

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 11, 1997.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman H. Davis Ballard; Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilwoman Linda Kochendarfer; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

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 January 28, 1997, were approved as distributed.

Mayor Shelton reminded Council of the following events:

February 12, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber - a session with the architect and engineering firm relative to plans to move forward with some work at the Bedford Middle School. The City School Board and A & E Selection Committee will also be present.

February 20, 1997, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lynchburg Hilton - regional government dinner sponsored by the City of Lynchburg

Mayor Shelton indicated that he received notification from TIME Magazine that Mr. Onyx Bolling of Murray & Bolling Chevrolet, Inc., has been selected as a recipient of the 1997 TIME Magazine Quality Dealer Award. Mr. Bolling is one of only sixty-three dealers from more than 20,500 nationwide to be nominated for the magazine's 28th national award. The Mayor will extend Council's congratulations to Mr. Bolling.

The Mayor commented on issues addressed by the Senate and House of Delegates dealing with the Comprehensive Services Act and the Appropriations Act.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following item: Request to Block Streets for Bedford Volunteer Fire Department Antique and Classic Car Show.

The City Manager reported that Bedford Main Street, Inc., is requesting that the following streets be closed for the car show on Saturday, April 12, 1997, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.:

South Bridge Street to Washington Street; North Bridge Street to the City parking lot adjacent to Hunan's Restaurant; East Main Street to Court Street; West Main Street to Center Street; and East Depot Street and West Depot would be posted "no through traffic" at Court and Ballard respectively.

Elizabeth Berry-Mosley, Executive Director of Bedford Main Street, Inc., explained the event.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council adopted the consent agenda.

Mr. Robert McDuffie, Landscape Architect, gave a slide presentation regarding plans for the Wharton

Garden. Mr. McDuffie reported that the goals for the site are to:

1. emphasize the entrance to the Library
2. create a garden space behind the Wharton House
3. retain as many of the existing plants as possible

A brief discussion ensued.

Elizabeth Berry-Mosely, Bedford Main Street, Inc., reported to Council regarding Main Street's activities and programs. Bedford Main Street is requesting level funding, \$27,500, in the City's FY 1997-98 budget.

Mrs. Ellen Wandrei, Managing Director of the Bedford City/County Museum, made a presentation concerning the Museum's activities and programs. The Museum is requesting funding in the amount of \$15,000 in the FY 1997-98 budget. Mrs. Wandrei explained the reasons for the increase in the funding request.

Mr. Dale Wheeler, of the Friends of the Museum and member of the Bedford County Board of Supervisors, stated that the Museum, which was built in 1895, is in need of a major renovation. Mr. Wheeler reviewed the following points:

- the increase in tourists in the near future due to the National D-Day Memorial and other area attractions will have an effect on the entire Bedford community and the Museum.
- the Museum does not meet Federal regulations for safety and accessibility - with the addition of an elevator and renovation of the third floor, the Museum would double its useable space.

Mr. Wheeler asked that the City enter in with Bedford County, as joint owners of the Museum, and appropriate architectural and engineering funds. The estimated cost for renovation and installation of an elevator is \$250,000. Mr. Wheeler stated that A & E funds are usually ten percent of a project. Therefore, the cost of the A & E would be approximately \$25,000. Mr. Wheeler indicated that he is asking the Board of Supervisors to include \$12,500 in the County's FY 1997-98 budget for A & E funds. The City's share would be \$12,500.

Mr. Wheeler stated that if a plan could be designed that the City and County could agree upon, the construction costs could be funded by matching funds from a grant from the Department of Arts and Humanities and a 50/50 split between the City and the County, probably less than \$60,000 each.

Mayor Shelton indicated that this item is included on Council's agenda for the upcoming planning meeting on February 15.

Mayor Shelton reported that the D-Day Memorial Foundation is about to embark on some significant and major activities, with plans presently underway for a major event on June 6. The Governor has been invited to this event. The Mayor also reported the D-Day Foundation, along with its National Honorary Chair Steven Ambrose, is going to be featured before the National Press Club in April in Washington, D.C. The Governor is being asked to speak for Bedford at this event.

Barbara Ring, Executive Director of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, reviewed activities of the Chamber during the past year. The Chamber is requesting level funding of \$5,000 in the City's FY 1997-98 budget.

Betty McKinney, Tourism Coordinator of the Chamber of Commerce, requested funding in the amount of \$20,000. Ms. McKinney explained that the success of the major advertising campaign and other factors have resulted in the request for a \$5,000 increase over last year's budget request. Ms. McKinney also explained plans to promote Bedford as the "Christmas Capital of Virginia" and to make more promotions to group tour planners.

City Manager Gross stated that in November 1996 Leighton Langford, Director of Bedford County Department of Social Services, gave Council an overview and update on the Comprehensive Services Act for At Risk Youth and Families. Mr. Langford's report indicated that additional funds would be required to cover the cost of services to city residents during this fiscal year. The State has notified the Community Policy Management Team that a supplemental allocation has been approved in the amount of \$239,646. The City's share in matching funds is \$61,589.

Mr. Langford gave a review of the services to city residents during this fiscal year.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the consequences if Council does not appropriate these funds. Members of Council expressed their opposition to the Comprehensive Services Act.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council appropriated \$61,589 from the unappropriated contingency to Account No. 105350.3236. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Ballard aye

Vice Mayor Brookshier nay

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Councilman Tharp nay

Councilman Wandrei aye

Mayor Shelton aye

The City Manager stated that the Virginia Department of Emergency Services requires the City to maintain an updated Emergency Operations Plan covering a wide range of natural and man-made disasters which could occur in this community. The Plan was first adopted by City Council in 1988 and has been revised and updated to remain in compliance with state and federal guidelines. Mr. Gross indicated that a resolution has been prepared which provides for compliance with the requirements of the Department of Emergency Services.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer moved that Council adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Vice Mayor Brookshier aye

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Councilman Tharp aye

Councilman Wandrei aye

Councilman Ballard aye

Mayor Shelton aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, there exist many dangers of many types, including man-made disasters, natural disasters, and possible hostile actions of an unknown enemy; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety and protection of the citizens and property is of foremost concern to the City Council of the City of Bedford; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires and Commonwealth of Virginia statutes require the adoption of appropriate planned protective measures;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council hereby adopts the City of Bedford Basic Emergency Operations Plan.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. until February 15, 1997, at 12:00 noon at Avenel.