May 22. Their next meeting is scheduled tentatively for March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. depending on what their agenda items are. She said that the Legislative Committee met on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 P.M. There were two motions that passed in that committee by majority 3-0. The first motion was to request the Law Department to prepare legislation to go back to in-person Council

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meetings. The second motion that passed was to request that minutes from Council meetings be posted on the city's website. We have not scheduled our next meeting as of yet. That meeting is to be determined.

**COUNCIL CABLE T.V. COMMITTEE, Chairman Willis:** Chairman Willis reported that we are still working with Spectrum and they are still struggling to complete the activation of Channel 1020, they are working on it.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vice Council President Kelso-Perez:** Vice Council President Kelso-Perez reported that the Council meeting began this evening at 7 P.M. Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> with the Committee of the Whole beginning at 6 P.M. and the Council meeting beginning at 7 P.M. this will be an in-person meeting. March birthdays: March 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Ken Ledford; March 6<sup>th</sup> McKinney Huff of BZA. Please be advised that March 29<sup>th</sup> is Good Friday and City Hall will be closed. Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> is Easter Sunday, have a blessed Easter.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No Report.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Vice Council President Kelso-Perez said she would like to request two resolutions of condolence, one for Kenneth Lorenzo Marshall, and Christopher Emmanuel Davis. She said she will submit the information to our Clerk.

Councilwoman Thomas said she would like to briefly discuss the Consent Agenda and the Resolution for Brenda Hudson. She took a moment to speak a little bit about her and then read a small portion of the obituary for Brenda Hudson. Mrs. Hudson's family commented briefly about their Mom.

Councilwoman Thomas said a family civic engagement night is going to be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8 P.M. at the High School. It will be an opportunity for families, the communities and our students to get involved and engaged for this big election that is coming up. There will be sample ballots, map drawings, election date information and voter registration forms, and information on how to become an elected official. There will also be opportunities to meet candidates that are running and there will be door prizes and food available.

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

Michelle Jones Johnson, 6303 Tonbridge Ct., asked when the Council minutes will be on the website because she was told that they were going to be put on the website once the new administration came in.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Willis, second Kelso-Perez to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at 7:39 P.M.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council President Alton Tinker

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia F. Stahl, Clerk of Council