

2-22-94 Minutes

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:45 p.m., February 22, 1994.

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 February 8, 1994, were approved as mailed.

City Manager Gross stated that in the settlement agreement with Bedford County over the annexation issue, it was agreed to jointly fund a rate study for the cost of water. Mr. Gross indicated that he and the County Administrator are presently preparing a Request for Proposals.

The City Manager stated that a full report on the damage resulting from the February 10 and 11 ice storm will be presented at the next regular Council meeting. Mr. Gross indicated that City crews are picking up brush, and with Council's concurrence, the tipping fees at the landfill will continue to be waived until April 1.

On motion by Vice Mayor Vest, seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously, the following amendments to the agenda were made:

Delete: Presentation - Sheltered Workshop of Bedford, Inc. - Mrs. Renee C. Fisher, Executive Director

Add and move to the Consent Agenda: Appointment of Member to the City Planning Commission

Move to the Consent Agenda: Appointment of Member to Regional Library Board

Add: Resolution - Confirming Declaration of Local Emergency

Add: Resolution - Officially Ending Emergency Situation

Councilman Rice suggested the ordinance on clearing of rights-of-way be reviewed and that the Safety Committee inspect some of the City streets for dangerous situations resulting from damage to trees during the ice storm.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items: Appointment of Marsha Melton to fill an unexpired term on the Regional Library Board expiring June 30, 1995. Appointment of David Keith to fill an unexpired term on the Planning Commission, said term expiring March 31, 1996.

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Councilman Otey, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council approved the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Robert T. Forrest, P.E., a Vice President of Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc., the parent company of Communications Technology Association (CTA) reviewed the Cost Assessment Report on Two-Way Radio Communications prepared by CTA. The report contained cost estimates for a comprehensive regional upgrade involving a regional 800 MHz trunked radio system.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Dennis E. Gragg, Executive Director of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, requested authorization to develop the Request for Proposals (RFP), release the RFP, and then get bids in order to determine the cost. Mr. Gragg stated that once the bids come in, Council will have the opportunity to proceed or drop out.

Mayor Shelton stated that funds for the City's portion of component 3 of the report, in the amount of \$6,357, are available in the 911 Fund.

The City Manager indicated that the City now knows what its needs are and the next step is to determine the costs and how to fund some of those costs.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council accepted the Cost Assessment Report for the proposed regional radio system and authorized the City's participation in the RFP process.

Mr. Gragg explained that competitive grants are available for rural public transportation. Mr. Gragg stated that a synopsis and proposed budget for four passenger buses which would serve both the City and the County have been prepared by Mr. Scott Lansing of the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC).

Mr. Lansing reviewed the synopsis and proposed budget which included \$40,095 as the local share of operating costs and \$41,695 as the local share of the capital budget under the current formula or \$64,095 under the proposed formula. Mr. Lansing indicated that the City can turn down the grant if it chooses not to participate.

Mayor Shelton suggested if the resolution is supported by a majority of Council, that Council hold a public hearing to solicit input from the public as to need.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BETWEEN THE CITY/COUNTY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA ,

AND THE GREATER LYNCHBURG METROPOLITAN AREA

OF VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, the Bedford City area of Virginia suffers from a lack of public transportation to and from the metropolitan area, and

WHEREAS, the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) has offered to submit a grant applicant to attempt to acquire vehicles and operating monies to begin a public transportation system between Bedford City and Lynchburg City, and

WHEREAS, local monies must be contributed to off-set the deficit incurred between operating revenues and state and federal funding that will be received, and

WHEREAS, this public transportation will greatly enhance the ability of the citizens of the City of Bedford to travel and conduct personal business thereby improving their quality of life.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Council of the City of Bedford, hereby adopts this resolution of support of the concept of attempting to establish public transportation between the City of Bedford and the City of Lynchburg, and hereby authorizes the City Manager to negotiate with the County Administrator of the County of Bedford and the Manager of the GLTC, to define routes and times of service, split of operating and capital costs, etc.

FURTHER, LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Council of the City of Bedford, establishes an annual dollar amount not to be exceeded of one-half of the estimated budget figure provided the County of Bedford does not chose to participate. In the event both jurisdictions agree to participate, the maximum dollar amount will be that established between the City Manager and the County Administrator, but will not exceed that stated above.

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

Councilman Brookshier aye

Councilwoman Grahame aye

Councilman Otey aye

Councilman Rice nay

Councilman Tharp aye

Vice Mayor Vest nay

Mayor Shelton nay

Discussion ensued regarding the need for preparing the application for the grant if there would not be enough votes to appropriate the funds for the program.

Council will schedule a public hearing before submitting the grant; review the grant, then give authorization for submittal.

Mr. Thomas J. Hehman, Director of the Bedford Public Library made a presentation to Council regarding the Library's budget request for Fiscal Year 1994-95. Mr. Hehman stated that the operating budget request is \$80,700.58, an increase of .10%. Mr. Hehman stated that the capital expenditures budget request is \$20,000 over the next two years, \$16,000 for FY 1994-95 and \$4,000 for FY 1995-96, which would be used for library automation.

Mrs. Ellen Wandrei, Managing Director of the Bedford City/County Museum, stated that the Museum's budget request is \$12,000 for Fiscal Year 1994-95. Mrs. Wandrei reviewed activities of the Museum.

The City Manager stated that a request has been received from Bedford Main Street, Inc., to close the following streets on June 24, 1994, for Bike Virginia and for the Twilight Criterium bicycle race which is being sponsored by Team Thunderr Racing of Bedford. Mr. Gross indicated that notice of the closings will be mailed to all affected businesses and that those businesses not covered by previously signed permissions have been contacted and have not made any objections. The street closings have been approved by the Chief of Police and both the Fire Department and Rescue Squad will be notified of the closings.

Streets requested to be closed on June 24:

Bridge Street from Jackson Street to below Washington Street

Main Street from 4th Street to South Street

Depot Street from Court Street to 4th Street

4th Street from Macon Street to West Main Street

Crenshaw Street from Washington Street to West Main Street

Center Street from Washington Street to West Main Street

South Street from Washington Street to East Main Street

Market Square from West Main Street to Depot Street

Ballard Street from West Main Street to Depot Street

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Otey, voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member (Vest) voting nay, Council approved the closing of the aforementioned streets on June 24, 1994, from 5:30 p.m. until completion of the events late that evening.

City Manager Gross stated that Council has received a request from Barbara Ring, Executive Director of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, regarding additional charges incurred for printing of the Center for

Business brochure/packet which is required for Certification. Mr. Gross indicated that the City's share of these additional charges is \$4,137.68, which will require a supplemental appropriation.

Vice Mayor Vest moved that Council appropriate \$4,137.68 from the unappropriated contingency to Account No. 0303403410070074 for the City's share of additional printing costs for the Certification program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rice.

Discussion ensued regarding the closing of the Regional Office of Economic Development.

Councilman Tharp suggested that Council direct the City Manager to write letters to the appropriate individuals in support of keeping the regional office open.

The motion was then voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Clarke Gibson, Director of Public Works, reported on the privatization of refuse collection. Mr. Gibson reported that three companies responded with price quotes for once and twice per week garbage collection.

The Director of Public Works stated that the City employees would like the refuse collection be kept as a City service. Mr. Gibson reviewed a plan that has been developed to collect solid waste twice per week, which would be competitive to private industry. The plan would involve using one crew, working four ten hour days with Wednesday off; using one every day truck and one backup truck; and changes in the route schedule.

Mr. Gibson stated that a plan for updating the business rate schedule is being developed and will be reported on at later date.

Discussion ensued.

The City Manager is to furnish for the next regular Council meeting, more information regarding how much savings would result with only once per week trash pickup instead of twice per week.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford suffered severe and unprecedented damage during an ice storm on February 10 and 11, 1994; and

WHEREAS, the storm brought down power lines on the City of Bedford's electrical system, causing outages to all of the customers served by the City's Electric Department; and

WHEREAS, certain citizens had to leave their homes for emergency shelter provided for them by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager and the Mayor found it necessary to declare a local emergency in order to deal with the situation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, that the declaration of local emergency made by the City Manager and the Mayor on February 11, 1994, be and it hereby is confirmed.

On motion by Councilwoman Grahame, seconded by Councilman Otey, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution:

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

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford suffered severe and unprecedented damage during an

ice storm on February 10 and 11, 1994; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager and the Mayor found it necessary to declare a local emergency in order to deal with the situation; and

WHEREAS, that emergency has now abated:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, that local emergency declared on February 11, 1994, has now ended.

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

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

Mr. Stan Stancer, Chairman of the City Planning Commission, stated that an error had been made in the appointment of Mr. David Keith to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Shelton indicated that the problem would be taken care of.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m. until February 26, 1994, 10:00 a.m. for the Council planning meeting.