

05-09-00 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., May 9, 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 April 25, 2000, regular Council meeting, and the minutes of the adjourned Council meeting of April 28, 2000, were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc., annual meeting in Williamsburg on August 11-12
- The American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life* was held on May 5 and May 6 at Liberty High School – over \$33,000 was raised for cancer research – the City's team raised \$1,800 and won the award for Best Decorated Site

Councilman Wandrei asked that an item be added to the agenda concerning election matters in light of the low turnout of voters at the recent election.

Councilman Wandrei commended the City Manager as he has noticed that Orange Street has been cleaned up considerably.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried unanimously, the following items were added to the agenda:

Appointment of Member to the City Planning Commission
Discussion of Electric Issues

Mayor Shelton indicated that Council has been invited to attend a welcome reception for French citizens from the Omaha Beach area of Normandy, France, on May 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bedford Central Library.

The Mayor reminded Council that "What's Next Day" will be held on May 13 at Liberty High School beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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

**NOTICE
SYNOPSIS OF BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2000 TO
JUNE 30, 2001
CITY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council, May 9, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Hall of the City Municipal Building in relation to the budget for the City of Bedford for Fiscal Year 2000-01, at which time any citizen of the City shall have the right to attend and state his or her views. Detailed copies of the budget are available for inspection during normal office hours in the office of the City Manager and the office of the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. John Vaeth, 1382 Jefferson Terrace, representing the Bedford Industrial Management Council (BIMC), spoke about concerns BIMC has regarding water and sewer rates. Mr. Vaeth stated that BIMC is requesting to have a meeting with Council and the City Manager prior to the adoption of the budget.

As there were no further comments, Mayor Shelton closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

Appointment of Betsy Thomas, 991 Ashland Avenue, to the Recreation Advisory Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2002

Appointment of Jane Amnott, Thelma Hawkins, Meg Ballard, Dave Ballard, and Jane Rakos to serve three-year terms on the Keep Bedford Beautiful Commission, said terms to expire June 30, 2003

Appointment of Marian N. Morrison to the Central Virginia Community Services Board for a term expiring December 31, 2000

Councilman Brookshier moved that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried, six members voting aye, one member abstaining (Ballard).

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilman Brookshier, voted upon and carried unanimously, Mr. William H. Ross was appointed to the City Planning Commission for a term expiring March 31, 2004.

Councilman Wandrei brought up three election issues:

1. Moving the May election to November to ensure a better turnout of voters – recommended that Council adopt a resolution directing the City Manager and the City Attorney to institute the necessary paperwork to have this placed before the General Assembly in order to get this approved for the next municipal election

The Mayor noted that some parts of the City Charter may need to be changed to ensure that the Charter will conform to State law. The City Attorney will investigate any action that may be required by the Department of Justice.

The City Manager and City Attorney will determine what action needs to be taken regarding moving the election and report back to Council.

2. Having a banner on Bridge Street announcing the elections

3. Contacting the Electoral Board regarding changes to the polling place at the Armory and suggesting signs be placed near the highway indicating an election is going on

Mayor Shelton spoke regarding the agreement with the Department of Military Affairs concerning using the Armory as a polling place.

It was the concurrence of Council to proceed.

Mayor Shelton will prepare a letter on behalf of Council to the Chairman of the City Electoral Board requesting that the Board reserve a place one week prior to each election for placement of a banner downtown that announces there is an election coming up.

The City Manager and City Attorney will discuss with the officials at the Armory and the Electoral Board the problems involved with using the Armory as a polling place.

The City Manager stated that the budget is still being fine-tuned.

After discussion, Council decided to hold a called meeting on June 1 at 5:00 p.m. to adopt the budget.

Mayor Shelton asked that the Industrial Liaison Committee and the City Manager meet with the Bedford Industrial Management Council prior to the adoption of the budget.

Public Works Director Gibson reviewed three alternatives for correcting problems on College Street, which include drainage problems and sidewalk issues.

Discussion ensued.

Councilman Wandrei moved that the College Street issue be tabled until the May 23 regular Council meeting for further detailed information relative to Options 2 and 3. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried unanimously.

It was the concurrence of Council to utilize the new evaluation form for the City Manager.

Mayor Shelton asked Council to complete the evaluation form for the City Manager by the next regular Council meeting. The Mayor stated he would compile the information included on the form.

The Mayor will work with the City Manager's Office to distribute to Council an evaluation form for the City Attorney.

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