

10-12-1999 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., October 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 led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the September 28, 1999, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reported on the following items:

Volunteer Workday at Reynolds Park on October 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; KBBC Fall Clean-up Day beginning at 8:00 a.m.; this week is fall clean-up week in the city

WBLT Radio Station is having equipment problems and had been off the air. The Vice Mayor reported that a new transmitter has been ordered.

The Virginia Municipal League Conference will be held October 17 - 19

Members of Council are to notify the City Manager with suggested topics for the Council retreat scheduled in November. The City Manager will furnish Council with a tentative list of topics.

Interest in the Bedford Center for Business appears to be strong.

The City Manager spoke with the Bedford Elementary School PTA regarding the status of the playground and fields around the School. The City Manager recommended that a committee be formed consisting of members of the school administration, City staff, Council members, and concerned parents to develop a master plan for the grounds at the Elementary School.

The City Manager recommended that the water emergency be declared over, due to the drop in demand, recent rainfall, and the water level at the reservoir.

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

Consideration of Rescinding the Water Use Ordinance

The Chief of Police gave an update on the strike at Rubatex Corporation. Chief Graham reviewed complaints received by the Police Department and reviewed what measures have been taken to deal with the situation. The Chief expressed his concerns regarding property damage.

Mayor Shelton brought to Council's attention a draft of a letter from Council to Rubatex Corporation and the United SteelWorkers Local #240 Union urging both parties in this dispute to seek whatever means necessary to return to the bargaining table without delay.

As he is an employee of the Rubatex Corporation, Councilman Brookshier asked that it be noted in the minutes that he did not participate in the discussion of the Rubatex strike matter and he would defer any questions about possible conflict of interest to the City Attorney.

It was the concurrence of Council to proceed with sending the letter to the Rubatex Corporation and the SteelWorkers Union.

Mayor Shelton asked the Property Committee to serve on the committee to develop a master plan for the grounds at Bedford Elementary School.

Mayor Shelton stated that the Deputy Mayor of Vierville sur Mer, France, will be in the Bedford area from November 9 - 14.

The Mayor stated that the Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold a Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 1999, at 11:00 a.m. at the National Guard Armory.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following notice of public hearing:

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the City Planning Commission at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, 1999, and by the City

Council at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 1999, at the City Municipal Building, Council Hall, 215 E. Main Street for the purpose of considering the following request:

To consider rezoning from General Business District (B-2) to Manufacturing District (M-1) a parcel of land, Tax Map #252-A-5, owned by J & T Enterprises. The request is made by Thomas E. Reynolds, Jr., J & T Enterprises, 730 Industrial Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523.

Information regarding this rezoning is on file in the office of Planning & Community Development.

Anyone who is in favor of or opposed to this request will have an opportunity to express their view at this hearing.

By the Authority of the Planning

Commission and City Council of the

City of Bedford

The City Manager stated this request has been recommended by the Planning Commission.

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

Mr. Tommy Reynolds, J & T Enterprises, 101 Peakland Court, asked Council to approve the request.

As there were no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:02 p.m.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to support the rezoning request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wandrei.

Councilman Wandrei stated that he would abstain from voting because of his prior representation of the owners.

The motion was then voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member (Wandrei) abstaining.

Mr. Ed Williams made a presentation explaining the purpose of the Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living, Inc. (LACIL). Mr. Williams asked Council for \$5,000 for LACIL.

Mr. James Ervin reviewed with Council information on the Year 2000 Update. He stated it is estimated that all new hardware and software will be deployed by the end of November. The staff believed all issues are under control.

The City Manager reported that Bedford County and the Commonwealth of Virginia are moving the New Year's holiday from Friday, December 31, 1999, until Monday, January 3, 2000, in order to have an extra day to handle problems that may occur. Mr. Meadows recommended that the City do the same.

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council designated January 3, 2000, as the New Year's holiday for the City of Bedford, and offices will be open December 31, 1999.

The City Manager recognized Mr. Ervin's efforts in the Year 2000 update process.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council declared an end to the water emergency and rescinded the Water Use Ordinance, which was adopted on August 17, 1999.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.