

6-1-99 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., June 1, 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

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the May 25, 1999, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

The City Manager stated that a meeting of the Downtown Parking Committee needs to be scheduled within the next two weeks regarding the parking situation due to the construction work on the Bedford County Court House. The parking lot adjacent to the Electric Department will be closed during this construction.

Over the next couple of months, City Manager Meadows and the Electric Utility Director will brief Council about electric deregulation issues.

Discussion ensued regarding the engagement of professional services for the Middle School Master Site Study. Mayor Shelton stated that the Property Committee recommended the firm of Craddock & Cunningham.

Councilman Wandrei expressed certain reservations he has with the firm of Craddock & Cunningham regarding work they have done for the Bedford City/County Museum.

It was the concurrence of Council to proceed with the Middle School Master Site Study and to authorize the City Manager to enter into services with Craddock & Cunningham based on the recommendation of the Property Committee.

Mayor Shelton recommended that all the contractual arrangements with Craddock & Cunningham be very clear.

Vice Mayor Messier announced that Lois Graham, wife of the Chief of Police, has been selected as "Teacher of the Year" in the Bedford County School System.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that the budget for 1999-2000 be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood.

Councilman Ballard moved that the budget be amended by reducing the Electric Department budget for Christmas lights from \$15,000 to \$5,000 and leaving in the \$10,000 in the Parks and Recreation budget for Christmas lights. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Messier.

Discussion ensued.

Councilman Ballard's motion was then voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member voting nay (Rice).

The City Manager pointed out a clarification in the budget concerning the Library appropriation: \$12,500 designated as capital will shift back to the appropriation for operations, which will restore it to the original request and have no net effect on the budget.

It was the concurrence of Council to make the change in the Library budget.

Councilman Rice spoke regarding items in the budget he felt should be decreased.

On motion by Councilwoman Flood, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council waived the reading of the ordinance appropriating funds for Fiscal Year 1999-2000, as it had been properly posted.

Council then voted on the motion to adopt the budget for fiscal year 1999-2000. The motion carried by the following roll call vote follows:

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

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council waived the reading of the ordinance establishing the real estate tax rate for FY 1999-2000, as it had been properly posted.

On motion by Councilman Ballard, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the ordinance establishing the real estate tax rate for FY 1999-2000. Roll call vote follows:

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

The ordinance follows as adopted:

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, that there be, and is hereby levied for the fiscal year 1999-2000, a tax of \$.76 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation on all taxable real estate located in the City, the respective levy hereby ordered being also applicable to the real estate and tangible personal property of public service corporations within the limitations specified by Section 58.1-2606 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, based upon the assessment thereof fixed by the State Corporation Commission and duly certified.

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council waived the reading of the ordinance establishing the personal property tax rate for Calendar Year 1999, as it had been properly posted.

On motion by Councilman Ballard, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the ordinance establishing the personal property tax rate for

Calendar Year 1999. Roll call vote follows:

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

The ordinance follows as adopted:

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, that there be, and is hereby levied, for the calendar year 1999, a tax of \$1.80 per one hundred dollars of one hundred per centum (100%) of assessed value on all taxable tangible personal property, including property separately classified in Section 58.1-3503 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, unless exempted from taxation or subject to a different rate under this ordinance. All tangible personal property employed in a trade or business other than that described in subdivisions 1 through 16 of Section 58.1-3503 is taxed at a levy of \$1.50 per one hundred dollars of one hundred per centum (100%) of the assessed valuation. Household goods and personal effects as classified in Section 58.1-3504 and horses, mules and other kindred animals, hogs, poultry, grains and other feeds used for the nurture of farm animals, grain and tobacco as such items are classified in Section 58.1-3505 are exempted in whole from tangible personal property taxation. The following items are taxed at a levy of \$1.30 per one hundred dollars of one hundred per centum (100%) of the assessed valuation: (a) cattle, sheep and goats, and farm machinery and farm implements as separately classified in Section 58.1-3505; and (b) machinery and tools as separately classified in Section 58.1-3507; and (c) motor carriers as separately classified in Section 58.1.3506.

Councilman Ballard moved that Council adopt the ordinance appropriating funds for fiscal year 1999-2000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood. The motion was then voted upon and did not pass by the following roll call vote:

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

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the adoption of the budget.

Mayor Shelton declared a recess from 7:07 p.m. until 7:25 p.m.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council reconsider the motion to adopt the budget for FY 1999-2000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried.

Further discussion ensued.

Councilman Wandrei moved that Council amend the budget by reducing the sidewalk appropriation to \$45,000 and reducing the Christmas lights appropriation to \$5,000 in the Electric Department for maintenance of the lights.

Discussion ensued.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Ballard.

Councilman Wandrei amended the motion by adding the following: the decrease would result in the proposed rate increases in the Solid Waste Fund being reduced to 10%. Councilman Ballard agreed to the amendment.

Councilman Wandrei clarified the motion he made: to include \$5,000 total in the whole budget for Christmas lights.

Council indicated its understanding that Councilman Wandrei's motion would include \$5,000 in the proposed budget for Christmas lights.

Councilman Wandrei's motion was then voted upon and carried.

Councilman Brookshier moved that the budget be amended to limit the rate increase on commercial water and sewer rates to a maximum of 10%. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wandrei. The motion was then voted upon and carried, five members voting aye, two members voting nay (Shelton, Rice).

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Shelton turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Messier.

Mayor Shelton moved that with the reductions that have been approved in the water and sewer rate increase, that a like amount of expenditures be found within the Water and Sewer fund and reduced accordingly. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brookshier, voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member voting nay (Wandrei).

City Manager Meadows summarized the changes made to the proposed budget.

Councilman Wandrei moved that Council adopt the budget. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member voting nay (Rice).

Councilman Brookshier moved that Council reconsider the ordinance to appropriate funds for FY 1999-2000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member voting nay (Rice).

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council adopt the ordinance to appropriate funds for FY 1999-2000 and authorize the City Manager to expend the funds in accordance with the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ballard and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The ordinance follows as adopted:

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, hereby directs that the funds as set out in the budget for Fiscal Year 1999-2000 for the City of Bedford are appropriated and set aside to the General Fund, to the Solid Waste Fund, to the Water and Sewer Fund, to the Electric Fund, and to the E911 Fund as shown in said budget, and that the City Manager is authorized to expend the funds in the General Fund, Solid Waste Fund, Water and Sewer Fund, Electric Fund and E911 Fund in accordance with said budget and in accordance with prior appropriations.

Councilman Brookshier expressed concern regarding the safety of the railings at the back of the new gymnasium at Bedford Middle School. The Director of Public Works will address this issue with the architect.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.