

1-22-91 Minutes

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held at the Liberty Lake Park Community Building at 7:30 p.m., January 22, 1991.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilman Payton M. Otey; Vice Mayor John M. Owen, III; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman James A. Vest.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on January 8, 1991, were approved as mailed.

The City Manager stated that work is proceeding on the Council Hall at the Municipal Building and possibly only two more meetings will be held at Liberty Lake Park.

City Manger Gross stated that the Streets and Safety Committees met earlier this evening to discuss suggestions he received regarding taking the downtown traffic signals off the blinking yellow and red cycle which automatically occurs each night at approximately 11:00 p.m. and keep the regular cycle going instead. He stated that the newspaper and radio station will be notified of this change, and in a week or two the cycle will be switched. Mr. Gross stated that the main complaint was about safety.

Councilman Rice stated that he and the Mayor attended the organization meeting of a support group for the troops in the Middle East. The group asked Mr. Rice to request that the City fly the American flags on City streets and put out yellow ribbons.

Mayor Shelton directed that the flags be flown downtown until the troops come home. The City Manager is to check into purchasing a POW/MIA flag to be flown by the City. Mayor Shelton is going to ask Bedford Main Street, Inc., about the possibility of some of the downtown merchants sponsoring the tying of yellow ribbons on lamp-posts downtown and possibly other areas of the City.

Mayor Shelton brought to Council's attention the Virginia Municipal League Legislative Day scheduled for February 7 in Richmond at 2:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Sheraton Hotel.

Mayor Shelton asked the Council Library Committee to prepare to set a date with the Library Board's Committee to begin the process of selection of the architectural firm to conduct a master plan (of a new library) based on what was recommended at the adjourned meeting held on January 19, 1991.

Mayor Shelton presented Ms. Rosalind Newman with a Certificate of Retirement and a gift in token of Council's appreciation. Ms. Newman was employed in the Police Department as a dispatcher since 1975.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following item: Appointment of Mrs. Hazel Otey, 102 Colonial Lane, and Mrs. Youtha Porter, 410 South Street, to serve on the Keep Bedford Beautiful Commission for terms expiring June 30, 1993.

Vice Mayor Owen moved that Council accept the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously.

City Manager Gross stated that Council had received a memorandum from the Assistant to the City Manager regarding a proposed ordinance which would allow the City Police Department to perform criminal history checks on candidates being considered for employment with the City. He stated the City is presently utilizing the Virginia State Police to perform these background checks at a cost of \$5 per request. Adoption of this ordinance would not only save this cost but would also allow the City to receive this information on a more timely basis.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed ordinance:

ORDINANCE

INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

It is hereby ordained by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia:

1. That the City Manager or designee obtain for each applicant to be offered public employment in the City of Bedford, a record of any past criminal convictions, to determine if any such past criminal conduct would be incompatible with the nature of employment under consideration so as to adequately protect the public health, safety and welfare.
2. This ordinance shall be effective on and after the date of its adoption.

Councilman Brookshier moved that the ordinance be adopted as read. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Grahame	aye
Councilman Otey	aye
Vice Mayor Owen	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

