

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

MARCH 18, 2025

In accordance with Ohio Sub. HB 197, the City of Bedford Heights Council meeting was held in Council Chambers on the above date. Council President Tinker called the meeting to order at 7:06 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. Baranek
	Chief Ledford	Ec. Dev. Dir. Bell
	Chief Marotta	Com. Life Dir. May
	City Eng. Bierut	Bldg. Off. Decker
	W/R Dir. Mearini	H/R Mgr. Johnson
	P/S Supv. King	Clerk of Council Stahl

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT YET APPROVED:

MOTION by Henderson, second Kelso-Perez to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 Special Council meeting as received.

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 approve the minutes of the March 4, 2025 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:

No items to consider.

At this time Council President Tinker announced that there will be two special presentations tonight, one for Service Director Nick Bauccho and one for Robert Madison, City Architect.

Mayor Stevens began with the proclamation for Mr. Madison. Mayor Stevens said this is in recognition of Mr. Madison’s time, commitment and dedication. He has been an asset to Bedford Heights as an Architect. We just want to acknowledge Mr. Madison for all he has done and his history. He read the proclamation which read in part, “In recognition of City Architect Robert P. Madison and his outstanding service to the City of Bedford Heights. Whereas, Robert P. Madison is the first African American Architect for the City of Bedford Heights. He was appointed by the first African American Mayor, Fletcher Berger, April 1, 2008. Whereas, there were many firsts Mr.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2025

Madison has been in his lifetime, he was the first Black recipient of the Architect Degree. He was also the founder of the first Black owned Architect firm in the State of Ohio. Whereas, Robert P. Madison International Inc. was open in Cleveland, Ohio on July 17, 1954. There are four major divisions of expertise, Architectural, Urban Design, Engineering and Planning and Whereas, the award winning firm has a long list of recognitions of high honors. The firm has been selected by many esteemed local and international organizations to provide expert service due to their high level of professional excellence. The City of Cleveland explained there are many landmark buildings that have the thumb print of Robert P. Madison International, Inc.

Whereas over the years Mr. Madison earned many professional awards of distinction and honors not only for his opening the doors for many other African American Architects, he is paying it forward through the Robert P. Madison Scholarship in Architectural Administration through the Cleveland Foundation which supports the current African American students in the field of Architectural and Urban Design. Whereas the City of Bedford Heights is proud to honor and to have been the home of Bedford Heights for Mr. Madison for 17 years. His technical prowess and strong attention to details are his hallmark. His commitment and dedication to serve as well until 100 gives us hope and sometimes to strive for. He thanked Mr. Madison for all he has done for the City of Bedford Heights.

Mr. Madison said that he is really overwhelmed and said he has been coming to Bedford Heights for a long time but this recognition is just remarkable. He said he is grateful for your help and for being able to be a member of this group and feels like Bedford Heights is his second home, thank you very much.

Mayor Stevens noted that Mr. Madison will still be with us as a consultant periodically as needed so we will still utilize your expertise and your knowledge. Vice Council President Kelso-Perez said that every time she sees Mr. Madison he has a smile on his face and said we are so blessed and with the knowledge that you have and what you went through to be where you are now was no easy task. This is now, but back then was harder but you stood the test of time and had the education and you had the know-how and you did it and we appreciate being part of your life.

Council President Tinker said we appreciate you being part of our city and your contribution not just to the City of Bedford Heights, not just to the Architectural world, but to all of the things that you have done to make us better, we appreciate it.

Council President Tinker announced we have a Resolution for Nick Bauccho and asked Law Dir. Ridenour to read it in its entirety.

Law Dir. Ridenour read Resolution 2025-005, a Resolution of congratulations to Public Service Director Nicolas Bauccho upon his retirement from the City of Bedford Heights, in its entirety. Mayor Stevens presented the Resolution to Mr. Bauccho. Mayor Stevens also presented Mr. Bauccho with a Proclamation which read in part, "In recognition of Nick Bauccho upon his retirement from the City of Bedford Heights Department of Public Service. Whereas Nick Bauccho began his career as a Public Service Foreman at the City of Bedford Heights on November 6, 2000 in the Service Department. Whereas, on December 1, 2003 he was promoted to the position of Public Service Director. As the Director of Public Service Nick has faithfully performed his duties and will retire on March 31, 2025. He has proved to be a valuable asset to the City of Bedford Heights and has been an excellent example.

Whereas the City of Bedford Heights wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Nick for his hard work and dedication and outstanding performance of the duties here in Bedford Heights. Now therefore, I, Phil Stevens, Mayor of the City of Bedford Heights on behalf of its residents do hereby

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2025

present this proclamation to Nick Bauccho to recognize his many years of service to the city and job well done. He extends his best wishes for the many years of enjoyment, health and productivity during his retirement. Congratulations Nick”. Mayor Stevens also presented Nick with a plaque that reads, “With sincere appreciation and thanks for your 24+ years of dedication, service, devotion and complement to the City of Bedford Heights”.

Councilman Willis said for the last 24 years as Nick as the head of this, the City of Bedford Heights has had the best looking streets and neighborhoods compared to any suburb around us and thanked him for making his position as Chairman of Public Service a pleasure. He said he looks forward to that continuing and likes to thank you on your retirement of your 24-7 job that he has done and to the sacrifices that you and the family has made, enjoy your retirement Nick.

Vice Council President Kelso-Perez stated Nick is the calmest person she has ever met. Whenever something was needed, Nick took care of it with no problem. She noted that Service was the first place that she worked in Bedford Heights and said that she always thought who is putting up those flags and taking down those flags, that would be Service. Who is cleaning up after us, fixing up things, that would be Service. She said this department is vital for the City of Bedford Heights and said that this department under his leadership has gone far, our streets are always clean and if they are not, he explains that we ran out of salt and are doing this, but he is always on top of it. She said she appreciates Nick and also the team that he has led.

Mr. Bauccho said thank you very much and said he is humbled. He introduced his wife Liz, who supported him when he left Maple Heights to come to Bedford Heights and it has been a great journey here in Bedford Heights. He thanked Council and the Mayor for giving his department the tools that we could work with and noted that without the backing of Council and the Mayor, things wouldn’t work out properly. He introduced his son Nick who is a fireman in Bedford Heights. Mr. Bauccho said Service Director is a great position but he wouldn’t be anywhere if it wasn’t for these men and women that are here from the Service Department. He thanked Eric King for the service that he did for him and for the residents. He said he will be a great Service Director. He thanked all of the firemen and appreciates them. He said to the residents, it was a pleasure of serving you for 26 years. He also said it was great working with Mr. Madison also and had some good projects with him.

Council President Tinker thanked Mr. Bauccho and said he has been on Council for 22 years and have worked with you for all that time and you are the very very best. He said Mr. Bauccho is the calmest person that anyone can talk to and you get the job done and thanked him and said it has been a pleasure working with him. Even though we know that Eric is going to do a good job, you will be missed.

At this time Council President continued with the next item on the agenda.

MOTION by Anderson, second Thomas 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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2025

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-011

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A BID FOR SENIOR CITIZEN GRASS CUTTING SERVICES FOR THE 2025, 2026 SEASONS WITH A CITY OPTION FOR THE 2027 SEASON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Bounds, second Willis 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 Bounds, second Willis to adopt.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-012

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

A RESOLUTION AMENDING CHAPTERS 929 ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLEGAL CONNECTION CONTROL, 1314 COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND 1315 STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN & SITE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEDFORD HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Henderson, second Anderson 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 Henderson, second Anderson to adopt.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Stevens: Mayor Stevens reported that a couple of weeks ago he had the opportunity to go to Columbus School for 5th grade students who provided art projects for our Community Center. He said it was Ms. Williams class who did the art project and noted one time they did an art project that was for Thanksgiving and we posted the art around the front desk at the Community Center. They did the same thing for Valentine's day. He said he felt he had to do something for these kids and he had a pizza party for those students during their lunchtime and had

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2025

an opportunity to go there to speak with that class and said they were overwhelmed that he came down and had a pizza party for those students. He said that he and his administrative staff was there as well just to let the students know that we appreciate what you did. He pointed out that they need to know that and see that beyond the everyday classroom thing. He said that he just wanted to share that to let the students know how appreciative we are for their art projects.

SAFETY COMMITTEE, Chairman Anderson: Chairman Anderson reported that from our Police Chief Marotta, he informed us today that our jail is being utilized much more now not only by Bedford Heights but also municipalities can bring their inmates stay at our jail for a maximum of 12 days. He said that by having the 12 day period, we are flexible. He said that there are several municipalities that are participating with us and we are glad to be of service and we are also getting revenue from this service that we are providing. He also mentioned that vehicles that are unauthorized to be out in driveways in plain view, our inspectors are going to be taking a look at this and you will be notified of any reason to get in contact with the city. Chairman Anderson mentioned that we will start hearing the sirens coming on Saturdays once a month, and noted that the sirens will be going off on Wednesday, at 9:50 A.M.

Mayor Stevens announced the State of the City on Thursday, March 27th at the Community Center, doors open at 5 P.M. and we will start at 6 P.M. He said we haven't had one in quite some time and thinks it is imperative that we have a report from he and his staff based on where we are as a city.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Kelso-Perez: Chairwoman Kelso-Perez reported that the Finance Committee will meet on March 31st at 5 P.M. in the Caucus Room. (Revised to an in person meeting).

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE, Chairman Bounds: Chairman Bounds reported that summer camp is getting started and Dir. May has been working with his team to deal with the hiring for camp counselors. The summer camp runs ages 7-12 and camp runs June 16-August 8. Registration for summer camp ends May 3rd and for an 8 week session, \$600.00; 4 week session \$335.00. Another update Lunch with the Easter Bunny, April 19th 11-2 P.M. registration deadline is April 5th. He acknowledged Economic Development Director David Bell and said for these events to take place, there is a cost that is incurred. He said Mr. Bell is working with the Community Life Director to get sponsorships for these events from the Bedford Heights business community to support these programs.

Chairman Bounds said that the department is looking at exploring a grant from Natureworks to rehab the parks, playgrounds and green areas of the city. He said our playgrounds are in desperate need of updating and we are looking at this particular grant to apply for to give us the flexibility to invest in development of those areas. He said that today was the first day of the volleyball clinic, Tuesdays and Thursdays. He said that Derrick Polk has come back to the center to start up our programs. He said that Dir. May has indicated that there is a very strong interest in the volleyball program and things are going very well with the clinic and we hope to expand that for additional programming to focus on sports. He said that the senior grass cutting will resume soon and the applications will be available at the Community Life Center and the application fee is \$35.00.

Chairman Bounds noted that Dir. May began a new event at the Community Center, a Sip and Paint event. He said that we are trying to bring baseball back to Bedford Heights and that is still an ongoing effort, right now we are focusing on keeping the fields in use so the objective is to try to rent these fields to get revenue and also to generate interest in what is going on in Bedford Heights. He said that the Director is working hard to bring in people to rent the fields and bring in some needed revenues to support the programs in the city.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2025

PUBLIC SERVICE/WATER RECLAMATION COMMITTEE, Chairman Willis: Chairman Willis reported that branch chipping will begin April 7th on the north end, April 8th on the south end of the city. You will also see some bulldozers and backhoes on Solon Road and noted they are preparing that facility for the new water treatment plant. Further information forthcoming.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, Chairman Tinker: Chairman Tinker reported that Ec. Dev. Dir. Bell has announced today that he was able to get a few companies to donate a total of \$19,800.00 for various programs that are being done by the city and thanked Mr. Bell for that. He noted he and Dir. Bell are also working on the Job Creation application and we are looking to make it fair when a company comes in, they know exactly if they have \$1 million dollars in payroll, this percentage is what they qualify for. He said we are looking to making it easier for a company who comes in with a certain amount of payroll, they will know exactly how much they qualify for.

Chairman Tinker also said we want these companies that we are giving these grants to in the city, but we want them to be responsible residents in the city and also contribute to the city so part of the application would be 5% of the grant that they receive they give back to our Scholarship Fund so we can continue to fund the scholarships for our residents. He noted we are also working on a Master Plan. The last Master Plan was updated in 2011 and said typically the Master Plan is a ten year plan and said 2019-2024 we went through the pandemic so it is time now for us to update the Master Plan.

Chairman Tinker noted that we applied to the County for a grant, unfortunately we did not get that grant, but we want to continue to work to see how much that would cost and see if we could put that in the budget either this year or next year. He said he thinks it is important for somebody to come in and look at the city and do some community engagement to see what are the vacant lots in the city, what are the needs of the residents so we can have a plan to get those things done. Ec. Dev. Dir. Bell noted that there is a small business seminar coming up Thursday, March 20th 8:30-11 A.M. at the Community Center.

PLANNING COMMISSION, Chairman Stevens: Chairman Stevens reported that at this time we are scheduled to meet April 8th at 5 P.M. in the Council Chambers if we have any applicants.

BUILDING & HOUSING COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Kelso-Perez: Chairwoman Kelso-Perez reported that since spring is coming, pass on the word that people need to start cleaning up their properties and picking up and making sure when the grass starts growing to stay on top of it. We do have another inspector who will be out checking for grass and repairs on your home. She said if there is something going on with your home and you are unable to address it at this time, don't just ignore the notice and tell your neighbors not to ignore the notice, just call the Building Department.

INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Henderson: Chairwoman Henderson reported that we have our next committee meeting March 24th at 5 P.M. in the Caucus Room. We will review the road program the sidewalk program and other topics.

LEGISLATIVE/EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Thomas: Chairwoman Thomas reported that the deadline to submit scholarship applications was March 14th. Our next Scholarship Committee meeting will be tomorrow evening at 6 P.M. where we will be reviewing the applications. Our next Legislative Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 25th at 5 P.M. and we will continue our conversations regarding the marijuana moratorium and we will also be talking about chickens. Council President Tinker thanked Chairwoman Thomas for putting the chicken issue

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2025

on her agenda and noted that we have a resident that requested that we look at allowing residents to have chickens in their backyard.

COUNCIL CABLE T.V. COMMITTEE, Chairman Willis: Chairman Willis reported that the Cable T.V. Committee will be meeting on March 20th at 5 P.M. The next Civil Service meeting will be March 28th at 8:30 A.M. via zoom.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vice Council President Kelso-Perez: Vice Council President Kelso-Perez reported that our next meeting will be held on zoom, Tuesday, April 1st, with Council meeting starting at 7 P.M. March employee birthdays: March 6th McKinney Huff, BZA; March 9th Ollie Thomas, Receptionist; March 9th Mia Johnson, HR Mgr.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report.

MISCELLANEOUS: No Report.

At this point, Council President Tinker opened the floor for comments from the public. There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Kelso-Perez, second Henderson to adjourn the Regular Council meeting at 7:50 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