

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., May 13, 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 welcomed the seventh grade students from Bedford Middle School participating in Local Government Day. Members of the staff and Council introduced the students.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on April 29, 1997, were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reported that the joint City/County Relations Committee will meet May 19, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. in the County Administration Building to review a draft of the joint Economic Development and Growth Sharing Agreement.

Mayor Shelton reminded members of Council of the invitation for Council to attend and participate in the dedication ceremony of the new home on Edmund Street built by Habitat for Humanity which is scheduled for May 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Shelton thanked Councilwoman Kochendarfer for her work in organizing Local Government Day.

The Mayor reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Philippe Ygouf, Deputy Mayor of Vierville Sur-Mer. Mr. Ygouf and his wife will be visiting Bedford from June 4 - 8. Mr. Ygouf would like the opportunity to meet with members of Council and individuals in the community.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following notice of public hearing:

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by City Council at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 1997, at the City Municipal Building, Council Hall, 215 E. Main St. for the purpose of considering a request for the following:

To consider rezoning property from R-1 Single Family Residential and R-3 High Density Residential to R-1A Low Density Residential. The R-1 property is located at 602 Mountain Avenue, identified on City Tax Map #193-A-8; R-3 properties located on Bedford Avenue, Lot 52, Tax Map #193-A-91; 516 Bedford Avenue, Tax Map # 193-A-90; 514 Bedford Avenue, Tax Map #193-A-89 and

To consider a conditional request and recommendation from the City Planning

Commission to allow a bed and breakfast at 602 Mountain Avenue.

The applications are on file in the Office of Planning and Community Development.

The request is being made by G. Carl Boggess, representing attorney.

Anyone who is in favor of or opposed to the request will have an opportunity to express their view at this hearing.

By the Authority of City Council of the
City of Bedford

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. G. Carl Boggess, attorney, spoke in favor of the rezoning and conditional use requests and gave background information regarding these requests.

As there were no further comments, Mayor Shelton closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing for a conditional use request to allow a bed and breakfast establishment at 602 Mountain Avenue in an R-1A zone at 7:46 p.m.

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following public hearing notices:

NOTICE

SYNOPSIS OF BUDGET FOR

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

CITY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council, May 13, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Hall of the City Municipal Building in relation to the budget for the City of Bedford for Fiscal Year 1996-97, at which time any citizen of the City shall have the right to attend and state his or her views. Detailed copies of the budget are available for inspection during normal office hours in the office of the City Manager and the office of the Clerk of Council.

CITY OF BEDFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

(PROPOSED TAX INCREASES)

A public hearing will be conducted by the City Council in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia, beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 1997, to receive comments on a proposed ordinance entitled:

TAX RATE ORDINANCE - TAX YEAR 1997

The purpose and intent of this ordinance is to establish tax rates for Tax Year 1997 to support and fund the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1997-98. The proposed rates are as follows:

Current FY Proposed FY

1996-97 1997-98

Personal Property \$1.50 \$1.80

Business Personal Property 1.50 1.50

Machinery & Tools 1.30 1.30

Public Service Corporations 0.71 0.76

Mobile Homes 0.71 0.76

Real Estate 0.71 0.76

Cigarettes and Tobacco 0 0.10

A full copy of the proposed ordinance is available for public review in the City Manager's Office, Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia, during normal office hours.

By Order of the Bedford City Council

Teresa W. Hatcher, Clerk

CITY OF BEDFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

(PROPOSED FEE INCREASE)

The City Council of the City of Bedford will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 1997, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia, to receive comments on a proposed ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND READOPT SECTION 13-58

OF THE BEDFORD CITY CODE

The purpose and intent of this proposed ordinance is to increase the annual vehicle license fee on each and every motor vehicle with four (4) wheels from \$10.00 to \$20.00 and on each and every motorcycle, motor-driven bicycle or motor vehicle with less than four (4) wheels from \$6.00 to \$12.00 to support and fund the proposed budget for FY 1997-98. A full copy of the proposed ordinance is available for public review in the City Manager's Office, Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia, during normal office hours.

By Order of the Bedford City Council

Teresa W. Hatcher, Clerk

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

The following individuals spoke regarding the proposed 1997-98 budget:

Robert Rucker, 410 Avenel Avenue - commented on the Snowden Power Plant, debt service, mismanagement.

Lance Warren, Student Government President at Bedford Middle School, spoke in support of the renovation of the old Grammar School including the development of a community center and construction of a stand-alone gymnasium, and asked that this project be included in the budget.

Dave Keith, 1572 Clearview Road - spoke in support of including a middle school gymnasium in the proposed 1997-98 budget and implementing the middle school concept.

Carolyn Overstreet, 1220 Ashland Avenue, member of the Bedford Middle School Facilities Utilization Review Committee, spoke in favor of proceeding with a gym for the middle school and urged Council to consider a teen center at this time.

Jonathan Thompson, 1389 Jefferson Terrace, spoke in support of including a middle school gym in the proposed budget.

Rev. Glen Langston, 916 Lake Drive, spoke in favor of including a gym in the 1997-98 budget.

Judy Taylor, 1634A Shady Knoll Ave., representing Bedford Children's First Committee, asked for Council to include funds in the budget for the Safe Haven Program.

John Boardman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sam Moore Furniture Industries,

617 Westview Avenue. Mr. Boardman stated that his company is a member of the Bedford Industrial Management Council. Mr. Boardman reviewed concerns of local industries regarding the proposed budget and offered the following suggestions:

- insist upon the elimination of waste and inefficiency in local government and install proven management techniques to guarantee it happens
- support the creation and development of an outstanding local school system, including a gym and additional classrooms at the middle school
- do not increase taxes and fees solely to support unneeded new projects
- if certain new budget items are not approved or are delayed, do not go ahead with the new taxes and fees and then just find other uses for the money
- aggressively develop ways to expand the City's tax base

Mr. Boardman also suggested that the City consider operating its own school system.

Molly Thompson, Chairman of the City School Board, spoke regarding the following items of concern to the School Board:

- urged Council to approve a budget that includes the first year debt service on a new gym facility at Bedford Middle School
- correction of roof problem and repair of damage to classrooms in a timely manner
- continuation of the Safe Haven Program - keep the City's allocation of \$24,000 in the proposed budget and explore options that will allow this program to continue

Bill McGuire, Director of the Safe Haven Program, asked Council to keep the allocation for the Safe Haven Program in the budget. A child involved in the program spoke regarding the benefits he has received from the program.

Robert Carson, 504 South Street, asked Council to leave the middle school gym in the budget.

Mickey VanDerwerker, 506 Bedford Avenue, presented to Council a petition which included over 200 names in support of a new gym for the middle school.

W. R. Stanley, Orange Street, asked Council to reconsider proposed increases in personal property taxes, business personal property taxes, and machinery and tools.

Craig Lawrence, Woodcrest Drive, agreed with Mr. Boardman that the City operate its own school system, and recommended that the City tear down Bedford Middle School and build a whole new school.

Price Stanley, Orange Street, spoke regarding his opinion that tax money is being wasted and shoddy jobs that City employees are doing.

Charlene McFall, 722 Blue Ridge Avenue, commended Council on the services being provided by the City.

Mr. Lawrence spoke in opposition to any increases in the real estate tax, personal property tax, and decal fees.

As there were no further comments, Mayor Shelton closed the public hearing at 8:39 p.m.

Councilman Tharp moved that Council approve the request to rezone property located at 602 Mountain Avenue from R-1 to R-1A, and the request to rezone properties located on Bedford Avenue, Lot 52, and 516 Bedford Avenue from R-3 to R-1A. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer.

A brief discussion ensued. The Mayor asked that the Planning Commission give consideration to the zoning of the "Thompson" lot on Bedford Avenue as it finalizes the Comprehensive Plan.

The motion was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, seconded and carried unanimously, Council approved the conditional use request to allow a bed and breakfast establishment at 602 Mountain Avenue in an R-1A zone.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the observation of the functions of local government is of primary importance in the study of local government; and

WHEREAS, the seventh grade students of Bedford Middle School have, on May 13, 1997, participated in the local government process by observing these officials in the carrying out of their duties; and

WHEREAS, these students will, on May 14, 1997, conduct Local Government Day activities in the Council Hall of the City of Bedford;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, that May 14, 1997 be, and it hereby is, designated as

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY

in the City of Bedford.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Brookshier, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Ballard aye

Vice Mayor Brookshier aye

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Councilman Tharp aye

Councilman Wandrei aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Mr. Peter M. Snelling, Sixth District Commander, Department of Virginia, Veterans of Foreign Wars, presented a Citizenship Medal to Mayor G. Michael Shelton, in recognition of and in sincere appreciation of the Mayor's participation in local patriotic activities and the display of outstanding qualities of citizenship.

Mayor Shelton declared a recess from 8:47 p.m. until 9:10 p.m. for a reception in honor of the student participants in Local Government Day.

Ms. Stephanie Witt, Foster Care, Bedford County Department of Social Services, gave an explanation of the foster care program and reviewed ways children enter protective custody.

Ms. Teresa Drummond, foster parent, spoke to Council regarding the Green Ribbon Campaign in recognition of Foster Care Month. Ms. Drummond presented all present with a green ribbon to be worn during the month of May.

On motion by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council adopted a resolution declaring the week of May 18-25, 1997, as Industry Appreciation Week in the City. Roll call vote follows:

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

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION WEEK

IN THE CITY OF BEDFORD

WHEREAS, Bedford is blessed with a strong manufacturing base; and

WHEREAS, these industries provide much needed jobs for the citizens of Bedford; and

WHEREAS, these same industries provide local taxes from which the entire local citizenry benefit; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and appreciate these important facts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Bedford hereby salutes our existing industry base, and by virtue of this resolution gives notice to our citizens that Virginia Industries Are Building A Better Commonwealth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Week of May 18-25, 1997, is hereby designated as

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION WEEK

in the City of Bedford.

Council proceeded to hold a work session on the proposed 1997-98 budget.

The City Manager reviewed changes made to the proposed budget and explained the reasons for the changes:

- expenditure for public schools - decreased by \$151,013
- new line item added to Treasurer's Office called Cigarette Stamps - increase \$13,000
- Parks and Recreation increase in compensation-playground and FICA accounts of \$5,383
- additional line item added to the General Fund, Water/Sewer Fund and Electric Fund for the cost of software and hardware support on the computer system - increase of \$13,323
- separate line item added to the Solid Waste Fund for future development of phase 3 and 4 of the landfill - \$127,562
- refuse disposal fee in Solid Waste Fund reduced by \$127,000
- capital project in the Electric Fund for power lines to D-Day Memorial was increased by \$66,000
- additional item added to General Fund for dues to the Virginia Institute of Government - \$500

Mr. Gross indicated the net effect of these changes on the total contingency will be a decrease of \$201,755.

Members of Council asked questions of the staff and spoke regarding various items in the proposed budget:

The City Manager is to check with the Fire Department members regarding their plans for a

ladder truck.

Vice Mayor Brookshier indicated he recommends that Council continue with the trend of level funds or less for the items under "Special Funding".

Councilman Tharp stated that rules for the cemeteries are not being followed and asked the staff to tour the cemeteries and take a look at the rules which are being ignored and violated. Councilman Tharp also mentioned: problems with lawn care, restoration of \$1,000 in the proposed budget for tree replacement, and maintenance items such as sinking monuments and stones in the cemeteries.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer explained the increase for the D-Day Memorial as being a change in the entrance road due to safety factors associated with Bedford Elementary School.

Councilman Wandrei spoke regarding the following:

- suggested increasing cemetery fees in the proposed budget in order to be comparable with other cemeteries that offer similar services - not increasing in increments as discussed
- expressed concern regarding the following: the effects of deregulation in the electric industry and the decreasing contingency
- suggested getting to the point where the water and sewer fund is not subsidized
- recommended that Council not fund the Safe Haven Program if that program is not funded by the County School Board
- sympathetic to suggestion by speaker about the possibilities that the City operate its own school system
- suggested deferring funding for Reynolds Park

Councilman Ballard spoke regarding the following:

- supported increasing the cost for cemetery lots this year rather than in increments
- suggested a cut in the Planning & Community Development line item "Future Planning" from \$7,500 to \$2,500. Discussion ensued
- indicated he could not support spending \$34,000 for Reynolds Park and suggested this be deferred for another year
- expressed support for funding the position of Fire Inspector and part-time secretary in the City Manager's Office
- expressed support for merit increases for eligible City employees

Councilman Tharp and Councilwoman Flood spoke in favor of increasing the tax on cigarettes to twenty-five cents per pack.

Councilman Ballard also suggested the following: reduce the "Travel & Training" line items by ten percent. Councilman Ballard stated that he felt the Farmer's Market was close to completion and \$5,000 for signage and landscaping for the Market should not be necessary.

Mayor Shelton spoke regarding the following items:

- the community support for middle school gymnasium - asked for Council's unanimous support for the gym in the budget and to moving forward with the planning process as soon as the budget is adopted
- expressed concern regarding the significant increases in the Bedford County Sheriff's Department budget and asked that the Sheriff appear before Council to address the budget increases
- the City's per pupil expenditure for schools
- support of funding for Reynolds Park
- support of funding the Safe Haven Program
- the City's financial status

Vice Mayor Brookshier spoke in favor of a new gymnasium for the Bedford Middle School.

It was the consensus of Council to:

- proceed with full implementation of new cemetery fees - Councilman Tharp suggested that the City set up a billing system for cemetery services
- proceed with 10 cents tax on cigarette and tobacco products
- restore \$1,000 for tree replacement in the cemetery budget
- proceed with funding for the Safe Haven Program
- retain funds for Reynolds Park in the budget
- reduce the line item "Future Planning" in the Planning & Community Development budget from \$7,500 to \$5,000
- not include funds for the position of fire inspector
- move forward with voluntary work reduction program
- commit \$165,000 in the proposed budget towards industrial site development for the industrial park
- reduce the "Travel & Training" line items by ten percent
- reduce the "Signage & Landscaping" line item for the Farmer's Market to \$2,500
- not include funds for sidewalk construction.

Mayor Shelton stated that approval of the budget will be on the agenda of the next regular Council meeting.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 11:44 p.m.