

CITY OF BEDFORD

ORDINANCE NO. 13-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD, INDIANA, ADOPTING A SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENT MODERATION POLICY FOR THE CITY'S OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford maintains official social media accounts to communicate with residents regarding City services, programs, public meetings, events, emergency information, and other matters of public interest; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that official social media accounts provide an important means for engaging with the public while also serving as a valuable tool for disseminating timely information; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City to establish a content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral policy governing the moderation of comments posted to the City's official social media accounts, consistent with the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council further finds that adopting a Social Media Comment Policy will promote consistency, transparency, and accountability in the administration of the City's official social media accounts.

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

Section 1. Adoption of Policy.

The Common Council hereby adopts the City of Bedford Social Media Comment Policy, which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Administration.

The Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer, and Director of Business & Community Development (and such City employees as may be designated by same) are authorized to administer and enforce the Social Media Comment Policy in accordance with its terms and applicable federal and state law.

Section 3. Records Retention.

Nothing in this Resolution or the attached Policy shall be construed to alter the City's obligations under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act, applicable records retention requirements, or other provisions of Indiana law governing public records.

Section 4. Effective Date.

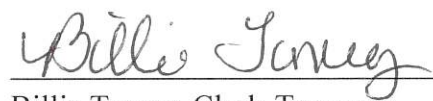
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Common Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD,
INDIANA THIS 18th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.



Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



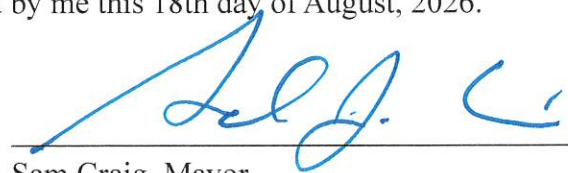
Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Bedford, Indiana, this 18th day of August, 2026.



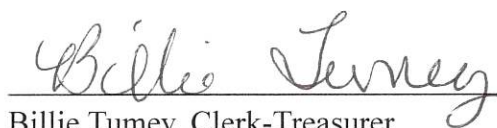
Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

This Ordinance approved and signed by me this 18th day of August, 2026.



Sam Craig, Mayor

ATTEST:



Billie Tumey, Clerk-Treasurer

“EXHIBIT “A”

CITY SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENT MODERATING POLICY

The City of Bedford's digital media and social networking sites are among the many tools the City uses to share information with the public and receive feedback from residents. Not every issue affecting the City will necessarily be addressed through these platforms.

Information posted on the City's social media accounts is provided for informational purposes only. If you require a response from the City or wish to request City services, please visit **Bedford.in.gov** or contact the City at **(812) 279-6555**. If you have an emergency requiring immediate assistance from law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services, call **911**.

The City's social media accounts are intended to facilitate the sharing of City information and provide a limited opportunity for public engagement. Comments are moderated in accordance with this policy in a content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral manner. City social media accounts are monitored periodically during normal business hours and are not monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The City does not guarantee an immediate review of comments or messages.

The City encourages respectful discussion and welcomes comments from the public. However, the City reserves the right to hide or remove comments that:

1. Promote, advertise, or solicit commercial products, services, businesses, political campaigns, candidates, organizations, or fundraising activities.
2. Are unrelated to the original post or are intended to disrupt the discussion, including but not limited to duplicate comments posted repeatedly within a short period of time.
3. Are off topic and/or disruptive, including but not limited to obscene, sexually explicit, vulgar, or graphic content.
4. Advocate illegal activity, or target or disparage individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, disability, age, or other protected status.
5. Are made known to us that infringe on copyrights, trademarks or other intellectual property
6. Include hyperlinks that are unrelated to the topic being discussed, direct users to malicious websites, or are primarily intended for advertising, solicitation, or spam.
7. Violate any applicable federal, state, or local law, City ordinance, City policy, or the terms of service of the applicable social media platform.

Moderation decisions will be based solely on compliance with this policy and will be applied in a content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral manner. The City will not hide or remove comments solely

because they express criticism of the City, its elected officials, employees, policies, programs, or decisions.

Comments hidden or removed under this policy will be archived by the City prior to moderation, when practicable, and retained in accordance with applicable Indiana public records laws and the City's records retention policies. Comments, messages, and other interactions on the City's social media accounts may constitute public records subject to disclosure under applicable law.

The appearance of external links, user comments, or references on the City's social media accounts does not constitute an endorsement by the City of Bedford of any individual, organization, product, service, or viewpoint.

Individuals are encouraged to respect the privacy of others and refrain from posting personal or confidential information. To report a potential violation of this policy, please contact the City or message the site administrator through the applicable social media platform.

Repeated violations of this policy may result in additional moderation actions consistent with applicable law and the rules of the applicable social media platform.

(Ord. 6-2026, passed 8/18/2026)