

04-25-00 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., April 25, 2000.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman H. Davis Ballard; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Vice Mayor E. Thomas Messier; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: Councilman Larry D. Brookshier.

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 11, 2000, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

City Manager Meadows introduced Mr. Bart Warner, new Director of Planning & Community Development.

Mr. Meadows thanked Elizabeth Berry-Mosley for serving as interim Director of Planning & Community Development.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Region 2000 dinner meeting was held April 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Poplar Forest – the localities are well on the way to moving toward even greater regional cooperation
- Council has a copy of an article regarding the City from a newsletter published by The Innovation Groups
- The American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life* will be held on May 5 and May 6 at Liberty High School
- The second annual *What's Next Day* will be held at Liberty High School on Saturday, May 13. This event promotes anti-violence.
- Council has been given directions to the location of the retreat to be held on Friday, April 28, at the Reba Farm Inn

Councilman Ballard reported that the Keep Bedford Beautiful Commission Clean-up Day was held on April 22 and approximately twenty people participated in the event. Councilman Ballard commended Councilman Wandrei for his participation.

Councilman Rice asked about the request by the Blair Construction, Inc., to close one lane of Court Street for approximately two weeks.

Mayor Shelton stated this request would be added to the agenda.

Councilman Ballard asked that the Consent Agenda item "Request to Block Streets for Ninth Annual GoKart Race" be moved as an item under "New Business."

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Ballard, voted upon and carried, the agenda was amended as follows:

the Consent Agenda item "Request to Block Streets for Ninth Annual GoKart Race" was moved as an item under "New Business"

Request to Block One Lane of Court Street – Blair Construction, Inc., was added as an item under "New Business"

Councilman Wandrei suggested that the City begin a program whereby some of the streets would be put up for adoption for people to clean up periodically and that City Council adopt a section of a street.

Fran Hart, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries, stated that a program could be established where people could adopt a spot, street, park, etc. to keep clean.

The Mayor indicated some publicity should be generated calling on civic involvement within the community for participation in such a program.

The Mayor stated that Councilman Brookshier was in Washington, DC, and was not able to return for the Council meeting.

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the City Council at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2000, at the City Municipal Building, Council Hall, 215 East Main Street for the purpose of:

To consider a conditional use to allow an off premise sign to be placed at the entrance of Industrial Avenue, for directional signage from Burks Hill Road (Route 122

South), to the Sentimental Journey Antiques & Auction House. The request is made by Mr. Doug Lee, proprietor/owner, doing business as the Sentimental Journey Antiques & Auction House, 703 Industrial Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523.

Information regarding this request is on file in the office of Planning & Community Development.

Anyone who is in favor of or opposed to this request will have an opportunity to express his or her view at this hearing.

By the Authority of the Planning
Commission and City Council of
The City of Bedford

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Mr. Doug Lee, 703 Industrial Avenue, asked for a sign 1 ½ ft. by 4 ft. Mr. Lee also asked that the sign be allowed to remain until a couple of weeks after the new Sign Ordinance is adopted.

As there were no further comments, Mayor Shelton closed the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- Request to Block Bedford Avenue beginning at the Health Department and going to the Primary School for the Dixie Girls District Softball Tournament and the Dixie Minor State Tournament on the following dates and times:

June 30	5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
July 1, 2	3:00 – 9:00 p.m.
July 3, 4, 5	5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
July 21, 22	5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
July 23	1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
July 24, 25, 26	5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

- Request to Block Streets for Parade for Local 240 Members and Children on Saturday, May 20, 2000, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. The parade will start from the corner of Peaks Street and North Bridge Street, travel south on North Bridge Street, turn right on to West Main Street, then right on Market Street, turn right on Depot Street and travel back to North Bridge Street, turning left on to North Bridge Street and travel back to Peaks Street.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that the Consent Agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ballard.

A brief discussion ensued regarding street repairs on College Street during the time period of the softball tournaments.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was then voted upon and carried.

Council considered a request for a conditional use to allow an off-premise sign to be placed at the entrance of Industrial Avenue for directional signage from Burks Hill Road to the Sentimental Journey Antiques & Auction House, 703 Industrial Avenue.

The Mayor stated that Council could accept the recommendation of the City Planning Commission dated April 7 regarding this request or modify it based upon the owner's request made earlier at the public hearing.

Councilman Wandrei moved that the Planning Commission's recommendation be modified as follows:

- To allow a sign 1 ½ ft x 4 ft
- To allow the sign to remain until at least thirty days after a new Sign Ordinance is adopted

and that the remainder of the Planning Commission recommendation be adopted as follows:

- Non-lighted
- Non-advertising
- Directional only that indicates "antiques" or "auction" and a directional arrow

The motion was seconded by Councilman Rice, and after a brief discussion, was voted upon and carried, five members voting aye, one member voting nay (Ballard), and one member absent (Brookshier).

Mr. Charles Oliver, of the Bedford Master Gardeners, made a presentation to Council regarding the poor condition of trees within the City. Mr. Oliver suggested that a committee from Council meet with a committee from the Master Gardeners to discuss correcting the situation.

The Mayor asked the City Manager and the Electric Utility Director to work with the Master Gardeners regarding this situation.

The City Manager stated that the week of May 14-20 has been designated as Business Appreciation Week in Virginia, in recognition of the many benefits to Virginia communities derived from industries.

Councilman Rice moved that the resolution designating May 14-20 as Business Appreciation Week be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK IN THE CITY OF BEDFORD

WHEREAS, The City of Bedford is blessed with strong manufacturing and service industries; and

WHEREAS, these industries provide much needed jobs for the citizens of Bedford; and

WHEREAS, these same industries provide local taxes and revenues from which the entire local citizenry benefit; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and appreciate these important facts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Bedford hereby salutes our existing industry base, and by virtue of this resolution gives notice to our citizens that we are Honoring A New Century of Business in Virginia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Week of May 14-20, 2000, is hereby designated as

BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK

in the City of Bedford.

The City Manager stated that Christmas in April of Bedford, Inc., is requesting that Council authorize the waiving of building permit fees in connection with the group's scheduled projects within the City, as well as any landfill tipping fees that might be applicable. The projects will include repairs on four houses. City Manager Meadows indicated that the estimated cost for the permit fees and landfill tipping is \$94.40. The staff recommends that Council waive the fees; however, permits should be required for

both zoning and building code purposes. In addition, it should be understood that any removal of asbestos must be done under EPA guidelines.

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried, Council waived the building permit fees and landfill tipping fees for projects to be undertaken by Christmas in April of Bedford, Inc., with the City.

City Manager Meadows stated that Bedford City's FY00 Supplemental Allocation request under the Comprehensive Services Act has been approved by the State in the amount of \$295,420.00. The City's share in matching funds is \$26,523.00 in addition to the \$125,706.00 previously appropriated. Mr. Meadows stated this brings the annual allocation to \$148,023.00 for FY 00.

Councilman Wandrei moved that Council appropriate \$26,523.00 from the unappropriated contingency to Account No. 105350.3236. Councilman Ballard seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Councilman Ballard spoke regarding the GoKart races held in the City. Mr. Ballard recommended if Council allows the June 24th race, that it not allow any more races to be held. Mr. Ballard asked about any benefits derived by holding the races in the City.

Vikki Fuerer, Bedford Main Street, Inc., explained that the purpose of the race is to bring people downtown for them to see what the City has and possibly come back another time. Ms. Fuerer stated that people come from out of town for the race, stay in area motels, and eat at the local restaurants.

Councilman Rice moved that Council approve the request of Bedford Main Street, Inc., to block the following streets for the Ninth Annual GoKart Race on June 24 from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. and allow the use of the parking lot behind the County Administration building for a pit area beginning at 9:30 a.m. on June 24. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried, five members voting aye, one member voting no (Ballard) and one member absent (Brookshier).

East and West Main Streets from Washington Street to Center Street, Center Street from West Main Street, through the Farmers Market parking lot to Washington Street, Washington Street from the Farmers Market parking lot to South Street, South Street from Washington Street to East Main Street. Also West Main Street from Center Street to Ballard Street,

a portion of South Bridge Street below Washington Street, a portion of South Street below Washington Street, Washington Street from South Street to Otey Street, North Bridge Street from Main Street to Depot Street, and Market Square.

The City Manager stated that Blair Construction, Inc., has requested permission to close one lane of Court Street between Main and Depot Street for approximately two weeks beginning April 26. The purpose of the closure is to enable the erection crane to have room for steel and crane rigging to erect steel on the Court Street side of the new Bedford County Courthouse building. The City Manager expressed concern that Blair Construction made this request earlier in the day and indicated this is not adequate notice.

Councilman Ballard moved that Council grant the request for the one lane closure of Court Street with the City Manager and Police Chief to allow closing the other lane based on construction needs, only if necessary. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Messier.

Discussion ensued.

The motion was then voted upon and carried.

Mayor Shelton declared a five-minute recess.

City Manager Meadows reviewed highlights of the proposed budget for the City for Fiscal Year 2000-01. Mr. Meadows also reviewed a tentative timetable for the budget process.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with advertising the budget.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m. until Friday, April 28 at 8:30 a.m. at Reba Farm Inn.