

## 11-12-99 Minutes

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the November 9, 1999, regular meeting was held at the Natural Bridge Inn & Conference Center at 2:00 p.m., November 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 called the meeting to order.

The City Manager reviewed accomplishments by the City within the last year.

Members of Council named and discussed "Strengths" and "Weaknesses" of the City.

Council took a break from 3:16 p.m. until 3:32 p.m.

Members of Council named and discussed "Opportunities" and "Threats" of the City.

Council recessed for a dinner break at 4:40 p.m.

Councilman Brookshier left the retreat.

Mayor Shelton reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The following issues were discussed:

- electric deregulation - need for more information and doing a business study on the electric system
- natural gas - pursue a non-binding estimate for a feasibility study for natural gas
- pole attachment agreement opportunities
- possible implementation of a cell phone tax
- cable television, media center, rebroadcasting City Council meetings and other meetings of government boards, etc.
- water and sewer situation - Water Plant; expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant; DEQ Consent Order regarding treatment issues and inflow and infiltration; water and

sewer fund; potential improvements to the reservoir, connection to a second water source, development of a regional water supply

- pay plan for City employees, benefits package, holidays
- school contract

Mayor Shelton declared a recess at 8:40 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. on November 13, 1999.

Mayor Shelton reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m., November 13, 1999.

Councilman Brookshier arrived at 8:45 a.m. and left the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

The following issues were discussed:

- a draft of the Bedford Middle School Master Plan  
location of the Middle School
- Bedford Main Street's request regarding construction of a Farmer's Market Community Building
- study of Municipal Building
- solid waste
- financial health of the City  
Water and Sewer Fund - rates are not sufficient to cover expenses  
Finance Committee and staff are to develop a fund balance policy and a debt policy

Councilwoman Flood left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Mayor Shelton declared a recess from 10:30 a.m. until 10:50 a.m.

Councilman Brookshier returned to the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

The following items were discussed:

- creation of a Grounds Maintenance Division, consisting of employees from Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries and Public Works
- cemetery operations
- possibility of combining certain services with Bedford County, such as purchasing, fleet maintenance, code enforcement
- a regional park near the New London Academy - Council chose not to participate

- possible uses for the Bedford Christian Church property
- Community Arts Council - Council chose not to participate
- resolution canceling the last regular meeting in December - to be included on the agenda of the next regular meeting
- incentives for business
- enterprise zone designation for growth sharing areas and industrial park
- City facilities - utilities, phone system

Mayor Shelton reviewed the items discussed at the retreat.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.