

10-12-93 Minutes

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m., October 12, 1993.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilman Payton M. Otey; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Vice Mayor 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 September 14, 1993, were approved as mailed.

During the "Council Comments" portion of the agenda, the following was discussed:

- the status of the report from the Solid Waste Committee concerning options on the cost of adding another trash pickup. Councilman Rice indicated that a meeting has been held and the staff is preparing data.

- the status of the Library. The City Manager stated the staff is meeting with the low bid contractor, the architects, and staff.

- Mayor Shelton reported that the Virginia Municipal League annual meeting is scheduled to begin October 17 at the Marriott Hotel in Richmond.

- plans for an opening ceremony for the Route 122 north/south connector road. Mayor Shelton stated that the ceremony is scheduled for December 2 tentatively at 2:00 p.m. The Mayor indicated that invitations are being sent to the Governor, to the Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth, to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, Congressman Payne, and to previous members of City Council who were involved and active in the decision that brought about this road. Mayor Shelton stated that everyone in the community is also invited.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- Appointment of Mr. Ivey Whitehurst to a three-year term on the Disability Services Board, said term to expire October 31, 1996.

- Appointment of Mr. David Hedberg to serve on the Central Virginia Air Pollution Control Committee for a term expiring March 31, 1994.

Councilman Rice moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed Resolution:

RESOLUTION ON UNFUNDED MANDATES

WHEREAS, according to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, Virginia's local governments are subject to 391 federal and state mandates; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates on local governments have increased significantly in recent years; and

WHEREAS, federal and state mandates require cities, counties and towns to perform duties without consideration of local circumstances or capacity; and

WHEREAS, in some cases mandates require local governments to redirect their priorities, to meet federal and state objectives rather than community objectives; and

WHEREAS, excessive federal and state regulations on local governments impose harsh pressures on local budgets, often requiring increases in local taxes and fees, and/or reduced local services for residents; and

WHEREAS, federal and state mandates too often are inflexible, one-size-fits-all requirements that impose unrealistic time frames and specify procedures or facilities where less costly alternatives might be just as effective; and

WHEREAS, existing mandates impose harsh pressures on local budgets, often requiring increases in local taxes; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of these legislative and regulatory actions directly affect the citizens of our cities, counties and towns; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia School Boards Association are working with localities, school boards and organizations across the nation to begin a public education campaign to help citizens understand and then reduce the burden and inflexibility of unfunded mandates, beginning with a National Unfunded Mandates Day on October 27, 1993;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bedford endorses the efforts of the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia School Boards Association and their national counterparts, and supports working with the national groups to fully inform our citizens about the impact of federal and state mandates on our governments and the pocketbooks of our citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Bedford plans to redouble efforts to inform members of our Congressional and General Assembly delegations about the impact of federal and state mandates and plans to work with the delegations to reduce the burden of unfunded

mandates on our citizens.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bedford proclaims October 27, 1993, to be "Unfunded Mandates Day in the City of Bedford," in observance of National Unfunded Mandates Day.

Vice Mayor Vest moved that the resolution be adopted as read. The motion was seconded by Councilman Otey, and after a brief discussion was voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

The City Manager stated that Bedford Main Street, Inc., is sponsoring the annual Christmas Parade, which will be held on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Gross indicated that Main Street, Inc., has requested that Council authorize the closing of the following streets on that date:

College Street and Ashland Avenue near the Recreation Field for parade staging from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and if necessary, Ashland Avenue in the vicinity of the Elks National Home.

Peaks Street from College Street to North Bridge Street; North Bridge Street to West Main Street; West Main Street to Fourth Street and to the Recreation Field, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Bedford Avenue and Mountain Avenue would be one-way streets during that time for the disbanding of the parade.

City Manager Gross stated that the parade route and street closings have been approved by the Police Chief. Bedford Main Street, Inc., will notify the Fire Department and the Rescue Squad and the Elks National Home. The residents of the area will have ingress and egress to their homes.

Councilwoman Grahame moved that Council approve the blocking of the named streets on Saturday, December 4, 1993, for the Christmas Parade. The motion was seconded by Councilman Otey, voted upon and carried unanimously.

City Manager Gross stated that the federal government has set aside \$150,000,000 for implementing a program to put more police officers on the streets of the nation's cities. Seventy-five million dollars will go to localities under 150,000 population. The funds can only be used to pay salaries and fringe benefits for police officers, and the grant to each locality may not exceed 75% of the officers' salaries and benefits up to \$75,000 per officer, or 50% of the total salaries and benefits over the life of the grant, whichever is greater.

The City Manager indicated that the life of the program will be three years; localities must submit a plan for retaining the positions beyond that time. The program targets implementation of the community policing concept, whereby an officer spends time in one area, getting to know the people there and becoming a part of the community. Police Chief Graham has recommended two community policing positions for the City. The federal share to fund these two positions would be \$131,438 over the life of the grant, while the City's share would be \$43,813.

City Manager Gross reported that Chief Graham has reviewed the program with the Finance and Public Safety Committees. The Chief has prepared a grant application, which must be submitted no later than October 14.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding for retaining the position after the pilot program has ended. The City Manager indicated that he felt attrition factors in the Police Department would possibly take care of that.

Councilman Rice moved that Council authorize the City Manager to submit an application for federal funds under the Drug Control and System Improvements Discretionary Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member (Vest) voting nay.

Discussion ensued regarding a local business planning to relocate in the community.

Councilman Tharp reported on the last step in the joint certification process with Bedford County to become a certified business community.

Linda Kochendarfer thanked Council for setting aside spaces in the cemetery for infant remains. Ms. Kochendarfer also thanked Councilman Tharp and Mary Ann Tolley of Carder-Tharp Funeral Home for their assistance to friends of hers.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.