

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the July 22, 1997, regular meeting was held at Liberty Lake Park at 6:30 p.m., August 12, 1997.

This was a joint meeting with the City School Board.

Council members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier (arrived at 7:36 p.m.); Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilwoman Linda Kochendarfer; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Council member absent: Councilman H. Davis Ballard.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross, City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV, and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

School Board members present: Molly Thompson, Chairperson; Janice Martinez; John Boardman; Peggy Sharpe-Thompson; G. E. Murray, Jr.; Debora Spinner; and Mickey VanDerwerker.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on July 22, 1997, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Gross reported on several items:

- August 18 - Commission on Local Government

9:00 a.m.- bus tour of economic development areas

10:30 a.m.- oral presentations

7:00 p.m. - public hearing

- Carilion Bond Issue - problem in Montgomery County based on the legal ability of any of the jurisdictions to charge 1/8 of 1 percent of the bond issue on part of the IDA's.

-The City has been notified that it is one of the winners of the Virginia Municipal League 1997 Achievement Awards competition. The panel of judges has selected the City's entry describing the installation of state-of-the-art cable access to the Internet as the best project or program in the category for localities with populations between 5,000 and 10,000. The award will be presented at a banquet on October 21, 1997, during the VML annual conference in Hampton. Mr. Gross suggested that Council may want to invite those individuals involved in the project to the VML banquet to share in the acceptance of the award.

- Receipt of letter of resignation from David Cole of the Bedford Historical Society. The contract with the Society does require that a licensed contractor or specifically, David Cole, be in charge of the restoration project at the Wharton House. As Mr. Cole has resigned from that position, Mr. Gross suggested the City should inform the Society that work needs to progress under the auspices of a licensed contractor and the project should not be continued until a contractor is secured.

City Attorney Berry stated the Society must get an occupancy permit before leasing space in the Wharton House.

Mrs. Thompson opened the meeting of the School Board.

City Manager Gross reviewed two methods for the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for a gymnasium at Bedford Middle School: 1. Traditional method, architect would design a unique building for the site; 2. Design-build contract, an architect or engineer would be hired to help develop detailed specifications for a building (could be a building already designed). The specifications are then presented to a special State Review Board.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

It was the consensus of City Council and the School Board to proceed with the process of getting the services of an architectural firm to analyze the best location on this property for the gymnasium to include in that process the needs for additional space (gym and ½ concept with locker rooms) and have the ability for the additional speciality classrooms.

Mr. Boardman and Councilwoman Kochendarfer volunteered to meet with the City Manager and staff to choose an architect, and to also meet with the architect regarding the project.

Mr. Jay Scudder, Director of Planning & Community Development, reported on the following items:

- Bedford Middle School (BMS) roof replacement - should be completed next week - City will have a two-year warranty. Mr. Boardman and Mr. Murray asked to be notified of the date of the final inspection.
  - BMS interior repairs - should be completed next week
  - BMS cafeteria repairs - explained the problem with the kitchen floor and indicated repairs should be completed by the beginning of the school year.
- Vice Mayor Brookshier arrived at 7:30 p.m. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Martinez reported the field behind Bedford Middle School needs to be leveled because of ruts.

The City Manager indicated this will be taken care of.

Mrs. VanDerwerker reported on the Bedford Elementary School classroom situation.

Discussion ensued regarding the Bedford Primary School Dental Clinic operation.

The City Manager is to check into how the Dental Clinic is being used.

Members of the School Board discussed items the Board reviewed with Mr. Richard Burrows of the D-Day Memorial Foundation concerning construction of the Memorial next to Bedford Elementary School (BES).

- fencing - Board recommended fencing the entire recreation area
- traffic pattern - Board recommended that school buses have the right-of-way
- temporary use of school road until construction road is built - Board recommended prohibiting use of road by construction people for 1 ½ hours in the morning and afternoon
- dynamiting rock - schools should be notified when this will occur

Mayor Shelton suggested that Mr. Burrows meet with the faculty and staff before school starts to give them an overview of the construction plans.

Mr. Murray suggested that representatives of the D-Day Memorial Foundation hold a question and answer session for the general public.

Discussion ensued regarding the construction of the D-Day Memorial.

The City Attorney reviewed the general provisions of the joint School Contract with Bedford County dated June 28, 1988.

Discussion ensued.

City Manager Gross reviewed information regarding school budgets of independent cities with generally the same population as the City.

Discussion continued about a variety of issues regarding operation of the City schools and strategies for addressing certain issues.

The School Board is to develop a position statement(s) regarding the test scores and ideas as to what could be done differently, and also to determine what role Council should take. After the statement is developed, the Board and Council will meet again to discuss it.

Further discussion ensued.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.