

02-22-2000 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., February 22, 2000.

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.

Charlene McFall, Chairman of the City Planning Commission, opened the meeting of the Planning Commission.

Ms. McFall stated that members of Council had received copies of the Commission's Goals & Objectives 2000.

Discussion ensued with members of Council asking questions of the Planning Commission regarding the Commission's Goals and Objectives and other various issues.

Chairman McFall adjourned the meeting of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the February 8, 2000, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

The City Manager suggested that Council consider having joint meetings with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the City School Board to have an opportunity to share ideas.

City Manager Meadows reported on the following:

Council had received new updated ID badges

Letter from the Virginia Department of Transportation – annual Pre-allocation hearing to be held March 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Bedford County will host the Region 2000 Dinner on April 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

Virginia Review Magazine – article by Mickey VanDerwerker regarding the Standards of Learning

Copy of editorial from *The Roanoke Times* about the writer's concerns regarding how the Virginia General Assembly is treating independent cities in Virginia

The City Manager presented the Middle School Site Plan to the City School Board on February 21. Mr. Meadows stated he reported to the School Board that no action has been taken on the Site Plan and that the County Administrator, the School Superintendent, and the City Manager are to meet and try to find other less expensive options.

Grave openings and closings in the cemetery have been put out to bid and the bids are scheduled to be received on March 10.

The City Manager will be in Charlottesville attending the Virginia Local Government Manager's Association Winter Conference on February 24 and 25.

Members of Council asked questions about a variety of items which included: repair of a sidewalk, a traffic survey, and the status of the Elementary School Playground. The staff answered the questions.

Mayor Shelton reported that there will be a meeting of the Bedford International Alliance on February 23 regarding plans for the French citizens who will be visiting Bedford over the Memorial Day holiday.

The City Manager reviewed a budget amendment request to replace the current telecommunications system. Mr. Meadows explained the reasons for the request: the current system does not support digital technology (voice and data over the same lines), or interactive voice mail support. Mr. Meadows reported that in an effort to reduce the City's current system operating costs, earlier this fiscal year the City received proposals for its local and long-distance telecommunications service. As a result of competitively bidding out these services, savings of approximately \$20,000 per year will be realized as compared to what the City has historically paid for these services.

City Manager Meadows reported that funds were not appropriated for this project in the 1999-2000 budget due to uncertainties over how great the savings would be from bidding out the telecommunications services. Mr. Meadows stated that as the savings will be sufficient to pay for this upgrade in less than two years, Council is requested to allow for the purchase.

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council appropriated \$38,000 for the

telecommunications equipment from the General Fund unappropriated contingency to the following accounts:

General Fund	10 1211.4078	\$27,360
Solid Waste	17 4234.4078	\$ 1,140
Water Sewer	18 1834.4078	\$ 6,080
Electric	19 1975.4078	\$ 3,420

Roll call vote follows:

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

City Manager Meadows reviewed the budget amendment request for the Big Otter River Pump Station upgrade. The purpose of this project is to increase reliability of the pump station as well as increasing the flexibility of the pump station. The City Manager reported that this project needs an additional appropriation of \$75,500 due to expenses incurred during last year's drought and the extra cost of engineering, purchasing and installing the variable speed pump.

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council appropriated \$75,500 from the City's General Fund Contingency and authorized the transfer of these funds to the Water and Sewer Fund. Roll call vote follows:

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

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.