

A called meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Library at Bedford Middle School at 7:30 p.m., March 10, 1997. This was a joint meeting with the Bedford City School Board.

Council 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.

Council members absent: None.

Board members present: Chairman Molly Thompson; Vice Chairman Janice Martinez; Board members Mickey VanDerwerker, Diana Bare, Debora Spinner, and Guy Murray.

Board members absent: John Boardman.

City staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV (arrived at 8:56 p.m.); Director of Planning & Community Development Jay Scudder; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton and Chairman Thompson called the joint meeting to order.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the notice of called meeting that stated the purpose as: to meet with the City School Board to discuss the Middle School gymnasium and construction projects.

Mr. Scudder reviewed information on the following:

- school population and physical characteristics of Bedford Middle School
- physical characteristics of Bedford Elementary School
- enrollment data
- Bedford Grammar School renovations and possible costs -

Option A and Option B

- gymnasium assessment
- gymnasium costs

The City Manager reviewed information regarding the school facilities available before the school contract and after Bedford Elementary School was built.

City Manager Gross stated the City is meeting the school contract requirements, but there have been some shifts: essentially away from the two county facilities toward the two City facilities and an increase in students in the entire attendance zone.

The City Manager stated that the school contract does not specifically discuss a gymnasium because it was the brick building that was to be renovated. Mr. Gross reported there was never any agreement to renovate the Grammar School building and the question of the gymnasium came up during those negotiations. Mr. Gross reported at that time it was agreed by the School Superintendent that the children would be bussed to Bedford Educational Center and/or use the existing Armory facilities for a gym.

The City Manager stated there were later negotiations in which City Council agreed to let the County School Board renovate just the gymnasium facility to whatever extent the Board chose and to allow the use of the gym as much as needed by the County Schools.

Chairman Thompson stated that at the last meeting of the School Board, it was the consensus of the School Board that a separate detached gym facility be constructed.

Discussion ensued regarding: costs for a detached gymnasium and ½ (two story concept), mandated costs, classrooms, enrollment projections and growth and how to meet that need within the Liberty attendance zone, City debts and projects, how to finance construction of a gymnasium facility, and a possible arrangement with the County for jointly developing a facility for the Liberty attendance zone.

City Attorney Berry arrived at 8:56 p.m.

Further discussion ensued.

It was the consensus of Council that the staff include the detached gymnasium concept in the proposed 1997-98 budget.

Ms. Thompson adjourned the School Board meeting.

City Manager Gross explained an item that he is requesting be added to the agenda of the March 11, 1997, regular Council meeting: Resolution Approving Execution of Landfill Closure Document.

The City Manager gave an update on negotiations for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion.

City Manager Gross recommended that the City employ a firm to do an engineering study, with that firm recommending the wastewater treatment process that is going to work the best. The City would then negotiate with that firm on the engineering costs to build the plant.

The City Manager further recommended that the City negotiate with Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., to lower their price for doing the engineering study.

The City Manager is to negotiate with Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., and if that firm does not agree to lower its price, Mr. Gross is to enter into negotiations with the next engineering firm on the list.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.