

1-11-92 Minutes

A called meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held at Kira's Restaurant, 100 East Main Street, Bedford, on January 11, 1992, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was for budget planning for Fiscal Year 1992-93.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier (arrived at 12:00 noon); 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; Assistant to the City Manager Barry Thompson; Chief of Police Milton Graham; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding members of Council scheduling a meeting on February 13 with Secretary of Transportation John G. Milliken, Deputy Secretary of Transportation Oscar Mabry, and Commissioner of Transportation Ray Pethtel regarding the funding of the North/South Connector.

Mayor Shelton introduced Ronald L. Coleman, Director of Continuing Education at Virginia Western Community College, who served as facilitator for the meeting.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilman Otey, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adjourned into executive session regarding consultation with staff and legal counsel concerning litigation, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Roll call vote follows:

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

Council adjourned into executive session at 10:09 a.m. Non-council members attending were: City Manager Gross, City Attorney Berry, Assistant to the City Manager Thompson, Chief of Police Graham, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 10:25 a.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bedford hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

Councilman Rice moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote:

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

Discussion ensued regarding a letter received from Mr. Tony Ware, Chairman of the Bedford County Board of Supervisors, about reinstating the quarterly meeting between the Board and Council.

It was the consensus of Council that Council will be prepared to meet with the Board based on certain conditions of the discussion to be agreed to by both governing bodies up front.

City Manager Gross and Assistant to the City Manager Thompson reviewed with Council preliminary FY 92-93 budget projections, which included: revenue increases and decreases, expenditure increases and decreases.

Mr. Gross stated that recommendations in the proposed budget include:

Freezing of wages and salaries.

Elimination of eight positions, which have been lost through attrition.

The City Manager recommended to wait until fiscal year 1993-94 to begin funding the new library as the City will have paid off some bonds and will have additional revenue because the debt service will have been reduced.

Mr. Gross indicated that the proposed budget that will be prepared will be tight but does not reduce services.

Discussion ensued regarding the preliminary budget projections; and reduction of State funds.

The following items were discussed by Council: the Fire Inspector position; the landfill; revenue increases; and revenue decreases.

Council discussed the Capital Improvement Program. The City Manager asked for suggestions from Council regarding the amount of funding of the program as well as suggestions for items to be included in the program.

Council concurred to add this item to the agenda of the January 14, 1992, meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding when Council would be able to begin the funding of a new library; when the Friends of the Library should begin its fund raiser; and the loss of the grant that has been awarded to the library.

Councilman Brookshier arrived at 12:00 noon.

The staff is to prepare a report on the funding alternatives available to Council for construction of the library.

Delegate Lacey Putney joined Council for lunch.

Members of Council and the staff spoke with Delegate Putney regarding various issues which included:

1. The proposed meeting on February 13 with the Transportation Department officials (Mr. Putney suggested that the more members of Council who could attend, the better impression would be made;
2. The significant reductions in funding from the State;
3. The use of lottery funds;
4. Sales tax increase;
5. The reduction of funds for libraries (Mr. Putney indicated that he would not be surprised if the library funds are restored.)
6. The cutback of the Main Street Program. (Mr. Putney stated his support for the restoration of funds for the Main Street Program and for libraries also.)
7. State mandates and interpretation of those mandates by the state staff.
8. The forensic lab discontinuing the processing of film taken by police. (Mr. Putney stated that a number of legislators are concerned about this and he would see what could be done.)

Discussion ensued regarding the funding of special interest groups.

It was the consensus of Council that the policy for funding special interest groups be as follows: Prior to approval of the budget, all special interest groups requesting funding will be required to furnish an audit report for their last operating year, except those requesting less than \$1,000. Groups only need to submit requests for level funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the paving program.

It was agreed that a report regarding inspection of the streets will be given to Council annually as to the status of the streets, after review by the Street Committee, and that will be the basis by which the blacktop program will be prioritized.

Other items discussed included:

Landfill, recycling, mandatory recycling; the City's ability to furnish water, reservoir expansion; Council members visiting the City facilities.

Mayor Shelton stated that the City School Board has asked to meet with City Council on February 11, 1992, regarding the building of a gymnasium and the use of the yellow stucco building.

Discussion ensued.

The Chief of Police reported that Bedford County has committed to establishing an enhanced emergency telephone service referred to as E-911 or Enhanced-911. Chief Graham explained what would be involved in the City also switching to the E-911 system.

Discussion ensued.

Chief Graham stated that Council needs to make a decision regarding changing to the E-911 system. The Chief recommended that the City also establish an E-911 system, but that certain concerns need to be addressed.

It was agreed that this item be added to the agenda of the January 14 regular meeting.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.