

11-28-95 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., November 28, 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.

City Manager Gross stated that at the request of Council an invitation to bid was prepared for a lease on the Charles A. Wharton building. The City Manager reviewed the procedures required by the Code of Virginia in order to lease public property in excess of five years.

Mayor Shelton read aloud a bid from the Bedford Historical Society to lease the Charles Wharton building. The Historical Society submitted a bid to lease the building for 40 years, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an attached revised lease. The proposal is to use the building for office and meeting space for the Bedford Historical Society, Inc., and for other uses by its sublessees.

Mayor Shelton asked if there were any other bids for lease of the Charles Wharton building.

As there were no further bids, Mayor Shelton declared the bid process closed.

Mayor Shelton referred the bid to the Library Committee, the City Manager, and the staff for review and discussion with the bid proposer and directed that a recommendation be made to Council at the next regular meeting.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on November 14, 1995, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Gross reported on the following:

- Council has received a report on the maintenance work done at the Snowden Hydroelectric Plant during the last five months.
- A letter of response on the City's zoning ordinances was prepared and delivered to the local newspaper on November 20.
- Council previously directed the staff to review the suitability of the polling places - letters have been sent out and five responses have been received.

Chief of Police Graham brought the following items to Council's attention:

- The City has received \$2,500 from a Highway Safety Grant for radar enforcement on Route 460 within the City limits.
- The City received an additional \$8,600 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services to aid in improving the Police Department's record system.
- With the community policing operation now in progress in the Bridge, Franklin and Cook Streets area, the first neighborhood watch meeting will be held on November 30 at the Bridge School.
- The Safe Haven Program is now in operation at Raintree Apartments. The City was one of only ten communities in the United States to receive this grant.

The City Manager mentioned the following items:

- A letter received November 17, 1995, from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding flow violations that occurred at the Bedford Hydro Project. FERC is satisfied with the corrective action taken by the City.
- The City has received a great deal of publicity regarding Bedford being online with its Internet home page.

Mayor Shelton stated that the following would be added to the executive session: erosion and sediment control problems on Baltimore Avenue that may lead to potential litigation.

Councilman Rice complimented the Christmas decorations in the City.

Councilman Rice stated that potholes on West Main Street need to be repaired immediately. The City Manager will check into this.

Councilwoman Grahame stated that she has received complaints about tractor trailer truck traffic on Shady Knoll Avenue. The City Manager will investigate this matter.

Mayor Shelton commented on the letter from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and mentioned the hard work of the City Manager, Electric Utility Director, and the staff in dealing with this issue.

Mayor Shelton expressed thanks to the Electric Department personnel for their work in installing the Christmas decorations.

Mayor Shelton reported that the annual Christmas parade will be held on December 2.

Mr. Fred Duis of the Wharton Memorial Foundation, explained that the Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to create a significant garden in the area of the City near the Bedford Public Library. Mr. Duis reviewed the Master Plan for the Wharton Foundation Gardens, which was prepared by Robert F. McDuffie, Landscape Architect.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Shelton indicated that Council had before them copies of a proposed mission statement for the City School Board.

Councilwoman Grahame moved that Council approve the mission statement for the City School Board. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Brookshier, voted upon and carried unanimously.

The mission statement for the City School Board follows as adopted:

BEDFORD CITY SCHOOL BOARD

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Bedford School Board has requested that Bedford City Council provide a statement of mission and purpose to guide the activities and actions of the School Board. The School Board is unique in its existence due to the educational services contract with Bedford County. Since City elementary and secondary educational programs are operated via contract with Bedford County, the City School Board's policy authority under law is delegated, mostly, to the Bedford County School Board.

Beyond State statutes governing the role and responsibilities of school boards, the following mission and purpose are established for the ongoing work of the City of Bedford School Board:

The City School Board shall oversee educational programming for the City of Bedford, considering the educational services contract with Bedford County, and in full consideration of the taxpayers of the City of Bedford for the development of high quality educational services for all citizens of the City. Fundamental to this is the belief that all people should have equal opportunity to develop and expand their skills and knowledge.

- * The School Board shall review and evaluate educational programs provided to City residents by Bedford County, and shall ensure that all students have access to opportunities that are sensitive to individual needs for successful development, knowledge and learning.

- * The School Board shall address concerns, and recommend additions, deletions, or changes to programs to the Bedford County School Board, and ensure the best and most efficient expenditure of City tax dollars for services received from Bedford County.

- * The School Board shall, together with the City Council, seek to provide adequate and efficient school facilities for the education of City students. In doing so, it shall establish program and capital philosophies consistent with the school-age population, city student enrollment trends, and the rated capacity of existing city-owned facilities. A basic understanding of financial capabilities and commitments is fundamental to this effort.

- * The School Board shall review the educational services contract, evaluate County school administration and operations, and ensure that the City is receiving efficient services in keeping with the letter and the spirit of the contract. It shall take appropriate actions to reach resolution to problems or concerns.

- * Where it finds that new actions or programs are appropriate or necessary, the City School Board shall develop plans of action for consideration by the appropriate governing bodies, and it shall ensure that the programs are properly and appropriately administered.

* The School Board shall support and promote educational and related programs as adopted by the City of Bedford for its citizenry to ensure public acceptance, understanding and support of needs and actions.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following resolution as corrected:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the Charter of the City of Bedford requires that Council shall "fix the time and place of its meeting," and

WHEREAS, the City Code requires in Section 2-3 that meetings shall be on "the second and fourth Tuesday of each month," and

WHEREAS, the second regular Council meeting in December is scheduled for December 26, 1995, that date being one day after Christmas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council meeting scheduled for December 26, 1995 be and the same hereby is canceled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council meeting of December 12, 1995 be adjourned to January 9, 1996.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer moved that the resolution be adopted as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, 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

Council reconvened into open session at 9:01 p.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.

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

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

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.