

Minutes 3/10/98

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., March 10, 1998.

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

Members absent: Mayor G. Michael Shelton.

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

Vice Mayor Brookshier opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried, the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on February 24, 1998, were approved as distributed.

On motion by Councilman Ballard, seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, voted upon and carried, the agenda was amended by adding the following items:

Joint Resolution between the City and Bedford County in Recognition of Judge William W. Sweeney

Report by Director of Public Works - Paint Selection for Grammar School Building

Barbara Ring, Executive Director of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, reviewed past activities of the Chamber and future plans. Ms. Ring stated the Chamber is requesting level funding in the 1998-99 City budget of \$5,000.

Betty McKinney, Tourism Coordinator, reported on the past year's activities of the Tourism Committee. Ms. McKinney reviewed goals and strategies for the upcoming fiscal year and stated the budget amount requested from the City is \$35,000.

City Manager Gross stated that Section 58.1-3370 of the Code of Virginia provides for the appointment of a Board of Equalization to be composed of not less than three nor more than five members in each tax year immediately following the year a general reassessment is conducted. Mr. Gross said that a notice will be published in the local newspaper on March 11 and 18 advertising the appointment of this Board and asking that citizens wishing to serve contact the City Manager's Office.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried, Council fixed the compensation for members of the Board of Equalization at \$60.00 per day or portion thereof and limited the compensation to no more than ten days.

Renee Fisher, Executive Director of Longwood Industries, Inc., reviewed the history and current operations of the organization. Ms. Fisher stated that Longwood Industries is requesting level funding in the City's 1998-99 budget.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Judge William W. Sweeney was elected judge of the 23rd Circuit by the Virginia General Assembly effective March 10, 1965; and

WHEREAS Judge Sweeney has served, as far as is known, longer than any other currently sitting Circuit Court Judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS Judge Sweeney, by his own preference, has served largely in Bedford since his election; and

WHEREAS Judge Sweeney has served with extraordinary diligence, energy and professionalism, displaying by example that indefinable quality known as judicial temperament; and

WHEREAS Judge Sweeney has exhibited a deep understanding not only of the letter of the law, but of the spirit of the law as well; and

WHEREAS by hearing thousands of cases with fairness and professionalism, Judge Sweeney has served not only the ends of justice but has profoundly influenced the character of this community; and

WHEREAS Judge Sweeney has displayed humanity and good humor even during the most difficult of times; and

WHEREAS Judge William W. Sweeney has decided to retire from the bench effective March 31, 1998, now be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Bedford County and the City Council of the City of Bedford, jointly and unanimously, do hereby

express their most heartfelt gratitude and commendation, on behalf of all the people of our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that both bodies wish Judge Sweeney a long, happy and healthy retirement.

On motion by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. 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	absent

Mr. Clarke Gibson, Director of Public Works, reviewed with Council four suggested color schemes to paint the Grammar School building.

Discussion ensued and one of the suggested color schemes was eliminated from consideration.

It was the consensus of Council to present the remaining color schemes for review by the public at the neighborhood meeting scheduled for March 19 at the Bedford Middle School.

Vice Mayor Brookshier adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.