

5-18-01 Minutes

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the May 8, 2001, regular meeting was held in the Tharp Room at the Bedford Central Library at 8:30 a.m., May 18, 2001.

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.

Council proceeded to hold a work session on the budget.

City Manager Meadows reviewed items in the budget and discussion ensued.

Items discussed:

- E 911 Fund
- The Mayor referred to the Finance Committee the review of utility taxes and sources of revenue. The Finance Committee is to report on this in March 2002.
- Electric Department – new engineer position – it was the consensus of Council to allow the City Manager to begin the recruitment effort for this position, even though funds will not be available until July 1. Also discussed: pole attachment agreements
- Water & Sewer fund – capital improvements
- Solid Waste – Cell 3; stump dump, tipping fees

Mayor Shelton declared a break at 10:07 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Further discussion ensued regarding:

- General Fund: cemeteries; general fund capital improvements were reviewed by department heads
- Various items: scheduling a Council retreat to discuss a five year plan; the mowing of public rights-of-way by private property owners; leasing computers

Council took a break for lunch from 12:20 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. Councilman Wandrei left the meeting.

Further discussion ensued regarding:

- Automatic external defibrillators (AED) for the Police Department; police officers as public safety officers

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council include the purchasing of five additional AED units in the budget (in the amount of \$15, 000 total) and then apply for grants.

Councilman Tharp suggested that the City make an application to the Bedford Community Health Foundation requesting a grant for AED units to put in each vehicle and commit the Police Officers to be trained and response to each call.

Councilman Tharp seconded the motion.

Mayor Shelton suggested that Council direct the City Manager to request support towards this purchase from the Bedford Community Health Foundation. Council concurred with the Mayor's suggestion.

The motion was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

Discussion continued regarding the following:

- Public Safety Building
- The funding of special interest groups

Councilman Wandrei returned to the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

- The funding of Bedford Main Street, Inc. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the lack of merchant participation, problem with results, and loss of focus by the Main Street Board on the mission as stated by the State Main Street organization. The City Manager, Councilman Wandrei, and the Director of Planning & Community Development will meet with the Executive Committee of Bedford Main Street, Inc., regarding the concerns of Council and the staff.
- Funding of outside agencies

Vice Mayor Messier moved that Council approve the listing of outside agencies funding with the exception of the Free Clinic of Central Virginia, Inc., and the Roanoke River Basin Association. Councilman Tharp seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Messier stated that the understanding is that those on-going items, such as the Library, the Chamber of Commerce, etc., are being removed from the special requests budget.

The motion was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

The City Manager and staff will prepare a policy on the funding of outside agencies.

Council took a break from 2:45 p.m. until 2:50 p.m.

There was discussion regarding:

- Burks Hill Road realignment concepts

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adjourned into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, Section 2.1-344(a)(7) litigation. Roll call vote follows:

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

Mayor Shelton aye

Council adjourned into closed session at 3:10 p.m. Non-Council members attending: City Manager Meadows, City Attorney Berry, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Councilman Wandrei left the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 3:37 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bedford hereby certifies that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. 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

- Discussion ensued regarding raises in salaries for members of Council. The City Manager will conduct a survey on salaries and the City Attorney will review the State Code regarding this matter.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.