

## 9-26-95 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., September 26, 1995.

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

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 12, 1995, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Gross reported on the regional radio system. Items in the report included: 1. negotiations continue, with the total cost for the regional radio system for all the jurisdictions being \$16,023,774. 2. The "worse case scenario" cost for the City is \$632,551. 3. The staff is studying Council's directive for a joint dispatch center with Bedford County in order to share costs for that equipment. The present sheriff has suggested that the dispatch center be included as part of the Sheriff's facilities. The City Manager stated that he and the Chief of Police recommend that the dispatch center be a separate facility. Space is presently available in the new County building in the basement.

It was the consensus of Council to continue the process of negotiations for a regional radio system.

Councilwoman Grahame stated that the Library Committee met on September 25. Councilwoman Grahame reported that the lease agreement for the Wharton Building is not finalized yet, and requested that the executive session concerning consultation with legal counsel regarding lease of City-owned property be removed from the agenda. Councilwoman Grahame asked that this meeting be adjourned until October 4 to take up this matter.

Discussion ensued regarding scheduling the meeting on October 4.

Mayor Shelton stated that this meeting will be adjourned until October 4 at 7:30 p.m. for an executive session pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel regarding lease of City-owned property; recommendations on the enterprise zones; and any other business items.

Councilwoman Grahame invited everyone to Centerfest '95 on September 30.

Discussion ensued regarding Centerfest activities.

Councilman Rice stated that he attended a senior citizen's meeting at the Elk's National Home and it is his opinion that people still do not understand the proposed consolidation agreement.

Councilwoman Flood reported that she attended the board meeting for the Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging and there was a concern about the lack of participants on the Advisory Council. Councilwoman Flood stated that there are no participants from this jurisdiction.

Councilwoman Flood stated that the committee that was formed to study the potential growth of the schools in terms of enrollment and facilities has met, has defined its mission, and has an agenda.

Councilman Tharp indicated that the fund raising project for the library is still going on, with approximately \$596,000 raised to date.

Mayor Shelton reported that visitors from France will be in Bedford on October 3, 1995, and gave Council copies of the visitors' itinerary. The Mayor thanked Jay Scudder, Elizabeth Berry-Mosley, and Ellen Wandrei for their efforts in organizing this visit.

Mayor Shelton stated that agenda item "Executive Session Pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a)(7), Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Lease of City-owned Property" was tabled until October 4, 1995.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously, the following item was added to the agenda: Presentation - Enterprise Zones.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following item: Approve the request by Bedford Main Street, Inc., to block the following streets for Centerfest '95 from 7:00 a.m. on September 30, to 2:00 a.m. on October 1: West Main Street to Ballard Street; South Bridge Street to Washington Street; East Main Street to Court Street; and North Bridge Street to the parking lot near Hunan Restaurant.

Vice Mayor Brookshier moved that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously.

Mr. Barry Thompson, Assistant City Manager, reviewed with Council the City Treasurer's annual report of uncollected real estate and personal property taxes for fiscal years 1992-93 and 1994-95.

**Real Estate Tax Status as of September 15, 1995**

Tax Year

Assessment

Uncollected

Tax

Percentage

Collected

1992-93

\$1,300,636.20

\$ 762.52

99.94%

1993-94

\$1,337,086.94

\$ 4,000.99

99.70%

1994-95

\$1,520,479.98

\$14,606.45

99.03%

**Personal Property Tax Status as of September 15, 1995**

1992

\$ 771,596.09

\$ 4,230.90

99.45%

1993

\$ 794,511.54

\$ 3,523.75

99.55%

1994

\$ 871,539.81

\$ 6,743.73

99.22%

Mayor Shelton asked the City Manager to convey to the City Treasurer, Council's commendations for the outstanding effort in the Treasurer's Office.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION WAIVING TAX PENALTIES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bedford taxes property of public service corporations located within the City of Bedford; and

**WHEREAS**, the assessment of the value of the real estate of the public service corporations has not been completed; and

**WHEREAS**, because the assessed values of the properties of the public service corporations are unavailable, the taxes have not been computed which thereby prevents the public service corporations from paying their taxes by September 30, 1995, and therefore they may incur penalties and interest for the late payment of their taxes due to no fault of their own.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD** that the public service corporations taxed by the City of Bedford shall be exempt from penalties and interest for a period of thirty (30) days, which would have been assessed due to their failure to pay the first quarterly installment of property taxes by September 30, 1995.

City Manager Gross indicated that this is a problem at the State level, not in the Commissioner of Revenue's office.

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

Vice Mayor Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilwoman Grahame	aye
Councilwoman Kochendarfer	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Tharp	nay
Mayor Shelton	aye

Mayor Shelton stated he felt that Council and the constitutional officers have a good working relationship.

Mr. Jay Scudder, Director of Planning & Community Development, and Jennie Martin, Grants Coordinator gave a report on enterprise zones. Some items reviewed were: benefits to the City and a list of potential local incentives to attract business.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Shelton directed the City Manager to prepare a resolution recommending a location for the proposed joint dispatching center for E911.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m. until October 4, 1995, at 7:30 p.m.