

03-14-2000 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., March 14, 2000.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman H. Davis Ballard; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: Vice Mayor E. Thomas Messier.

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 February 22, 2000, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

City Manager Meadows reported on the following:

- announced the selection of Mr. Barrett F. "Bart" Warner as the City's new Director of Planning and Community Development
- the Virginia Department of Highways & Transportation's Pre-allocation hearing has been rescheduled for April 14, 2000, at the Clarion Hotel, Roanoke, at 1:00 p.m.
- suggested holding a one day Council retreat in late April or early May to review the proposed budget
- the stop light project at East Main Street and Independence Boulevard should be completed within the next two to three weeks
- the stop light at Longwood Avenue and Oakwood Street will be replaced within the next two weeks
- the new playground equipment at Bedford Elementary School has been installed
- Council has received an invitation to the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner on Friday, March 31. A table has been reserved for the City. Members of Council are to notify the City Manager's Office if they plan to attend.

- The City is working with the Community Health Foundation on a grant proposal for public transportation for the elderly and disabled to get medical and pharmaceutical care. The City's matching contribution to the grant would be \$700 and it is planned to include that amount in next year's budget.
- reported that the City received a plaque at the Virginia Local Government Management Conference for the City's participation in the Technical Assistance Program
- Council has a copy of the Service Group Funding Requests for review and consideration
- The City is working with the Bureau of Census to house a worker at the Municipal Building four days a week from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. to assist in filling out census forms.

Councilman Rice asked about the status of establishing soccer fields at the old landfill.

The City Manager reported that the YMCA officials and Parks and Recreation officials have indicated that at the present time the needs of the soccer associations are being met. Mr. Meadows recommended that during the budget process, several possible uses for the old landfill should be considered.

Mayor Shelton stated there seems to be some confusion regarding the need for more soccer facilities. The Mayor suggested that those parties involved should meet and the City should facilitate the discussion.

Mayor Shelton stated Channel 13 had a segment on the first piece of the D-Day Memorial Arch being installed today. The Mayor asked that Council be available for the Memorial Day ceremonies.

Ellen Wandrei, Director of the Bedford City/County Museum, spoke regarding the budget request for the Museum. Mrs. Wandrei stated that due to increased operating expenses, the request for funding in the 2000-2001 budget is \$27,500, a ten percent increase. Mrs. Wandrei explained the reasons for the increased operating expenses.

Barbara Ring, Director of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, stated the Chamber is requesting level funding, \$5,000 for the operating budget and \$35,000 for tourism. Ms. Ring reviewed activities sponsored by the Chamber.

The City Manager stated that during the budget review, Council should consider the tourism issue.

Mayor Shelton asked the staff to prepare information for the City/County Relations Committee regarding tourism and the development of a visitor's center.

Vicki Fuerer, Director of Bedford Main Street, Inc., stated Main Street is requesting funding in the amount of \$27,500 for the Main Street Program, \$500 for the Christmas Parade, and an additional \$5,000 for a Facade Grant Program. Ms. Fuerer explained the Facade Grant Program. She also stated that Main Street is willing to work with the City on an expansion of the Farmer's Market.

The City Manager stated that on September 28, 1999, City Council endorsed a proposal to form a Workforce Investment Area comprised of the Counties of Amherst, Bedford, and Campbell, and the Cities of Bedford and Lynchburg. To accomplish this, an agreement has been drawn between the communities to formalize this agreement.

On motion by Councilman Ballard, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried, Council adopted the Council Agreement formalizing the creation of the Regional 2000 Workforce Investment Area.

City Manager Meadows stated a resolution was adopted by Council on September 14, 1999, endorsing the TransDominion Express, a passenger rail service plan which would include Bedford as a stop. Mr. Meadows reported that the final budget bill included 9.8 million dollars for the first year of funding for this program. A committee was formed to promote this project before the General Assembly. The committee has incurred expenses in promoting and publicizing the TransDominion Express, and has asked communities who endorsed the proposal to contribute towards the costs incurred. The City has been asked for a \$1,000 contribution.

Councilman Wandrei moved that Council appropriate \$1,000 from the General Fund Contingency for the TransDominion Express request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood. After a brief discussion, the motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Councilman Wandrei commended the City Manager for preparing the Service Group Funding Requests report.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.