

1-23-96 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., January 23, 1996.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton (arrived at 8:26 p.m.); 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 (arrived at 9:10 p.m.).

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Vice Mayor Brookshier opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A reception was held from 7:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in honor of the City employees receiving service awards later in the meeting.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried, the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on December 12, 1995, and the minutes of a called Council meeting held on December 28, 1995, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Gross reported that the estimated cost of the snow removal from the blizzard is approximately \$51,000. Mr. Gross stated that the Governor has declared a state-wide emergency.

The City Manager reported on a meeting he went to in Richmond earlier in the day which was attended by representatives from Virginia's small and medium-size cities. Mr. Gross stated that the meeting was in response to what is happening in the legislature with bills dealing with city transition to town status, annexation and consolidation. The City Manager reviewed various House Bills concerning the previously mentioned subjects.

City Manager Gross stated that the Virginia Municipal League has suggested, as a method of working with these bills, that a joint study be undertaken by the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League. Also suggested was that at the beginning of the next legislative session, a bill be drafted jointly by the two organizations. Another suggestion, as a part of that strategy, was that the patrons of these bills be asked to remove them from consideration during this session, and the Virginia Municipal League will support Delegate Lacey Putney's bill for the annexation moratorium extension.

City Manager Gross stated that he and the Electric Utility Director have been negotiating with Appalachian Power Company on a possible new electric service contract. Mr. Gross stated that the Blue Ridge Power Association has a request for proposals for supplying additional electric power to the cities to be wheeled in through Appalachian Power Company. Mr. Gross reported that Appalachian Power Company has requested to suspend negotiations until after the proposals for the Blue Ridge Power Association were in. Proposals are to be submitted in March and at that time discussions will be resumed.

Councilwoman Grahame expressed appreciation to Council for its contribution to the Bedford Community Health Foundation in memory of her late nephew Brian Dooley.

Councilwoman Grahame thanked the City personnel for all the great work they did during the blizzard.

Councilwoman Grahame announced that she plans to run for reelection this year.

Councilman Rice also spoke of the outstanding job the entire City force did during the blizzard. Councilman Rice suggested that letters of appreciation be sent out to those individuals who kept their businesses open during the blizzard, such as Kenneth Patterson of the Bedford Minute Market, and any others that were involved.

Councilman Rice announced that he also plans to run for reelection this year.

Councilwoman Grahame asked about the status of moving the voting place from the Fire House.

The City Manager stated that comments have been solicited and a report will be made back to Council.

Discussion ensued regarding holding a Council retreat on February 10-11, 1996.

Vice Mayor Brookshier stated that a meeting on Reynolds Park will be held on January 29 at his home on Pinecrest Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Brookshier complimented the City staff for their work during the blizzard.

Mayor Shelton arrived at 8:26 p.m.

The Mayor announced that he would seek reelection this year.

Mayor Shelton expressed gratitude to the City employees for the outstanding job they did during the blizzard.

Mayor Shelton presented Employee Service Awards as follows:

5 Year Awards:

Crystal Bell; Michael A. Cook; Kevin C. Dellis; Fran M. Hart; Lana F. Obenchain; Phillip A. Sullivan

10 Year Awards:

Glen R. Boyer; Charles L. Nelms; Dean L. Robertson

15 Year Awards:

Shirley C. Nichols; Patricia J. Hunziker; Dianne S. Flake

25 Year Awards:

Calvin R. Fields; William G. Gross; Bobbie L. Mitchen; Marilyn N. Rush

35 Year Awards:

Paul Amos

The Employee of the Year Award was given to Dean Dickson, Line Crew Supervisor in the Electric Department. Mayor Shelton presented Mr. Dickson with a gift certificate to the Peaks of Otter Lodge. The Mayor stated that Mr. Dickson will also receive one day's paid vacation.

Mr. Clarke Gibson, Public Works Director, reported that waste has significantly increased since the opening of the landfill. Mr. Gibson stated with the increased tonnage rates, the expected life of the landfill has decreased to approximately nine more years. Mr. Gibson indicated that restructuring the tipping fees to make them more comparable to surrounding localities is being studied.

Mr. Mike Hatfield, of Thompson & Litton, Inc., reviewed possible alternatives for expansion of the landfill.

Councilman Tharp arrived at 9:10 p.m.

The City Manager stated that the Solid Waste Committee has asked the staff to prepare some recommendations for Council for the February 13 meeting.

Mr. Roger Henderson, Executive Director of the Bedford Community Health Foundation, Inc., reported on the Foundation's status and plans for future activities. Mr. Henderson stated that one of the goals of the Foundation Board of Directors is to double the membership within the next two years.

On motion by Vice Mayor Brookshier, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council waived the reading of the following proposed resolutions: 1. Resolution Confirming Declaration of Local Emergency; 2. Resolution Officially

Ending Emergency Situation; 3. Resolution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - Blizzard of January 6-10, 1996.

Councilwoman Grahame moved that Council adopt the Resolution Confirming Declaration of Local Emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford experienced severe weather conditions during a blizzard on January 6-10, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented amount of snowfall during this period caused undue hardships to the citizens of the City of Bedford and required the use of all available City equipment and manpower to clear city streets and maintain services; and

WHEREAS, 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 Mayor on January 6, 1996, be and it hereby is confirmed.

Councilman Rice moved that Council adopt the Resolution Officially Ending Emergency Situation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford suffered severe and unprecedented weather conditions during a blizzard on January 6-10, 1996; and

WHEREAS, 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 the local emergency declared on January 6, 1996, ended on January 10, 1996.

Vice Mayor Brookshier moved that Council adopt the following: Resolution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - Blizzard of January 6-10, 1996. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford, along with the surrounding area, recently experienced extreme weather conditions involving a blizzard; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia declared an emergency relating to this weather event; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is allowing partial reimbursement for certain costs associated with the blizzard of January 6-10, 1996;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bedford appoints City Manager Jack A. Gross or Chief of Police Milton H. Graham as the Governor's authorized representatives, and hereby authorizes them to execute and apply for these funds for and on behalf of the City of Bedford, a public entity established under the laws of

the State of Virginia. This application shall be filed with the appropriate State office for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal Financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 93rd Congress) or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund; and

THAT Jack A. Gross, City Manager, is hereby authorized to execute for and in behalf of the City of Bedford, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Virginia, this application and to file it in the appropriate State office for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 93rd Congress) or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Bedford, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Virginia, hereby authorizes its agent to provide to the State and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all matters pertaining to such Federal disaster assistance the assurances and agreements printed on the reverse side of the Designation of Applicant's Agent form.

The City Manager stated that Council has received copies of the latest draft of the Bond Purchase Agreement in connection with the taxable lease revenue bonds funding the City's purchase from Appalachian Power Company of electric distribution facilities at the Georgia-Pacific plant in Big Island. Formal award of the bonds will be made by the City Manager, subject to Council's approval.

A brief discussion ensued.

On motion by Councilwoman Grahame, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council approved the revised structure and terms of the City of Bedford's lease financing for the acquisition of certain electric distribution facilities from Appalachian Power Company, as such revised structure and terms have been presented at this meeting by the City Manager, and directed the City Manager to execute a Bond Purchase Agreement containing such structure and terms in accordance with the Council's previous resolution adopted August 22, 1995, as amended.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.