

01-12-99 Minutes

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., January 12, 1999.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman H. Davis Ballard; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Vice Mayor E. Thomas Messier; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Craig Meadows; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and let all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the December 8, 1998, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

Councilman Brookshier reported on a problem that he experienced with the local cable television company regarding misrepresentation of the cost of service. Councilman Brookshier is concerned that other citizens also encountered this problem.

The City Manager is to follow up with the cable company concerning this problem.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Shelton offered condolences to Fran Hart, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries, and her family on the unexpected death of her father.

Mayor Shelton stated he attended the City School Board meeting on December 11. The Mayor reported that one of the items discussed was enrollment growth and overcrowding at Bedford Elementary. The Mayor reported that the following temporary solution was presented at the Board meeting:

- moving the sixth grade from the Elementary School next year to the Bedford Science and Technology Center, which would provide additional space at the Elementary School
- a plan for how the classrooms could be configured, how transportation matters would be dealt with, and the ability to have a 23 to 1 pupil ratio
- there would be no mobile units at the Elementary School
- the City School Board will hold a public hearing on February 1 at the Elementary School for receipt of comments from the public

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried unanimously, the following item was added to the agenda as the third item under "New Business":

Report on Sam Moore Furniture Industries Expansion Project

Mayor Shelton presented Employee Service Awards to the following City employees:

- 5 years: Jeff Cox, Sandra Dowdy, Eddie Harmony, Mannie Vito
- 10 years: Gary Haynes
- 15 years: Dean Dickson, Bob Bush, Darryl Updike
- 20 years: Walt Kent, Marshall Parker, Debbie Roberts
- 25 years: Jimmy English, Gwen Craig
- 30 years: Brenda Daniel, Joanne Caldwell

Mayor Shelton announced that the "Employee of the Year" for 1998 is A. C. Fuller.

Mayor Shelton reviewed information regarding the expansion of Sam Moore Furniture Industries:

- Moore's is planning a 26,000 sq. ft. addition to the plant
- potential of an additional 100 jobs being added to employment in the next two to three years

The Mayor stated that Sam Moore Furniture Industries has asked that Council endorse cooperatively working Sam Moore and La-Z-Boy Corporation in this expansion project by ensuring that the infrastructure portion of the project (water and sewer lines, electricity, and access to the parking lot areas) is done expeditiously and efficiently.

Councilman Rice moved that the City of Bedford is prepared to cooperate in this expansion project according to the plan concepts that have been presented to Council. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously,

The Mayor stated that the City will work with Sam Moore Furniture Industries through the City Manager's Office and the Planning Department for developing further relationships with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Leighton Langford, Director of Social Services, indicated that the City's FY99 Supplemental Allocation request under the Comprehensive Services Act has been approved in the amount of \$31,636. The City's share in matching funds is \$8,128. Mr.

Langford spoke regarding the Comprehensive Service Act for At Risk Youth and Families.

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council appropriated \$8,128 from the unappropriated contingency to Account No. 105350.3236. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Ballard	aye
Councilman Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Vice Mayor Messier	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

City Manager Meadows reported that due to the retirement of Jack Gross, it is recommended that the current City Manager be appointed as the alternate member to the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority Board, for a term commencing January 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001.

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council adopted a resolution authorizing F. Craig Meadows to serve as an alternate member to the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority Board. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Vice Mayor Messier	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Councilman Ballard	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority Service Agreement dated November 10, 1994, as amended, states that members of the Authority Board are elected for three-year terms; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 1998, Milton H. Graham was appointed as a member of the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority and Jack A. Gross was appointed as the alternate for such member; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Bedford City that due to the retirement of Jack A. Gross, F. Craig Meadows is appointed as the alternate for such member, term commencing January 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001.

Mayor Shelton explained the proposed resolution in support of the State budget initiative titled "The Promise of Virginia's Future."

On motion by Councilman Ballard, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution titled "The Promise of Virginia's Future." Roll call vote follows:

Councilwoman Flood	aye
Vice Mayor Messier	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Councilman Ballard	aye
Councilman Brookshier	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

"The Promise for Virginia's Future"

WHEREAS, Governor James S. Gilmore, III and certain members of the Virginia General Assembly have proposed a state budget initiative entitled "The Promise for Virginia's Future"; and

WHEREAS, this initiative proposes allocating additional state revenues important to education and Virginia's commitments to local governments; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed to dedicate all lottery profits to K-12 education utilizing existing Standards of Quality Basic Aid funding formulas, beginning this year, that will provide funding for new teachers, better preparation of standards of learning, local school construction, or any other local priorities; and

WHEREAS, this initiative proposes funding the State's promise to cities made in 1979 under the passage of House Bill 599 to support local law enforcement programs so as to help keep our neighborhoods safe; and

WHEREAS, this initiative provides for a cut in the sales tax on food through a phased-in elimination of two percent of the tax, which is one proposal among several to bring tax relief to our citizens while attempting to protect the revenue stream to Virginia's localities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bedford supports Governor Gilmore's proposed budget initiative to fully fund the State's commitments under House Bill 599. The City of Bedford supports in concept the return of Lottery profits to localities for education; however, the City seeks action to fully return the profits without offsetting other revenue sources for meeting the wide variety of local demands for our schools and our students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bedford City Council strongly encourages the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor to amend the current biennial budget to incorporate these identified priorities into the Appropriations Act during the 1999 General Assembly session without a reduction in the commitments to localities. Whichever initiative is ultimately adopted by the General Assembly and the Governor, the Bedford City Council urges that the commitments of the State to localities be forged and maintained for now and into the future.

Copies of the resolution are to be sent to Senator Steve Newman, Delegate Lacey Putney, and Senator Vance Wilkins.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council adjourn into executive session pursuant to the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, pursuant to:

Section 2.1-344(a) (7) Legal Counsel concerning the Dispatch Center Agreement with Bedford County

Section 2.1-344(a) (7) Legal Counsel concerning the Courthouse Renovations

Section 2.1-344(a) (7) Legal Counsel and Section 2.1-344(a) (1) Personnel Matters Concerning the Creation of a Joint IDA Authority and Appointment of Members

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Vice Mayor Messier	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Councilman Ballard	aye
Councilman Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

After a brief recess, Council adjourned into executive session at 8:17 p.m. Non-council members attending were: City Manager Gross, City Attorney Berry, Chief of Police Graham, Director of Planning & Community Development Scudder, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 9:57 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 Wandrei moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Rice	aye	
Councilman Wandrei		aye
Councilman Ballard		aye
Councilman Brookshier	aye	
Councilwoman Flood	aye	
Vice Mayor Messier	aye	
Mayor Shelton	aye	

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.