

3-16-95 Minutes

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., March 16, 1995.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilwoman Linda Kochendarfer; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman W. D. Tharp.

Members absent: None. (A vacancy exists on City Council due to the death of Councilman Payton M. Otey on February 22, 1995.)

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton stated that this meeting was adjourned from the regular meeting of March 14, 1995.

Mr. Bob Slaughter, Chairman of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation, gave an update on the progress of the Foundation. Mr. Slaughter stated that in order for the project to begin, the Foundation needs to hire a fund raising consultant. Mr. Slaughter indicated that \$45,000 has been pledged from three sources if the Foundation is able to raise \$55,000 more for a total of \$100,000. Mr Slaughter asked Council to give the Foundation a letter of credit in the amount of \$55,000 in order to release the \$45,000. Mr. Slaughter indicated that the Foundation may not spent any of the \$55,000 or may spend all of it, if necessary.

Mr. Byron Dixon, architect, reviewed with Council the timetable for the project and the site plan for the memorial.

During discussion it was determined that if an amount of the \$55,000 line of credit is used by the Foundation, the money used could be applied against the value of the contribution the City is making in infrastructure.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council directed the City Manager to develop a \$55,000 letter of credit for the National D-Day Memorial Foundation to help start the fund-raising effort. Roll call vote follows:

Vice Mayor Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Grahame	aye
Councilwoman Kochendarfer	aye
Councilman Rice	aye

Councilman Tharp aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Mr. Jay Scudder, Director of Planning & Community Development, reviewed discussions he has had regarding sale of the land for the D-Day Memorial. Mr. Scudder indicated that the two major property owners are Mr. Bud Dinwiddie and the Saunders Estate.

Discussion ensued.

It was the concurrence of Council that the City Manager be authorized to proceed with negotiations on obtaining options on those two properties.

Mayor Shelton declared a five minute recess from 7:55 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Shelton stated that Mr. Slaughter has been contacted by the Mayor of Vierville-sur-Mer, France, the first community reached in the D-Day Invasion. This community would like to be a sister city with Bedford through the Sister Cities International Program. Mayor Shelton will research this and report back to Council.

Discussion ensued regarding Council's response to the public when questioned about the consolidation issue.

Council discussed the Wharton Garden.

Mr. Scudder stated that the Bedford Master Gardeners are preparing a plan for planting materials for screening, shielding, and buffers around the Library. Mr. Scudder stated that Carol McMillan, Master Gardener, is preparing a landscaping plan for the front of the Library.

Mr. Scudder will meet with the Garden Clubs and other interested parties and bring back to Council a plan for the Wharton Gardens that will be considered by Council for adoption.

A discussion about the Wharton house ensued. Mentioned during the discussion were the following: asbestos in the house; leasing the house and other options; and demolition of the house. This issue is still in committee.

Council discussed the City School Board's request for Council's approval of the formation of a committee for a feasibility study for a new gymnasium at the Bedford Middle School.

Mayor Shelton will inform the Chairman of the City School Board that Council is not inclined to establish a committee along the recommendation of the School Board and that

Council will establish its own committee at the proper time and will welcome input from the School Board.

Discussion ensued regarding when it will be financially feasible for the City to begin the community center project.

The City Manager indicated that no funds will be freed up from existing bond issues for seven years. The City Manager spoke of other financial obligations the City has.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m. until March 21, 1995, at 5:30 p.m. for interviews of candidates for the vacancy on City Council.