

02-13-2001 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., February 13, 2001.

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

Members absent: Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Staff present: City Manager F. Craig Meadows; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV (arrived at 7:35 p.m.); and Deputy Clerk of the Council Debra Anderson.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chief of Police Graham introduced the following new Police Officers: Robert Scott Arney, Garrett Neil Baltzelle, and Michael Joseph Cusumano.

The Deputy Clerk of Council administered the Oath of Office to the new Police Officers.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the January 23, 2001, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

City Manager Meadows requested that the following item be added to the agenda:

Appropriation of Funds – Town Lake Project

The City Manager reported on the following items:

The annual retreat of Bedford County IDA and the joint City/County Industrial Development Authority will be held February 17 – 18.

The City Manager will be attending the Virginia Local Government Manager's Association Winter Conference on February 21 and February 22 in Roanoke.

The City has received a copy of the annual financial report for the Commonwealth of Virginia, which is in the City Manager's Office for review.

The City has advertised for the position of Director of Human Resources and forty-five applications have been received.

The Director of Tourism position has been readvertised.

Council was given a copy of an email from the Library Director about the Library receiving a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the purchase of computer hardware and software for the Bedford Central Library.

City staff has been working with Brian Wishneff & Associates to study alternative uses and potential sources for renovation of the old Grammar School facility. Funds for the project came from the current year budget from funds allocated for a community center. The City Manager allocated \$20,000 for the predevelopment phase of this proposal.

Draper Aden & Associates will be attending the March 13 Council meeting to discuss water and sewer rates. The Water & Sewer Committee and the Finance Committee have seen an overview of the presentation.

The recodification of the City Code project is presently underway and will probably be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

Members of the staff will travel to Altavista to look at the software being used by the town and to begin the process of determining what software the City should use.

The sign ordinance will be presented to the Planning Commission at its March meeting. The City Manager stated that depending on the action of the Planning Commission, the sign ordinance will be on the Council agenda for a public hearing and consideration at the March 27 meeting.

The City should be bidding out the pump station rehabilitation phase of the inflow and infiltration work in the next month or so.

Proposals have been received from various consulting firms for an electric system study and twenty-year long-range plan. The staff should be able to announce the selection of a consultant and have that project underway sometime in early March.

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried, the following item was added to the agenda:

Appropriation of Funds – Town Lake Project

The City Manager stated that the City entered in an agreement with the Bedford Public Library Foundation, Inc., on May 15, 1993, in connection with the improvements of the North Bridge Street Library property including the construction of an addition to the existing building and the purchase of required furnishings. The City issued \$1,750,000 in bonds, the library received a \$278,000 federal library grant and the foundation conducted a capital campaign, which raised over \$600,000 from individual and corporate donors.

The City Manager reported that per the agreement, any funds in excess of actual costs for the library project after reimbursement of funds advanced by the City shall be retained by the City in order to develop a fund for completion of the North Bridge Street Library facility. When that project was completed, there was approximately \$27,184.99 left in that fund. At this time, the second floor of the library remains finished. Plans and specifications have been prepared and bids received for the construction of space for a staff break room and a training room, which will eventually be equipped with computers. The library is requesting the excess funds from the Library Improvement Fund of \$27,184.99 be appropriated to the library to assist in financing this project.

Councilman Tharp moved that Council appropriate \$27,184.99 to the Bedford Central Library for the facility project as proposed. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, 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	absent
Mayor Shelton	aye

The City Manager stated that with the reorganization of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, the name has been changed to the Region 2000 Regional Commission. The selection of services offered by the new Commission to the localities will be broadened to include project development, project management and the provision of various financial/administration support services. An amendment to the current Strategic Plan is necessary in order for the Commission to qualify for assistance under State and Federal grant programs. By adopting this amendment, additional strategies and projects in Region 2000 will be included in the existing five-year plan.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution in support of Amendment No. 1 to the 1997-2000 Region 2000 Regional Commission Strategic Plan. Roll call vote follows:

Councilwoman Flood	aye
Vice Mayor Messier	aye

Councilman Padgett	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	absent
Councilman Brookshier	aye
Mayor Shelton	aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDING THE 1997-2002
REGION 2000 REGIONAL COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN**

WHEREAS, The Central Virginia Planning District Commission (CVPDC) Strategic Plan (1997-2002) provided strategies and projects the Commission would pursue in the enhancement of the quality of life in Region 2000; and,

WHEREAS, The CVPDC has been reorganized and renamed the Region 2000 Regional Commission; and,

WHEREAS, The selection of services offered by the new Commission to the localities will be broadened to include project development, project management, and the provision of various financial/administration support services; and,

WHEREAS, In order to qualify for assistance under State and Federal grant programs that provide funding for such projects as regional industrial parks an amendment to the current strategic plan is required; and,

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Commission to incorporate this amendment, which will include additional strategies and projects in Region 2000, as a part of the existing 5-year plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Bedford hereby adopts Amendment No. 1 to the 1997-2002 Region 2000 Regional Commission Strategic Plan and further supports the use of this document as the planning and project implementation guide for the Region 2000 Regional Commission participating local governments.

City Manager Meadows stated it is requested that Council appropriate funds to allow the completion of the repairs on the Town Lake project on Lake Drive. The Town Lake suffered a pipe failure in the fall of 2000, which allowed all of the water to drain from the lake. The City Manager explained the costs associated with the project. The initial low bidder was J. L. Crawford and Sons in the amount of \$125,290. After negotiations, the bid amount was reduced to \$94,065. If Council appropriates the funds for this project, the contractor is prepared to begin work later this month, and have the project completed around the first of April, weather permitting.

Councilman Brookshier moved that Council appropriate \$95,000 from the general fund contingency to allow the City to proceed with the Town Lake Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Padgett.

Discussion ensued.

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

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

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.