

## 9-14-1999 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., September 14, 1999.

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

Members absent: Councilman H. Davis Ballard and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

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 led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the August 24, 1999, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

City Manager Meadows stated a preparedness meeting was held earlier in the day and was coordinated by Chief of Police Graham with the department heads to discuss what impact the area may experience from the hurricane that has the potential of heading this way. The Mayor, as Director of Emergency Services, is authorized to declare a local emergency, if necessary, subject to confirmation by Council at a later date. It would be necessary for Council to suspend the emergency.

The City Manager stated Council had been given copies of a press release from the North American Electric Reliability Council, dated September 9, 1999, entitled "Electric Utilities Roll Through the 9s With No Y2k Problems."

Councilman Rice spoke about the following: information received earlier in the day from Main Street regarding preparation for the potential hurricane; and the Sheriff's Office achieving State accreditation.

Vice Mayor Messier stated that he and the Chief of Police attended an event at which Ericsson presented radios to all the schools in Bedford City and County, the City of Lynchburg, and Amherst County, whereby the principals are capable of direct communication with 911 rescue squads and police departments.

Mayor Shelton expressed condolences to Councilwoman Flood and her parents on the death of her brother.

Councilwoman Flood thanked Council for the acknowledgments her family received.

Mayor Shelton spoke of the success of the first Bedford Business Expo held recently.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following item: Appointment of Ms. Glenda W. Stanley to the Recreation Advisory Committee, said term to expire June 30, 2002.

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted a resolution of support for expanded passenger rail service in Virginia. Roll call vote follows:

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

The resolution follows as adopted:

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the feasibility of expanded passenger rail service from the Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia, areas to Bristol, Virginia, has been studied and documented by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the passenger rail service would provide an attractive transportation alternative that could lead to economic, tourism, environmental and other social benefits for the City of Bedford and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bedford believes this passenger rail service is both cost-effective and consistent with a well-planned, multi-modal transportation system in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bedford fully supports a passenger station being located in the City to allow our residents the opportunity to enjoy this service, and to allow visitors to our community easy access to the many attributes the Bedford area has to offer;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Bedford reaffirms its support and endorsement for the provision of passenger rail service from the Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia, areas to Bristol, Virginia, with Bedford being a planned passenger stopping point along the line of service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Bedford encourages the implementation of this rail service and pledges its assistance to the Commonwealth of Virginia in implementing said service.

City Manager Meadows and Director of Public Works Gibson reported on the current water situation:

- on September 4 the level of the reservoir was 74 inches below the spillway
- on September 7 the level was 3 ½ inches over the spillway because of the rainfall the area received from the remnants of Hurricane Dennis over the Labor Day weekend
- as of today, water continues over the spillway and the water in Big Otter River is still available

The City Manager stated the staff has had discussions about exploring the options available with regard to possibly raising the spillway to contain additional water at the impoundment. The City will continue to make improvements at the pumping station at Big Otter River to maximize the City's ability to use that site. Discussions will be held with Bedford County and the City of Lynchburg regarding a secondary water source from Lynchburg.

The City Manager recommended that based on current conditions, the mandatory water restrictions currently in effect be lifted; however, Mr. Meadows recommended that at this point in time, the City step back to Condition 1 of the ordinance, which is voluntary conservation. The City Manager stated that indicates limited supplies of water are available. If the area continues to receive abundant rainfall within the next couple of weeks, the situation will be reassessed.

Mr. Gibson indicated the water flow in the Big Otter River is very healthy; the mandatory water restrictions reduced the demand on the system by 270,000 gallons per day. The low

flow submersible pump at the river station added 200,000 gallons per day to the reservoir flow. Mr. Gibson stated the demand on the reservoir, therefore, was reduced approximately one-half million gallons per day.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council accept the City Manager's recommendation to lift Condition 2, mandatory restrictions on water usage, and apply Condition 1, voluntary conservation pursuant to the August 17, 1999, Water Use Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried.

Councilman Rice moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.1-344(a) (7), of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, regarding consultation with Legal Counsel of the City concerning consideration of potential property acquisition. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brookshier.

Councilman Rice agreed to amend the motion by adding the following: "where public discussion would possibly affect the City's bargaining position." Councilman Brookshier agreed to the amendment. The amended motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council adjourned into closed session at 8:00 p.m. Non-Council members attending were: City Manager Meadows, City Attorney Berry, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:35 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 closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Discussion ensued regarding a possible date to hold a Council planning retreat, with the weekend of November 5 being tentatively scheduled.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.