

9-28-1999 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 28, 1999.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Vice Mayor E. Thomas Messier; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: Councilman H. Davis Ballard and Councilwoman Mary L. Flood.

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 September 14, 1999, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

The City Manager spoke regarding the following items:

- The City Council retreat has been scheduled for November 12 and 13 at Natural Bridge Inn beginning at 1:00 or 1:30 on November 12.
- Members of Council have been given a pamphlet from Regional Renaissance entitled "What do you want Central Virginia to Be?" The Regional Renaissance meeting for this area will be October 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Liberty High School.
- Members of Council are to contact the City Manager's Office for tickets to the NAACP Banquet scheduled for October 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Peaks of Otter Association Building.
- Halloween will be observed in the City on Sunday, October 31
- Gave an update on the status of the installation of a traffic light at Independence Boulevard and East Main Street: the Virginia Department of Transportation plans to have the light installed by January 1. The City Manager reported there have been several complaints regarding the intersection, and the traffic at the intersection is worse since the opening of the temporary Courthouse.
- The directional signal lights at Independence Boulevard and Longwood Avenue are to be upgraded by October 8.

The Mayor suggested that informative warning signs be placed near these intersections to alert the public to the change in signaling.

- Contact has been made with the Emergency Operations Center for the City of Franklin, Virginia, which is Bedford's Sister City. Franklin has been devastated with recent flooding.
- The City is hosting the "Partners for Change" meeting on September 29 at Ole Liberty Station Restaurant. The topic for the meeting is customer service in the new millennium using technology to serve the citizens.
- The City Manager and James Ervin will be attending the Commonwealth of Virginia Information Technology Symposium in Lexington. The City has been nominated for a State Award for innovations on the City's web site.
- Proposals have been received and reviewed for the Pay and Classification study. The three finalists will be interviewed within the next two weeks.
- The staff will be meeting with three engineering firms on October 1 for the Water and Sewer Master Plan.
- The formal recruitment for the Director of Planning and Community Development position is beginning, and it is planned to have that position filled by January 1.

Councilman Rice stated a report was made at the Bedford County Board of Supervisors meeting that the light at Independence Boulevard won't be installed until sometime in January. It was also reported that there will be a traffic light installed on Route 460 at Walmart before the D-Day Memorial is completed.

The Mayor reported there will be a meeting sponsored by the Bedford County Public Schools regarding the new "Character Counts Program" on October 4, 1999, at 7:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral.

The Mayor expressed thanks to Bedford Main Street, Inc., Vicki Fuerer, Charlene McFall, and all the people involved for a very successful Centerfest '99.

The City Manager stated that October 3-9 has been designated Public Power Week, in which communities across the United States celebrate their commitment to providing public power for their citizens and customers. The City celebrates its one-hundredth anniversary as the provider of public power to the community.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried, Council approved a Proclamation recognizing October 3 - 9 as Public Power Week, and recognizing October as the Centennial Celebration for the City of Bedford Electric Department.

The Proclamation follows as approved:

PROCLAMATION

Public Power Week and Centennial Celebration

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bedford have chosen to operate a community-owned, not-for-profit electric utility; and

WHEREAS, we are both consumers and owners of our public power system and have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bedford Electric Department provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at the lowest possible rates; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bedford Electric Department is part of a community of 2,000 publicly owned electric utilities in the United States that through consumer-ownership ensure cost-cutting competition in the electric utility industry to the benefit of electricity consumers everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Power Association initiated Public Power Week in 1987, and it has proven a successful means to educate our community's consumers and the general public about public power's public service mission and community betterment goals; and

WHEREAS, the City began operation of its municipal electric system in 1899 and has provided our citizens and other customers with reliable, low-cost power for 100 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of October 3-9 be designated Public Power Week in order to honor The City of Bedford Electric Department, its consumer-owners, policy makers, and employees, who work together to provide the best possible electric service and that

our community join hands with other public power communities across the nation and celebrate the benefits of public power to our local and national progress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the month of October be designated as The City of Bedford Electric Department Centennial Celebration in order to recognize the 100 years of service provided to our community by our home-town energy provider.

City Manager Meadows stated the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 requires the Governor to designate local workforce investment areas within the State through consultation with the Virginia Workforce Council and after consultation with chief local elected officials and after consideration of comments from the general public. The City, in conjunction with the other communities in our region, is evaluating what Service Delivery Area (SDA) would be most beneficial to its citizens. The City is currently in an SDA made up of Planning Districts 11 & 12 and is administered by the Central Piedmont Employment Consortium. Region 2000 is being proposed as a Service Delivery Area. It is proposed that the Private Industry Council still be contracted with to provide the service.

Mr. Rex Hammond, Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and stated Bedford County voted to support the Region 2000 Service Area at its meeting on September 27.

Discussion ensued.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried, Council approved the Service Delivery Area for the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act to involve the Region 2000 area and that the SDA administration be contracted to the Central Piedmont Employment Consortium.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.