

03-28-2000 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 28, 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.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the March 14, 2000, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

City Manager Meadows reported on the following:

- the traffic signal at East Main Street and Independence Boulevard has been installed; work is currently proceeding on the traffic signal at Longwood Avenue and Oakwood Street; the next traffic signal scheduled to be replaced is at West Main Street and Fourth Street
- a soccer summit was held with representatives of the YMCA, PASA, School Board, and the Advisory Commission regarding the needs in the community for soccer; ideas will be brought forth for developing additional fields
- Council has been invited to visit Bedford's sister city, Franklin, Virginia, in order for Franklin's City Council to thank Bedford for the help it provided in the aftermath of last year's flooding.
- The City Manager asked members of Council to review a booklet entitled *Indicators of Healthy Communities 2000* from the Virginia Hospital and Health Care Association.
- The Council retreat to review the budget is scheduled for Friday, April 28, beginning at 8:00 or 8:30 a.m. The budget will be presented to Council on April 25.

- Council has information from the Chamber of Commerce regarding a tour of local attractions, Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. City Council, the Bedford County Board of Supervisors, and the County School Board are invited to attend.
- Council has a copy of a letter from Jim Vest, Piedmont Label, and the City Manager's response
- letter from John Vaeth indicating that he has decided not to seek another term on the City Planning Commission - the City Manager asked for suggestions from Council for a replacement for Mr. Vaeth
- voting for the ideas for the Regional Renaissance Program is currently underway and there is a box in the Municipal Building lobby for these votes to be placed
- The City Manager indicated he was encouraged by the Federal Government to mention in a public meeting that if citizens have not returned their census forms, they are asked to return them as soon as possible.

Councilman Rice expressed his appreciation to City Manager Meadows for his efforts regarding the soccer fields.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following item:

Reappointment of Frances D. Coles to the City Planning Commission for a term to expire March 31, 2004

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Mr. Augustine J. Fagan, Executive Director of Central Virginia Community Services, reviewed the Community Services Program Report. Dr. Ken Stiffler, Program Manager of the Bedford Counseling Center, explained the types of cases handled at the Center. Mr. Fagan stated that the Board of Directors of Central Virginia Community Services is requesting an increase of \$1,374 in the appropriation for the next budget year.

Ms. Melanie Crenshaw, American Red Cross, explained the services provided by the Red Cross. Ms. Crenshaw reviewed the activities of the Safe Haven program and stated the Red Cross is requesting level funding in the proposed 2000-2001 City Budget.

The City Manager reported that Marius L. Venhorst, President of Parkway Steel Rule Cutting Dies, Inc., has requested the City to vacate a paper street which extends from the

southern end of Woodside Drive as constructed to the northern boundary line of the Bedford Center for Business. The Venhorsts own all of the lots adjoining the paper street and desire to use the area made up of the lots and the vacated street for an expansion of their business. The street was created on a plat recorded in 1954. The street has never been utilized or developed for street purposes and the Planning Department foresees no need for a street to be built in this area or for the use of the area for utility lines.

City Manager Meadows stated the City Attorney has advised, since all the adjoining property is owned by the Venhorsts, that City Council can approve execution of an agreement between the City and the Venhorsts vacating the old plat lot lines and the street and creating a new combined parcel. The new tract would be shown on a plat of survey to be prepared at the owner's expense. It is also recommended that the Venhorsts, as part of this action, have this plat prepared prior to July 1, 2000, so the new lot will appear on the new tax book. The City Manager stated the request of Council is to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute an agreement to vacate this paper street.

Councilman Wandrei moved that Council approve the request to vacate that portion of a paper street extending south of Woodside Drive and the conditions as set forth in the action that was requested. Councilman Brookshier seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.