

3-12-96 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., March 12, 1996.

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 an adjourned Council meeting held on February 24, 1996, and the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on February 27, 1996, were approved as distributed.

Members of Council volunteered to form a team for a Christmas in April project at Ms. Estelle Robinson's home on Crenshaw Street. The City Manager asked for Council's permission to use a City dump truck and a backhoe for this project. Members of Council indicated their approval for use of the City equipment.

The City Manager reported on the success of the E-mail Project. Mr. Gross expressed thanks to Rich Kochendarfer for his work on this project and to the Mayor for the donation of a computer. Fiber optic cable is being installed to the Sheriff's Office for E-911. The City Manager stated that the County Administrator has agreed to connect Bedford County's computer network to the City's.

Councilwoman Grahame stated that the Bedford Main Street Board of Directors has invited members of Council to the Downtown Merchant Employee Appreciation Day Breakfast scheduled for March 19 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Bedford Presbyterian Church.

Councilman Rice indicated there are sight distance problems because of a storage trailer on Longwood Avenue and asked if the Chief of Police would check into this situation.

Discussion ensued regarding recognition of the Liberty High School Basketball team for its winning season and participation in the upcoming Group AA state tournament. The Mayor stated that he presented a proclamation at Liberty High School on March 11 declaring it "Liberty Minutemen Day." Discussion ensued regarding recognition of other teams and individuals at Liberty High School.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer reported on plans for student Local Government Day in May.

Vice Mayor Brookshier reported that the Property Committee met to review City owned property. The Property Committee recommended the following:

Old landfill on Orange Street - the staff is to investigate the possibility of recycling this old landfill for another use.

Vacant land south of Johns Creek between the Public Works Department and East Main Street - the Director of Planning & Community Development will look at a portion of this property for industrial development.

Old dam site on Route 43 (2.93 acres +/-) - has a questionable boundary. The City Manager is to determine the exact boundaries of this property and Council will then be able to review the possibilities on this piece of property.

Tract near Route 43 North near the Peaks of Otter (13.75 acres) - recommendation - not to sell at this time.

The Property Committee suggested that Council take a tour of some of the City property on April 9.

The City Manager explained that the cable television company is installing fiber optic lines in the City.

Councilman Tharp asked about the possibility of the staff preparing action statements or status reports to commit a Council action to paper, follow it through the process, and at the subsequent meeting get that piece of paper back to see what has been done.

Mayor Shelton referred this suggestion to the City Manager. The Mayor asked Councilman Tharp to work with the City Manager to determine the format of such a statement or report.

Councilman Tharp spoke regarding the possibility of a synopsis of Council actions being submitted to the Bedford Bulletin.

Discussion ensued regarding dissemination of information and the lack of coverage by the local newspaper. The Mayor stated that on behalf of Council, he will inform the Bedford Bulletin of Council's concern about the lack of coverage of Council meetings by the Bulletin.

The Mayor reported that an appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation was included in the state budget. Mayor Shelton stated that Delegate Lacey Putney was extremely helpful in working with the D-Day Foundation.

Ms. Barbara Ring, Executive Director of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, reviewed the activities of the Chamber during the past year and upcoming programs scheduled for 1996. Mrs. Ring stated that the Chamber is requesting level funding in the proposed 1996-97 City budget.

Ms. Betty McKinney, Tourism Coordinator of the Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, reviewed with Council the activities of the Tourism Committee, which included an explanation of the ad campaign defining Bedford as a tourism destination and plans for the future.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.