

2-27-96 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., February 27, 1996.

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

Members absent: Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier.

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 13, 1996, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Gross presented Council with a clarification of agenda item No. 6, Report on Regional Juvenile Detention Home - Milton H. Graham, Chief of Police. The agenda item should be: Report on Regional Juvenile Detention Home, Regional Jail, and the Regional Radio System - Sheriff Mike Brown.

Mayor Shelton stated that the agenda was changed to include the topics mentioned by the City Manager.

The Mayor welcomed Sheriff Brown to the meeting.

Councilman Rice suggested that Council adopt resolutions to honor Liberty High School Basketball Coach Mark Hanks and Jim Cutler, who was recently inducted into the Virginia Baseball Hall of Fame.

It was the concurrence of Council to have separate resolutions prepared to honor Coach Hanks and the basketball team, Coach Mike Scharnus and the football team for their success and hard work, and Jim Cutler.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer reported that plans are beginning for Bedford Middle School Student Local Government Day in May.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

Appointment of Ms. Frances B. Coles, 691 Pinecrest Avenue, to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a term expiring October 13, 1998.

Recommend that the City Attorney submit the name of Mr. Elbert DeKorte, 1109 Pinecrest Avenue, to the Circuit Court Judge for consideration for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to expire November 30, 1997.

Councilman Rice moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously.

On motion by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council made the following appointments to the Recreation Advisory Committee:

Eddie Martinez for a term beginning immediately and expiring June 30, 1998; and Ann Coffey for a term beginning immediately and expiring June 30, 1999.

Mrs. Elizabeth Berry-Mosley, Executive Director of Bedford Main Street, Inc., gave a report to Council regarding the activities of Bedford Main Street during the past year. Mrs. Berry-Mosely also reviewed a brochure with Council which included 1996 Program Highlights. Mrs. Berry-Mosely stated that Bedford Main Street is requesting level funding in the proposed 1996-97 City budget.

City Manager Gross stated that Council has received copies of the Audit Report prepared by the City's auditors, Firebaugh & Berry, Inc., for fiscal year ended June 30, 1995.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer moved that Council accept the Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1995. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried unanimously.

Sheriff Brown stated that he supports the Regional Radio System and recommended to Council to get this new system in place. The Sheriff explained incidents that have occurred because of problems with the current radio system.

Sheriff Brown reported on concerns the Bedford County Board of Supervisors has regarding the Regional Juvenile Detention Home. The Sheriff indicated that the facility is needed, and he is in favor of being involved in it if certain conditions can be worked out.

The Sheriff stated he recommended that the Board of Supervisors give consideration to participating in the regional jail, but it was his opinion the Board will not participate in a regional jail. Sheriff Brown stated that he would like to see the County and the City stay together, but recognizes that Council needs to do what is best for the citizens of the City. The Sheriff indicated that it will probably cost the County 20% - 25% more to build its

own jail. The Sheriff spoke of possible plans for new local jail facility to be built by the County at the location of the present jail, renovating the present jail, and moving the Sheriff's Department to the grounds of the County Home in a new Public Safety - Sheriff's Department building, with the dispatch center probably being included.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Shelton stated that the City will participate in the regional jail unless Council makes a decision within the next few weeks to not participate.

Further discussion ensued regarding a new dispatch center. The Sheriff spoke again about problems with the present radio system.

City Manager Gross stated that the City had met advertising requirements for changing the Ward One polling place from the Fire House to the Library as required by provisions of the Code of Virginia. Notice of the change has been published in the Bedford, Roanoke and Lynchburg newspapers. Mr. Gross indicated that an ordinance has been prepared which will amend and reenact Section 1-9 of the City Code to effect this change. Following the adoption of this ordinance, the City Attorney will make a submission to the United States Department of Justice for an expedited approval of the change in polling place. Mr. Gross stated that approval may not come in time for the May election.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the proposed ordinance.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer moved that Council adopt the proposed ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame.

Discussion ensued regarding the last paragraph of the proposed ordinance and what would occur for the May election if approval from the Department of Justice is delayed.

Mayor Shelton declared a five minute recess from 8:45 p.m. until 8:50 p.m. for the City Attorney to prepare a technical change to Section 2 of the proposed ordinance.

The Clerk of Council then read aloud the proposed amendment to the ordinance prepared by the City Attorney.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer made a motion to amend the motion to include the change to Section 2 of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame. The motion to adopt the ordinance as amended was then voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Vice Mayor Brookshier absent

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Grahame aye
Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye
Councilman Rice aye
Councilman Tharp aye
Mayor Shelton aye

The ordinance follows as adopted:

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1-9
OF THE BEDFORD CITY CODE**

1. Section 1-9 of the City Code is hereby amended and reenacted as follows:

Sec. 1-9. City wards and polling places.

The City is hereby divided into two (2) wards, as required by Section 15.1-999 of the Code of Virginia, whose boundaries are as follows:

(a) Ward one shall consist of all of that area of the city lying north of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks to the corporate limits. The polling place for ward one shall be the Bedford Public Library, located at 321 North Bridge Street.

(b) Ward two shall consist of all of that area of the city lying south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks to the corporate limits. The polling place for ward two shall be the Bedford Elementary School, located on Burks Hill Road.

2. This ordinance shall not take effect unless approved by the United States Department of Justice; if such approval is received on or before April 16, 1996, the ordinance shall take effect upon such date; if such

approval is received after April 16, 1996, such ordinance shall take effect on June 1, 1996.

Councilman Tharp stated that the Library has received \$2,500 in new donations within the last forty-eight hours. Councilman Tharp indicated that there are outstanding pledges of approximately \$57,000. The outstanding balance the Library Foundation owes the City on the cash advance is approximately \$37,000.

Discussion ensued when the City Manager reported that the LSCA grant funds for the Library have still not been received.

It was the concurrence of Council that the work session tentatively scheduled for April 6 will not be held. After the budget is presented, Council will schedule work sessions.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.