

Minutes 2/24/98

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 24, 1998.

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 February 10, 1998, were approved as distributed.

Councilman Wandrei suggested holding a neighborhood meeting regarding the proposed gymnasium facility at the Middle School to answer citizen's questions about parking, traffic, noise from air conditioning units, etc.

There was a discussion about the meeting being held by the staff with members of Council attending.

The City Manager is to schedule the meeting.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer reported on the following dates for Local Government Day activities: assembly, campaigns, and election - to be completed by March 31, 1998; project work - April 1- May 8, 1998; shadowing day - May 12, 1998; Local Government Day - May 13, 1998; WBLT Talkback - May 14 or 15, 1998; presentation to the City School Board, with permission by the Board. Councilwoman Kochendarfer stated that the students' project will deal with the hiring of the new school board superintendent.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer announced that she has given her resignation as Communications Director of the National D-Day Foundation but will continue in that position through the end of March.

The Mayor reminded members of Council that the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual dinner on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Armory.

On motion by Vice Mayor Brookshier, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to include the following items:

Executive Session pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel and staff regarding the City/County School Contract.

Executive Session pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel and staff regarding the joint City/County contracts.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer introduced the new director of Bedford Main Street, Inc., Vickie Feurer.

City Manager Gross reported that the Planning Commission reviewed the amended Comprehensive Plan on February 5. The City Manager gave a brief update of the changes made to the Plan by the Planning Commission at its February 5 meeting. Mr. Gross said that other changes consisted of grammar, format, and spelling corrections.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer moved that Council adopt the revised and updated Comprehensive Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission, which includes the grammar, format, and spelling corrections as listed. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Brookshier.

A brief discussion ensued.

The motion was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

City Manager Gross stated the federal government has allocated \$100 million in each of federal fiscal years 1999 and 2002 to be divided among the five states that have the most reduced out-of-wedlock births in the previous two years without an increase in the abortion rate. Virginia has become the first state in the nation to announce its candidacy for one of these federal awards by supplying incentives to local governments, service agencies, religious institutions, non-profit organizations and citizens to develop local solutions to the out-of-wedlock birth problem.

The City Manager said that technical and other forms of startup assistance will be provided to any Virginia localities that are officially partners with the State in competition for the federal award. The State proposes to distribute any federal award Virginia receives directly to the Partner in Prevention. A locality becomes a Partner in Prevention by adopting a formal resolution of participation in the initiative and by submitting a plan reflecting community input to reduce out-of-wedlock births. There are no local funds required for this program.

On motion by Councilman Ballard, seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution in support of the Partners in Prevention initiative. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Ballard aye

Vice Mayor Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilwoman Kochendarfer	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PARTNERS IN PREVENTION INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the federal government has allocated \$100 million dollars in each of federal fiscal years 1999 and 2002 to be divided among the five states that have the most reduced out-of-wedlock births in the previous two years without an increase in the abortion rate; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has become the first state in the nation to announce its candidacy for one of these federal awards by supplying incentives to local governments, service agencies, religious institutions, non-profit organizations and citizens to develop local solutions to the out-of-wedlock birth problem; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia will provide technical and other forms of startup assistance to any Virginia localities that officially partner with the state in competition for the federal award, and the state proposes to distribute any federal award Virginia receives directly to it, Partner in Prevention; and

WHEREAS, a locality becomes a Partner in Prevention by adopting a formal resolution of participation in the initiative and by submitting a plan, reflecting community input, to reduce out-of-wedlock births locally; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford wishes to join other localities in this Planning District as well as in the Commonwealth in this important community objective; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of Campbell, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, City of Bedford and the City of Lynchburg are cognizant of the issues associated with out-of-wedlock births and have coalesced to mobilize our communities to combat this problem in conjunction with other localities in the Commonwealth;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bedford is authorized to become a Partner in Prevention with the Commonwealth of Virginia this twenty-fourth day of February, 1998.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer made a presentation regarding a committee meeting held on February 18, 1998, at the County Administration Building to discuss possibilities for a City/County Visitor's Center. Those attending were: Bill Rolfe, Sue Gilbert, Barbara Ring, John Bond, Dale Wheeler, Lucille Boggess, a representative from Fauber Architects, and Linda Kochendarfer.

Ms. Ring stated that the Chamber of Commerce Board has not taken a position on the question of moving the Chamber office out of the downtown area.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer stated the committee is looking for guidance from Council as to whether or not Council is interested enough in this project to proceed with considering the purchase of property for setting up a visitor's center at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of representatives from the downtown area on the visitor's center committee.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with continuing discussions relative to the proposed visitor's center.

Councilman Tharp moved that Council adjourn into executive session pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel and staff regarding the City/County School Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ballard, 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

After a brief recess, Council adjourned into executive session at 8:18 p.m. Non-council members attending were: City School Board members Molly Thompson, Janice Martinez, Mickey VanDerwerker, City Manager Gross, City Attorney Berry, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 9:07 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bedford hereby certifies that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

Councilman Ballard moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Councilman Tharp aye

Councilman Wandrei aye

Councilman Ballard aye

Vice Mayor Brookshier aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Councilman Tharp moved that Council adjourn into executive session pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel and staff regarding the joint contracts with Bedford County. The motion was

seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilwoman Kochendarfer	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Councilman Ballard	aye
Vice Mayor Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

Council adjourned into executive session at 9:09 p.m. Non-council members attending were: City Manager Gross, City Attorney Berry, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 9:22 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bedford hereby certifies that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

Councilman Ballard moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Councilman Ballard	aye

Vice Mayor Brookshier aye

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.