City of Bedford

City Council Meeting
July 21, 2026
7:00 P.M.
Minutes

PUBLIC HEARING-Consideration of Proposed Additional Appropriation In Excess Of Budget For 2026-Greg Pittman-City Attorney, David Flinn-Street Commissioner
Mr. Pittman opened the public hearing by stating that notice was given to the taxpayers of the City of Bedford, that the Common Council of the City of Bedford at their regular meeting to be held at Bedford Municipal Hall, 1617 K Street at 7:00 PM.
The addition appropriation is for Fund 2201 Motor Vehicle Highway in the amount of $600,000. The purpose of the additional appropriation is construction of street garage and purchase of equipment.
Mr. Pittman invited anyone from the public to give them the opportunity to speak with the time allotted at two minutes each.
With no one speaking, the hearing was concluded.

Prayer: Heath Hawkins

Pledge of Allegiance: Kathy Blackburn

Call to Order: Mayor Sam Craig

The Common Council of the City of Bedford, Indiana met for a Regular City Council Meeting on July 21, 2026, at 7:00 P M at Bedford Municipal Hall, 1617 K Street, Bedford.

Live Streaming VIA Facebook:www.facebook.com/Bedford.in.gov

VIA YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/@City of Bedford-812/streams

Mayor Craig presided and called the meeting to order.

Members in attendance:

- Ryan Griffith
- Kathy Blackburn
- Brad Bough
- Larry Hardman
- Heath Hawkins
- Craig Turpen

***Members absent*:**

- Judy Carlisle

Reading/Approval of Minutes:

June 16, 2026 – Regular Meeting

- Larry Hardman made the motion to approve the minutes,
- Ryan Griffith seconded the motion,
- ***All votes were in favor of the motion. No One Opposed, Passed***

Old Business

1. **Tabled-Compliance With Statement Of Benefits CF-1 Tax Abatement For Stone City Products-Personal Property-600 Ton Stamping Press Line-Stewart Rariden**

- Mr. Rariden stated that the abatement was for a 600-ton press. The press is in full use 80 hours a week. It is one of three presses that makes items for appliances, vehicles, and various other items.

- Craig Turpen made the motion to approve the CF-1 for Stone City Products,
- Kathy Blackburn seconded the motion,
- ***All votes in favor of the motion, no one opposed, passed.***

2. **Tabled- Third and Final Passage -Ordinance 10-2026-Amending Chapter 33: Employment Policies (33.50 Health Insurance)-Spousal Carveout-Denise Henderson**

- Mayor Craig provided the Council an update on health insurance costs. We met with AIM on some general information on the health insurance, at that time they informed all AIM members that the health insurance costs could go up as high as 9%. AIM will now go back and look at each city/town plan and see their claims expenses. The first part of August they will come back and tell us what our increase will be. It's his understanding that AIM needs to know before early August if we will be approving a spousal carveout.
- AIM will provide the city with different plan options that can be selected and will split out what the city will pay and the employee will pay. Selection will be based on the city revenue and the increases for each plan.
- Mayor Craig stated that as mayor, he feels like it is his duty to inform the Council and public whenever the city is facing shortfalls and provide options for revenue replacements. This affects all of the city employees; some it affects adversely some it does not affect. If our increase is 9% it may affect all of the city employees. There are a lot of unknowns. It is up to the Council on how you want to address the shortfalls, there are many options on how you can do it.
- Mayor Craig asks if there were any discussion or questions about the employee carveout.

- Brad Bough asked if there was any way to pause this for employees and implement it over time. Is there any way we can include the current employees and exclude the new employees' spouses? Mayor Craig stated that the Council can take any action that they want to take. The bottom line is, the Council has to look at it at some time, tonight or next year, the revenue loss that we anticipate losing due to SB-1. We are looking a around $200,000 in savings with the spousal carveout. With 167 employees, it would take a long time to generate the revenue. It is up to the Council to fund the city, if they do not fund it appropriately, if the money is not there, they will be looking at cutting services and layoffs. The Council needs to be aware of this, as far as what action they take or not take. If the revenue loss is what we anticipate, maybe we should be looking at layoffs. You can look at it a hundred different ways. If you want to keep your insurance up and think you are going to be losing employees, then you may have to cut your employee staff. No one knows how bad the revenue loss will be other than projections on the property tax cap losses. The LIT part is different, and some changes may be coming the LIT. Property tax changes are locked in place. We are just not looking at this; we have the Wheel Tax to generate the city more money. He went to the Council some time ago and went to the State and got the City approved to Food and Beverage Tax to help generate extra revenue. There are regulations on how you can spend this revenue.
- Larry Hardman asks if there was not as good as policy, a lessor policy that we could look at. Mayor Craig stated that is something we will look at when we know what percentage of increase we are looking at. He stated that he understands his thinking about that but everyone the carveout was going to affect, we are going to take care of them but everyone else, you are going to pay more for your insurance. It is a double-edged sword no matter how you look at it.
- Larry Hardman asks if we had set any employee raises this year, I know we cannot figure it all out today. Mayor Craig stated that he is meeting with the Clerk Treasurer this week to go over the budget and start looking at where we are with our revenue. We need to know what you are going to do about this, because this is a $200,000 increase to revenue. We need to have all of this information to finalize the budget, on looking at raises or employee stipends. I know nobody likes stipends and I understand that. TIF funds can be used to pay the stipends for police and fire. With the number of police and fire, there is a large amount of funds. Delaying it and doing a 50/50 is just delaying it. If it is passed today that would allow the employees' spouses that are affected look for other employment with better insurance. Some spouse may think it is cheaper to not work. There are may variables.
- Ryan Griffith asks if we do wait and see what the increases are going to be, we have to do something right now, we cant so this in August? Mayor Craig stated that it is his understanding the AIM needs the answer to the carveout before August 10 for them to do their work for the carveout.
- Brad Bough asks if there was any way to keep expectant mothers on the plan, in particular the child that is being carried by the mother, the child can be on the plan after the birth. Mayor Craig said that some employees might be fine with that, but you will have other employees not agree. No justification in doing that. AIM will come back with different plans, and we can select whatever is best for us. AIM tries to work with us on unlike other carriers that tell you this is what it is.

- Larry Hardman asks if we get numbers back and it is not as bad as we think can we go back and add them back? Mayor Craig stated that if the increase is 4% and not 9%, we are still looking at a revenue loss and looking at coming up with more money for our insurance. This is a spousal carveout only if the spouse has a job that offers insurance. A spouse that does not have access to their work insurance stays on the plan.
- Craig Turpen stated that this is a fairly common proposal nowadays in business. Everyone is having issues with insurance; a lot of companies are doing this. We are behind on this. It is unfortunate to do it, but it is common.
- Kathy Blackburn stated that you can tell from our hesitation that we do not want to do this. This is part of this position that we hate. Do we rip the band aid off now or do we do it in a year?
- Heath Hawkins stated that the thing he struggles with, and he understands what Craig stated about business doing this, and it is commonplace. He would like more time than this. He feels like there is more information out there that could be looked at to make this situation clearer for us. If it was clearer for us on the numbers across the board. If our insurance rates are going to go up, how many people will this affect and the savings? He is still uncomfortable and there is a strong chance that we will have to do this again next year as well. This is why he is having trouble making a decision. Mayor Craig stated the HR sent out an email to everyone in reference to this. The City of Bedford has a total of 154 employees eligible for health insurance, of those 137 are enrolled in the health care insurance plan. We received seventy-six survey responses out of the 76 responses, twenty indicated they would be affected by the spousal carveout. I am not going to demand the employees fill this out. This is the information we used for the cost savings. It will vary some depending on at the beginning of the year if the spouse has changed jobs. The numbers will change somewhat. It is worth noting that the whole fire department filled their responses out and sent them in. Some other departments did not complete the form; the numbers can change. Someone who did not complete the form and it affects could increase the savings. We can only use what we received.
- Larry Hardman asks if a there is an open enrollment. If a spouse leaves and then decides it is cheaper for them to stay home, can they come back to the plan? Mayor Craig stated that if there is a qualifying event they can be added to the insurance. Someone's spouse could have better insurance then the City has. Craig Turpen if a spouse goes to a job with insurance then they would have to drop off.
- Heath Hawkins stated that we could have ten employees that their spouse has insurance at their job, and they decide to quit, that could affect the number we are seeing. That is hypothetical. Mayor Craig stated that this whole thing can change drastically, even looking at the timeline we are looking at now, things can change throughout the year.
- Ryan Griffith stated that the Mayor said that they could tailor a plan for us. Mayor Craig stated that they will try and work with us on policies. They will have different plans from which we can choose. Denise Henderson stated that it is the same plan, the just offer different deductible levels.
- Ryan Griffith asked if there is a plan where the spouse can buy back. Denise Henderson stated that it is a Council decision. That would be up to the City if you want to do something like that. They have a specific set of rules as to how spouses are eligible or not. The Council can decide it they can offer a buyback. Mayor Craig stated that we

discussed this last time, if someone's spouse wanted to be on our insurance how much it would be, it is not cheap. Mayor Craig has not heard of that. Ryan Griffith wondered if it was an option. Denise Henderson stated that none of the polls that came back were interested in that much money they would be willing to pay to keep the spouse on but not at that price. Ryan Griffith asks if it were a pretty heavy increase on what that number would be? Denise Henderson stated that is would be the difference between an employee plan and an employee and spouse plan. Employee/Spouse Plan to an

- Employee plan saves the City $15,758 a year. A Family Plan to an Employee/Children Plan saves the City $8,756 a year, and a Family Plan to an Employee Plan saves the City $18,319 a year.
- Kathy Blackburn asked if there was an employee that their spouse is pregnant now, would they have trouble midterm switching insurances. Denise Henderson stated that we the City went from Anthem to United Healthcare, there was a disruption, people had to go back to their doctor and have them tell United Healthcare, we have already done this process we do not want to re do it. It is a peer-to-peer type of thing. There is nothing that says their insurance company would not pick them up. I they would not pick them up and they are not eligible for that insurance, then they would stay on our plan.
- Brad Bough stated that the second the child is born, they are covered on the fathers insurance. Denise Henderson stated that they have 31 days for a qualifying life event to add the child and retroactively go to birth. Brad Bough asks if there was any way to add the child while it is in the womb? It is still the father's child. Denise Henderson stated that as much as she would like that, that is up to the insurance company. They do not consider a child in the womb a dependent yet for insurance purposes.
- Denise Henderson stated that next year on our some of our plans with the high-deductible Health Savings Account plans. Currently on the $3,500 plan with a $4,750 out of pocket, next year there will be no out of pocket. Once you reach your deductible, they pay 100%. We will get that education out and maybe move some people to that plan. Same insurance with different deductible. Right now we have a $3,500 deductible and the out of pocket is $4,750.
- Mayor Craig stated that the Council has had some time to think about this and ask questions. It is the third and final passage. He asked if there was a motion.

Ordinance 10-2026 dies for lack of motion.

3. **Tabled- Third and Final Passage- Ordinance 11-2026-Municipal Wheel Tax And Excise Surtax, And Creating Municipal Wheel Tax Fund-Greg Pittman, Mayor Sam Craig**

- ➢ Heath Hawkins made the motion to approve the ,
- ➢ Brad Bough seconded the motion,
- ➢ ***The Third and Final Passage of Ordinance 11-2026, All votes in favor of motion, No one opposed, passed.***

ORDINANCE NO. 11- 2026

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MUNICIPAL WHEEL TAX AND EXCISE SURTAX AND CREATING THE MUNICIPAL WHEEL TAX FUND

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Indiana through legislation proposed in the 2025 legislative session has revised Indiana real estate property taxes in such a manner that the City of Bedford is projected to see substantial decreases in tax dollars available for road and street projects;

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford has been advised that with the new legislation, absent the adoption of this Ordinance, the City of Bedford may not be eligible for Community Crossings Matching Grants, contributions for bridge projects, and other funding it has received in the past for such projects unless it adopts a municipal wheel tax and motor vehicle license excise surtax;

WHEREAS, Indiana Code §6-3.5-11 *et seq.* (the "Wheel Tax Act") authorizes the City of Bedford Common Council ("Common Council") to impose by ordinance a municipal wheel tax ("Wheel Tax") of not less than Five Dollars ($5.00) and not more than Forty Dollars ($40.00) on certain motor vehicles, specifically buses, recreational vehicles, semitrailers, trailers with a declared gross weight of more than nine thousand (9,000) pounds, and trucks and tractors with a declared gross weight of more than eleven thousand (11,000) pounds, registered within the City of Bedford ("City");

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code §6-3.5-11-4, the following vehicles are exempt from the municipal wheel tax: (1) vehicles owned by the State of Indiana; (2) vehicles owned by an agency of the State of Indiana; (3) vehicles owned by a political subdivision of the State of Indiana; (4) vehicles which are subject to the municipal vehicle excise tax under I.C. §6-3.5-10; (5) a bus owned and operated by a religious or nonprofit youth organization and used to transport persons to religious services or for the benefit of its members; (6) a school bus; and (7) a motor vehicle that is funeral equipment and that is used in the operation of funeral services as defined in I.C. §25-15-2-17;

WHEREAS, Indiana Code §6-3.5-10 *et seq.* (the "Excise Tax Act") authorizes the Common Council to impose by ordinance a municipal vehicle license excise tax (the "Excise Surtax") on each vehicle that is subject to the vehicle excise tax under I.C. §6-6-5 and that is registered in the City of Bedford at a rate of not less than Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents ($7.50) and not more than Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00) on certain vehicles, specifically passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, motor driven cycles, collector vehicles, trailers with a declared gross weight of nine thousand (9,000) pounds or less, trucks with a declared gross weight of eleven thousand (11,000) pounds or less, mini-trucks, and military vehicles, registered in the City;

WHEREAS, the Wheel Tax Act prohibits the Common Council from adopting an ordinance imposing a Wheel Tax unless the Common Council concurrently adopts an ordinance under Indiana Code §6-3.5-10-1 *et seq.* to impose the annual motor vehicle license excise surtax;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code §6-3.5-10-1 *et seq.*, the Common Council is concurrently adopting a Motor Vehicle License Excise Surtax;

WHEREAS, the Common Council may not adopt an Ordinance to impose the wheel tax or excise surtax unless the City uses a traffic asset management plan approved by the Indiana Department of Transportation ("INDOT");

WHEREAS, the City utilizes a traffic asset management plan which is approved annually by INDOT;

WHEREAS, the money collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles under this ordinance and transferred to the City's Municipal Wheel Tax Fund may only be used for (1) the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of roads and streets in the City, (2) as a contribution to an authority under I.C. §36-7-23, and (3) for the City's contribution to obtain a matching grant from the local road and bridge matching grant fund, as provided for in I.C. §8-23-30; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council deems it necessary to impose the Wheel Tax and Motor Vehicle License Excise Surtax so that the City may generate revenue to support the safe operation and continued maintenance of the streets and roads under the jurisdiction of the City;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED, by the Common Council of the City of Bedford that it hereby adopts and imposes a municipal wheel tax and amends the Bedford City Code to include the following:

MUNICIPAL WHEEL TAX

A. **Definition.** The definitions and provisions set forth in Indiana Code § 6-3.5-11-1 are incorporated herein and shall apply throughout this ordinance.

B. **Imposition and Municipal Wheel Tax Rate.** Effective January 1, 2027, the following vehicles, registered in the City and subject to the Wheel Tax shall be subject to Wheel Tax in the amount of Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00), in accordance with the provisions of the Indiana Code § 6-3.5-11 *et seq.* The Wheel Tax shall apply to the following vehicles:
   (1) Buses;
   (2) Recreational vehicles;
   (3) Semitrailers;
   (4) Trailers with a declared gross weight of more than nine thousand (9,000) pounds;
   (5) Trucks and tractors with a declared gross weight of more than eleven thousand (11,000) pounds.

C. **Excepted Vehicles.** Under Indiana Code § 6-3.5-11-4, vehicles excepted from the

Wheel Tax are vehicles:

(1) owned by the State of Indiana;
(2) owned by a state agency of the State of Indiana;
(3) owned by a political subdivision of the State of Indiana;
(4) subject to the municipal vehicle excise tax imposed under Indiana Code § 6-3.5-10;
(5) a bus owned or operated by a religious or nonprofit youth organization and used to transport persons to religious services or for the benefit of its members;
(6) a school bus;
(7) a motor vehicle that is funeral equipment and that is used in the operation of funeral services (as defined in Indiana Code § 25-15-2-17); or
(8) any other vehicle exempt under Indiana Code § 6-3.5-11-4.

D. **Payment.** The Wheel Tax shall be paid to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles each year at the time the vehicle is registered. The City of Bedford Clerk-Treasurer shall deposit the Wheel Tax revenues in a fund to be known as the "Bedford Wheel Tax Fund" and shall distribute the Bedford Wheel Tax Fund in accordance with Indiana Code § 6-3.5-11 *et seq.*

E. **Bedford Wheel Tax Fund Accounting.** On or before October 1 of each year, the Clerk-Treasurer shall provide the Common Council with an estimate of the Wheel Tax revenues to be received by the City during the next calendar year. The City shall include the estimated Wheel Tax revenues in the City's budget estimate of the calendar year.

F. **Ordinance Transmittal.** The Common Council hereby authorizes the Clerk-Treasurer or her designee to provide a copy of the ordinance to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of State Revenue as required under Indiana Code § 6-3.5-11-8.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED by the Common Council as follows:

A. The City of Bedford hereby establishes the Wheel Tax Fund.

B. The Wheel Tax Fund shall be funded by revenues generated by the Bedford Municipal Wheel Tax.

C. All funds of the Wheel Tax Fund shall only be used for the following purposes:

(1) to construct, reconstruct, repair, or maintain streets and roads under the City's jurisdiction;
(2) as a contribution to an authority established under Ind. Code § 36-7-23;
(3) for the City's contribution to obtain a grant from the local road and bridge matching grant fund under Indiana Code § 8-23-30;
(4) or any other use allowable under Indiana Code § 6-3.5-11.14.

D. This fund shall be non-reverting and remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Common Council.

E. If any provision of this ordinance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this ordinance not otherwise invalidated will remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED by the Common Council that it hereby adopts and imposes a municipal motor vehicle excise surtax as follows:

A. **Definitions.** The definitions set forth in Indiana Code § 6-3.5-10-1 are incorporated herein and shall apply throughout this Ordinance.

B. **Imposition and Rate of Excise Surta.** Effective January 1, 2027, the following vehicles, registered in the City and subject to the Bedford Motor Vehicle License Excise Tax shall be subject to a Municipal Motor Vehicle License Excise Surtax (Excise Surtax) in the amount of Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00), in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code § 6-3.5-10 *et seq.*: The Surtax shall apply to the following vehicles:

(1) Passenger motor vehicles;
(2) Motorcycles;
(3) Motor driven cycles;
(4) Collector vehicles;
(5) Trailer vehicles with a declared gross weight of nine thousand (9,000) pounds or less;
(6) Trucks with a declared gross weight of eleven thousand (11,000) pounds or less;
(7) Mini-trucks; and
(8) Military vehicles.

C. **Excise Surtax Payment.** The Excise Surtax shall be paid with the registration of each such vehicle. The Clerk-Treasurer shall deposit revenue received from the Excise Surtax in a fund to be known as the "Municipal Surtax Fund" and shall distribute the Municipal Surtax Fund funds in accordance with Indiana Code § 6-3.5-10-10 to construct, reconstruct, repair, or maintain streets and roads under the City's jurisdiction or for the City's contribution to obtain a grant for the local road and bridge matching grant fund under Indiana Code §8-23-31. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the calendar year commencing on January 1, 2027 only (the "Initial Year"), the Surtax shall not apply to the registration of a vehicle for the registration year that commenced in the calendar year preceding the Initial Year.

D. **Accounting of Excise Surtax Revenues.** On or before October 1 of each year, the Clerk-Treasurer shall provide the Common Council with an estimate of the Excise Surtax revenues to be received by the City during the next calendar year. The City shall include the estimated Excise Surtax revenues in the City's budget estimate for the calendar year.

E. **Transmittal of Ordinance.** The Common Council hereby authorizes the Clerk-

Treasurer or her designee to send a copy of this ordinance to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles as required by Indiana Code § 6-3.5-10-6.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED by the Common Council as follows:

A. The Common Council hereby establishes the "Municipal Surtax Fund."

B. The Bedford Municipal Surtax Fund shall be funded by revenues generated by the Bedford Motor Vehicle License Excise Tax.

C. All funds of the Bedford Municipal Surtax Fund shall only be used for the following purposes:

   (1) To construct, reconstruct, repair, or maintain streets and roads under the City's jurisdiction;
   (2) For the City's contribution toward a grant from the local road and bridge matching grant fund under Indiana Code § 8-23-30; or
   (3) For any other allowable uses under Indiana Code § 6-3.5-10.

D. This fund shall be non-reverting and remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Common Council.

E. If any provision of this ordinance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this ordinance not otherwise invalidated will remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and that any other provision of the City Code which is not specifically amended by this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that the Clerk-Treasurer will provide copies of this ordinance to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and to the Department of State Revenue on or before Aug. 31, 2026.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bedford, Indiana, this 21 day of ~~June~~ July, 2026.

Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Bedford, Indiana, this 21 day of ~~June~~ July, 2026.

Billie Tumey

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

This ordinance approved and signed by me this 21 day of ~~June~~ July, 2026.

Samuel J. Craig, Mayor

ATTEST:

Billie Tumey

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

New Business

1. **Resolution 9-2026-Additional Appropriation-Construction Of Street Garage And Purchase Of Equipment-David Flinn-Street Commissioner-Billie Tumey-Clerk Treasurer**

- David Flinn requested the council approve an additional appropriation in the amount of $600,000 in the MVH Fund.
- $100,000 for the purchase of a street sweeper.
- $500,000 towards a new street department building.

➢ Brad Bough made the motion for approval of additional appropriation to the MVH Fund in the amount of $600,000,
➢ Ryan Griffith seconded the motion,
➢ ***All votes in favor of the motion, no one opposed, passed.***

RESOLUTION NO. 9-2026

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Bedford, Indiana:

WHEREAS the proper legal officers of the City of Bedford have determined that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the Fund 2201 Motor Vehicle Highway Annual Budget for the purpose of purchasing equipment and construction of Street Garage therefore:

Sec. 1. Be it ordained (resolved) by the Common Council of the City of Bedford, Lawrence County Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named, subject to laws governing the same:

Fund 2201 Motor Vehicle Highway Fund:

2201 000 4442.000 Buildings	$500,000.
2201 000 4444.000 Machinery & Equipment	$100,000.
Total Additional Appropriation	$600,000.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor and Common Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, INDIANA THIS 21st day of July 2026.

AYE	NAY
Ryan DeHart	
Kurt Hoy	
Jerry Moore	
Kathy Blackburn	
Brad Root	
Craig Turpen	

ATTEST: Billie Tumey Billie Tumey Clerk-Treasurer

2. **Request Approval And Acceptance of Jay Strauss Development, LLC Tax Abatement (SB-1) Real Estate Improvements-Biggby Coffee-3232 Lisa Drive; and Approving Resolution 10-2026-Establishing Deductions for Tax Abatement-Greg Pittman-City Attorney, Dan Bortner-Economic Growth Council, Jay Strauss-Developer**

- Dan Bortner stated that the request for a real property abatement with a one-million-dollar investment is located at 3232 Lisa Drive. Biggby Coffee with owners Jay Strauss and Cara Williams owners of Strauss Development LLC.
- The estimated tax revenue after the abatement expiration is 10,000 dollars. The business should alleviate traffic on 16th Street, with a competitor.
- Mr. Pittman stated that the RDC board members scored the application for abatement request. Craig Turpen abstained from the scoring. The total score was 58% which allows for a six-year abatement with a 15% fee. The percentage for the abatement is as follows: first year-100%, second year-83%, third year-67%, fourth year-50%, fifth year-34% and the sixth year-17%. The council decides where the 15% abatement fee is to be distributed.

➢ Brad Bough made the motion for approval of Resolution 10-2026 for a six-year abatement,
➢ Kathy Blackburn seconded the motion,
➢ ***All votes in favor of the motion, Craig Turpen abstained, passed.***

- Mr. Pittman asked for the council to designate where the 15% abatement fee is to be distributed. .

➢ Kathy Blackburn made the motion for the abatement fee to be distributed 25% Lawrence County Economic Growth Council and 75% Bedford Redevelopment Commission,
➢ Larry Hardman seconded the motion,
➢ ***All votes in favor of the motion, Craig Turpen abstained, passed.***

CITY OF BEDFORD
CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. __10__ - 2026

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PERIOD FOR REHABILITATION DEDUCTIONS FOR STRAUSS DEVELOPMENT, LLC – 3232 LISA DRIVE, BEDFORD, INDIANA FOR PURPOSES OF REAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

WHEREAS, Strauss Development, LLC (the "Applicant") has submitted a Statement of Benefits and made an application in an Economic Revitalization Area pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-12.1 et seq, and Bedford City Ordinance (the "Tax Abatement Ordinance") for the property located at 3232 Lisa Drive, Bedford, Indiana, also known as parcel #47-06-15-600-012.053-010; and

WHEREAS, said property meets the criteria for designation as an Economic Revitalization Area pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-12.1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, I.C. § 6-1.1-12.1-11.3 allows for designation of Economic Revitalization Areas and confirmation of Form SB-1; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bedford City Council as follows:

Section 1. The Bedford City Council has reviewed the Statement of Benefits and additional information submitted pursuant to IC § 6-1.1-12.1 and Bedford City Ordinance and made the following findings:

a. The estimate of the value of the redevelopment and real property investment at the Site is reasonable for projects of that nature; and

b. The estimate of the number of individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained by the project can be reasonably expected to result from the proposed project; and

c. The estimate of the annual salaries of those individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained by this project can reasonably be expected to result from the project; and

d. The totality of benefits likely to accrue from this project is sufficient to justify a tax deduction; and

e. The property known as: 3232 Lisa Drive, Bedford, IN 47421 and more particularly known as parcel #47-06-15-600-012.053-010 has been found to meet the requirements of an Economic Revitalization Area pursuant to IC § 6-1.1-12.1.

Section 2. Based on these findings, the Bedford City Council has determined that the purposes of IC § 6-1.1-12.1 et.seq. are served by allowing the deduction.

Section 3. The application shall apply to property tax deductions for "real property" as provided in IC § 6-1.1-12.1.

Section 4. The length of deduction to be allowed for this project for the real property improvements, which takes place within this Economic Revitalization Area, shall be for ____ years and consistent with the tax phase-in schedule set forth below in Section 6.

Section 5. The Statement of Benefits submitted by the applicant and dated July 5, 2026 is hereby approved.

Section 6. Strauss Development, LLC shall be entitled to apply for real property tax deductions for the increase in assessed value resulting from the redeveloped or rehabilitated property over a period of _____ years commencing with the 2026 pay 2027 tax year in accordance with the following abatement schedule percentages:

Year 1	100 %
Year 2	83 %
Year 3	67 %
Year 4	50 %
Year 5	34 %
Year 6	17 %
Year 7	0 %
Year 8	0 %
Year 9	0 %
Year 10	0 %

The Bedford City Council hereby imposes an annual fee pursuant to IC § 6-1.1-12.1-14 throughout the term of the deduction stipulated in IC §§ 6-1.1-12.1-4.

_____% - percentage to be applied by the Lawrence County Auditor
(Not to exceed the lesser of 15% or $100,000.00)

Indiana Code § 6-1.1-12.-14 authorizes the City Council to direct the Lawrence County Auditor to distribute the fees to one (1) or more public or nonprofit entities established to promote economic development within the corporate limits of the City of Bedford. The Bedford City Council hereby directs the Lawrence County Auditor to distribute the fees collected as a result of this property tax abatement as follows:

75 % Bedford Redevelopment Commission

25 % Lawrence County Economic Growth Council

_____ % Bedford Revitalization, Inc.

_____ % Bedford Urban Enterprise Association

Section 7. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Bedford City Council and acceptance by the Mayor of the City of Bedford.

Adopted by the City of Bedford Common Council of the City of Bedford, Indiana on the 21 day of July, 2026.

The City of Bedford Common Council

Judy Carlisle	Kathy Blackburn
Craig Turpen	Brad Bough
Heath Hawkins	Larry Hardman
Ryan Griffith	

Attested:

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Bedford, Indiana, this 21 day of July, 2026.

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

This resolution is accepted and signed by me this 21 day of July, 2026.

Samuel J. Craig, Mayor

3. **Amended To Resolution 7-2025 Sunrise Suites Tax Abatement-Billie Tumey-Clerk Treasurer**

- Billie Tumey requested the Council to approve the amendment to Resolution 11-2026 for Sunrise Suites tax abatement. The original resolution has a parcel number listed twice and one missing. It was a simple typo on the numbers.

- ➢ Ryan Griffith made the motion for approval of amendment to Resolution 7-2025,
- ➢ Larry Hardman seconded the motion,
- ➢ ***All votes in favor of the motion, Craig Turpen abstained, passed.***

4. **Resolution 11-2026 Authorizing A Retention And Recognition Bonus For Sworn Officers-Chief Terry Moore.**

- .Chief Moore requested the Council approve a Retention and Recognition Bonus for the officers. The department has been short-staffed for quite a while. The summer is a busy time and with less officers it adds additional stress and personal issues. Continuous overwork and fatigue are leading to severe burnout making retention incentives essential to keep trained personnel form leaving. Some have had to give up their vacations, work on their days off and working 10 to 12 hour days. A bonus would show that the officers are support.
- Additional office was approved for hire today at the Board of Works meeting. It takes 3 to 4 months to complete the hiring process. Then the officer has to go to the academy which takes an additional 8 to 12 months just to get the office sent. This creates a massive time lag before new personnel can patrol independently. Our last hire is going to the academy in January.
- Two officers retired in July and one left on disability. This adds three more vacancies to the department. There are currently twenty-seven officers with five vacant positions.
- The funds will come from the current police budget payroll line. The vacant positions are funding for the first 6 months.

- ➢ Larry Hardman made the motion for approval of Resolution 11-2026,
- ➢ Brad Bough seconded the motion,
- ➢ ***All votes in favor of the motion, no one opposed, passed.***

CITY OF BEDFORD
CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 11-2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING A RETENTION AND RECOGNITION BONUS FOR SWORN OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford Police Department has experienced staffing shortages during 2026, requiring its sworn officers to assume additional responsibilities, answer increased calls for service, work with reduced staffing levels, and continue providing essential public safety services to the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, despite these staffing challenges, the sworn officers have continued to perform their duties in a professional manner while maintaining the level of service expected by the community; and

WHEREAS, due to vacancies within the Police Department, sufficient funds remain available within the Police Department's 2026 payroll appropriation to fund a bonus without requiring an additional appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to recognize the dedication, commitment, and extraordinary efforts of the City's uniform police officers through the payment of a retention and recognition bonus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Authorization.

The Common Council hereby authorizes a one-time bonus in the amount of $3,956.00 to each eligible sworn officer employed by the City of Bedford Police Department as of the date this Resolution is adopted.

Section 2. Payment.

The bonus shall be paid by paper check on or before July 31st following approval of this Resolution by the Common Council. The bonus shall be treated as taxable wages and shall be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local tax withholdings and payroll deductions.

Section 3. Funding.

The bonus shall be paid from funds currently appropriated within the Police Department's 2026 payroll budget resulting from salary savings attributable to vacant positions.

Section 4. Repayment Requirement.

As a condition of receiving the bonus, each sworn officer shall execute a repayment agreement acknowledging that if the officer voluntarily resigns, retires, or otherwise separates from employment with the City of Bedford for any reason other than death, permanent disability, or an involuntary separation initiated by the City, on or before December 31, 2026, the officer shall reimburse the City for the full gross amount of the bonus.

The Police Chief is authorized to require execution of such repayment agreement prior to issuance of the bonus.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, INDIANA THIS 21st DAY OF JULY, 2026.

Ryan Griffith, President

ATTEST:

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Bedford, Indiana, this 21st day of July, 2026.

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

This Resolution approved and signed by me this 21st day of July, 2026.

Sam Craig, Mayor

ATTEST:

Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

5. Presentation-Food And Beverage Tax-

- Mayor Craig discussed the proposed Food and Beverage Tax that was approved by the state. Looking to replace lost revenue due to SB-1. There is a process, a public hearing must be held and if it is passed, there are guidelines on what the revenue can be used for. It is unfortunate for the cities because they know where the funding is needed.
- Mr. Pittman stated that is it a 1 or 2 percent tax, most jurisdictions are at 1%. It cannot be used for any general purpose. It has been used for tourism-related purposes or economic development. It can be used for salaries, that salary must be for a person who's job exclusively related to tourism. Examples of Economic Development uses :Industrial parks, utility developments, commercial development, redevelopment and vacant properties, ground filter mediation, infrastructure serving new employers. Examples of Tourism use examples: convention facilities, visitors centers, festival grounds, museums, limestone heritage, trail systems, public beautifications, and preservation projects. It is specific and SBOA will securitize how we spend the funds. If the council decides to pass it at some point, it should specify in the ordinance or resolution what the funds can be used for. Public safety is not included in allowed uses. Park maintenance depending on the uses.
- Mayor Craig stated the estimated revenue would be $600,000 to $700,000. He asked the legislature to approve the use of funds for public safety. The legislature stated that they have gotten away from that. They are very specific on the funds.
- Mayor Craig asked the Council if they would like to proceed with the process of adopting the Food & Beverage Tax. There are specific food and beverage items that the tax is collected on. The Council gave the nod to proceed.

6. Discussion

- Brad Bough stated that school will be starting soon and for everyone to be watching out for the children.
- Mayor Craig stated that he is leaving the StoneGate Board. He feels like it needs a Council representative on the board due the city funding. Heath Hawkins is taking the StoneGate Board appointment. The StoneGate Fund balance from the construction is now at zero. A major HVAC repair was recently completed. This leaves the General Fund to pay for any expenses.

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7. Adjourn

- Larry Hardman made the motion adjourn.
- Kathy Blackburn seconded the motion,
- ***All votes in favor of the motion, No one opposed, meeting adjourned.***

July 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Bedford City Council 2026

- Ryan Griffith, President
- Kathy Blackburn Kathy Blackburn
- Judy Carlile Judy Carlisle
- Heath Hawkins
- Craig Turpen
- Larry Hardman
- Brad Bough Brad Bough

Attest: Billie Tumey
Clerk-Treasurer Billie Tumey