

07-25-00 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., July 25, 2000.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Vice Mayor E. Thomas Messier; Councilman Thomas M. Padgett; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager F. 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 July 11, 2000, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

City Manager Meadows reported on the following items:

- Two additional items requested to be added to the agenda: 1. Supplemental appropriation regarding the Bedford Elementary School playground improvements. 2. Request for funding from the National D-Day Foundation.
- Copy of the comments made by Bart Warner, Director of Planning & Community Development, at the Virginia Department of Transportation Pre-Allocation Hearing
- Congratulated Mr. Warner for receiving a certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners
- The exchange visit with Bedford's sister city, Franklin, Virginia, is still scheduled for August 3 and 4.
- The state of the City/County luncheon is scheduled for July 26 at the Bedford Moose Lodge.
- The City is currently in the solicitation stages for Water & Sewer Rate Study proposals.
- Council has copies of a monthly report of activities the City Manager has been involved with.

- Two meetings have been held with County staff and Bedford Chamber of Commerce officials regarding tourism. It is planned to have a City/County Relations Committee meeting within the next two weeks to begin discussing tourism subjects.
- Attended a meeting in Charlottesville on July 12 regarding the effect of the electric utility taxation changes – recommendations on changes to address this issue will be brought back to Council in August.

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried unanimously, the following items were added to the agenda:

Ordinance to Amend the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations

Supplemental Appropriation – BES Track, Field, and Drainage Improvements

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following Public Hearing Notice:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 22.1-29.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the City Council of the City of Bedford will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on July 25, 2000, in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building, for the purpose of receiving the views of citizens on the appointment of members to the City School Board.

Any citizens who wish to be considered for appointment to the City School Board should notify the office of the City Manager, P. O. Box 807, Bedford, VA 24523, phone 586-7102, no later than July 7, 2000.

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:41 p.m. The two individuals being considered for the two vacancies: Ms. Peggy Sharpe-Thompson and Ms. Betsy S. Klein.

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

The appointment of members to the School Board will be considered at the August 8 meeting.

It was the consensus of Council that holding interviews with the School Board applicants will not be necessary.

Ms. Barbara Bennett, Executive Director of Central Virginia's Regional Renaissance, gave a presentation on the voting outcomes of the process. Ms. Bennett reviewed the goals and actions of the project.

City Manager Meadows stated a public hearing was held on July 11 to consider a request for a zoning amendment to allow automotive repair, automotive body and fender repair, and electric apparatus repair service in a B-2, General Business District. The City Manager reported that a proposed ordinance including this amendment has been posed in accordance with Section 2-30 of the City Code.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried, Council waived the reading of the proposed ordinance regarding the Land Development Regulations.

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council adopt the ordinance to amend Section 609.3 of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations to include the operation of the described conditional use to be included in a B-2, General District, zone. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brookshier.

Councilman Wandrei made a substitute motion to refer the ordinance back to the Planning Commission for their comments on the language of the ordinance.

Mayor Shelton turned the meeting over to the Vice Mayor.

Mayor Shelton then seconded Mr. Wandrei's motion.

The substitute motion was then voted upon and carried, four members voting aye, three members voting nay (Messier, Tharp, and Brookshier).

Mayor Shelton resumed presiding over the meeting.

The Mayor stated the ordinance is referred to the Planning Commission for further review to be brought back to Council after study.

Councilman Brookshier asked that the matter be expedited.

Discussion ensued

The matter is to be brought back to Council for consideration at the next regular meeting on August 8 after Planning Commission review, if the Commission is prepared.

The City Manager stated that in a meeting with the City Finance Committee on July 24, Mr. Richard Burrow from the National D-Day Foundation reviewed the progress of the Memorial project to date, and discussed the security concerns that have occurred since the dedication of the arch on Memorial Day. Mr. Burrow requested that the City appropriate \$25,000 for security enhancements to the site, which would be matched

dollar for dollars with State funds. City Manager Meadows stated these enhancements would benefit the site and the City in patrolling the area. It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to recommend approval of this request.

Vice Mayor Messier, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Committee recommends approval by Council of this request.

Councilman Tharp moved that Council appropriate \$25,000 from the General Fund Contingency to the National D-Day Foundation for security enhancements to the Memorial site. The motion was seconded by Councilman Padgett.

Councilman Wandrei asked for an explanation of how the \$25,000 will be used.

Mr. Burrow explained the funds will possibly be used to purchase security cameras and equipment and hire a night watchman, but those details have not been finalized.

Councilman Wandrei expressed concern that details and cost estimates for the security at the Memorial are not available at this time.

Discussion ensued.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Vice Mayor Messier	aye
Councilman Padgett	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	nay
Mayor Shelton	aye

The City Manager stated discussions have been held regarding the condition of the playfield in front of the elementary school. As a result of these discussions, the City has designed a scope of work for improving the playfield which included: grading, leveling, and reseeding the field; construction a 2000 ft. track; improving drainage from the building across the upper portion of the playfield; and constructing a one-half acre playfield and basketball court near the new fitness stations. The work was contemplated late in the budget process, and the only funding that was included in the FY 2000-01 budget for this work was for the construction of the track (\$20,000).

The City Manager reported that the condition of the field has improved tremendously from when the project was bid initially and no additional leveling or reseeding of the field is necessary at this time. Bids were received last week for the project, with the low bidder being US Construction of Roanoke in the amount of \$76,948. After discussions with the contractor, the bid can be reduced to \$53,587 if the leveling and reseeding work is eliminated from the contract. An additional \$33,587 is need to complete the work.

The City Manager stated that by completing this work, the play areas in front and to the side of the elementary school would be available for use of the students when they return in the fall. Fencing and a backstop are also scheduled to be installed to complete the improvements to the field.

The City Manager requested that Council consider appropriating an additional \$40,000 to allow for the improvements to the Bedford Elementary School playfield.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council appropriate \$40,000 from the General Fund Contingency to allow for the improvements to the Bedford Elementary School playfield. Roll call vote follows:

Councilwoman Flood	aye
Vice Mayor Messier	aye
Councilman Padgett	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Councilman Brookshier	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.