

## **09-15-2000 Minutes**

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the regular meeting of September 12, 2000, was held at the Olde Liberty Station Restaurant at 8:30 a.m., September 15, 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 and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton called the meeting to order.

Mayor Shelton stated that a committee of the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties will hold a briefing on September 26 at 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood in Roanoke regarding tax restructuring.

The following items were discussed:

- Additional water supply and the infrastructure to carry the water  
options discussed: water line connecting to Lynchburg (finished water source); raw water line from the James River
- Rate structures for utility systems to provide fund self-sufficiency – Mayor Shelton asked the Water & Sewer Committee to recommend the approach to self-sufficiency based on the Water & Sewer Rate Study
- Construction of water and sewer lines for the 460 East corridor in revenue sharing areas. Discussion ensued regarding the water and sewer needs for the 460 East corridor. It was the consensus of Council that the target date for completion of water and sewer service to the 460 East corridor be twelve months, with the understanding that it may take fifteen to eighteen months.

Council took a break from 9:50 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

The meeting continued with the following items being discussed:

- Electric deregulation readiness and marketing plans, competitiveness in a deregulated environment

Information regarding a proposed Consumer Utility Tax Ordinance will be presented at a later meeting.

Staff is in the process of putting out an RFP to bring an engineering firm in to evaluate the electric system to make sure the City is ready from a capital standpoint for a deregulated environment.

Educational campaign targeting the City's electric customers regarding deregulation;

determine the approach as to how existing customers will be marketed for retaining on the City's system; work through the Electric Committee on the information campaign

- Evaluation of natural gas service for the City. The Electric Committee is to work with the City Manager on getting a feasibility study done.
- Long-term viability of continued landfill operations. Several options: transfer station, use of County landfill, opening Cell 3 to maximize the use of the City's facility. The Solid Waste Committee is to work with the City Manager to develop the best possible options.
- Bedford Christian Church property, Old Grammar School building, Municipal Building space utilization

The City Manager asked that the Property Committee work with him to: continue to look at the Old Grammar School determining potential funding sources; do facilities planning for municipal operations; determine the interest of the United Way in the Christian Church building.

Council took a break from 11:20 a.m. until 11:40 p.m.

- Joint development with Bedford County of a tourism program and visitor's center

The City Manager stated a draft of an agreement between the City and County for consideration of a joint tourism program will be on the agenda of the September 26 Council meeting for scheduling a public hearing. Mr. Meadows explained the draft agreement and described the visitor's center.

- Philosophical approach to business development and the sign ordinance – discussion ensued regarding Council meeting with the Planning Commission regarding philosophies and planning

Council will meet with the Planning Commission regarding the new Sign Ordinance

- It was the consensus of Council to hold annual joint meetings with City boards and committees in order to have dialogue with these groups. Mayor Shelton will work with the City Manager to schedule these meetings.

Council took a break for lunch from 12:25 p.m. until 1:10 p.m.

Councilman Wandrei was not present during this section of the meeting.

- Further streets and highway improvements (e.g.. Burks Hill Road)

Staff is talking to VDOT about doing a study of the Burks Hill Road corridor

The City Manager reported that as part of the new Walmart project, the City has tentatively agreed, subject to final approval of everyone involved, to spend about \$70,000 on Freedom Lane, Lowry Street, and Boxwood Terrace to provide a secondary entrance into the new super Walmart facility.

Councilman Wandrei arrived at 1:20 p.m.

Final Allocation Hearing on October 5 in Roanoke – Ole Turnpike Road, Woodhaven Drive area intersection improvements

- Ascertaining the growth in City service demands and staffing necessary to deliver the services efficiently

The City Manager addressed the staffing needs of the City.

- The staff will continue to review the City's financial stability with a view toward improving fund balances and bond ratings.
- Vice Mayor Messier, City/County Relations Committee, stated the County wishes to discuss the Library contract as it pertains to increasing County membership on the Library Board.

Discussion ensued.

- Water and Sewer Fund – bringing the system into self-sufficiency – need to look at options
- Snowden Hydroelectric Plant

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.