

09-25-2001 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., September 25, 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 and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton introduced a visitor from France, Anne-Claude Lebarbey.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of the August 28, 2001, and September 11 regular Council meetings were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reminded Council of the following upcoming events:

Region 2000 Regional Commission Fall Dinner meeting scheduled for October 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Sweet Briar College; City Council Long-Range Planning Retreat scheduled for November 2 and November 3 at Mountain Lake; Jefferson's Assembly is scheduled for September 27 at Poplar Forest at 5:30 p.m.; Centerfest will be held on September 29; Virginia Municipal League Conference will be held October 14-17 in Virginia Beach.

The City Manager reminded Council that the October 9 City Council meeting was cancelled in anticipation of those individuals who would have been on the trip to France. That trip was postponed.

The City Manager stated that the City has been nominated for recognition for special achievement in service to its citizens for its ability to access utility accounts online and may receive an award at the State Information Technology Conference being held in Lexington.

City Manager Meadows reported that the City has received notice from the U.S. Secretary of Defense that the City has received the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This is a national award and is related to the City's support of the National Guard and Reserve. City Officials have been invited to a ceremony at the Pentagon in October.

The City Manager stated that Bedford has been contacted regarding a "twinning" relationship with the USS Normandy, a cruiser ship with the George Washington battle group.

Mr. Meadows indicated that a temporary visitor's center is in place in front of Bedford Elementary School and should be operational with the next three or four weeks.

City Manager Meadows stated the City is considering applying for the All America City Award. A steering committee is being formed and any volunteers can contact the Director of Planning and Community Development.

The City Manager stated the Municipal Building is being repainted and the carpet is being replaced.

Mr. Meadows reported that Mr. Tom Hehman has announced his resignation as Director of the Bedford Public Library System.

The City Manager stated that former Mayor and Council member Bernard W. Saunders passed away earlier in the day and his funeral service will be held on September 27 at 2:00 p.m.

The Mayor spoke regarding the National Freedom Award. The Mayor indicated that the citizens who began the process for nomination for the award were Cary Payne, Assistant Commonwealth Attorney, and Daryl Updike, Police Officer. Mayor Shelton stated on October 11 there will be a ceremony at the Pentagon and in the Rose Garden at the White House. The ceremony may be carried on C-Span.

Mayor Shelton stated that in light of the tragedies of September 11 (the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the airplane hijackings) the City has received condolences from citizens in Great Britain and France.

The Mayor reported that Ivy Bridge, England, would like to establish a twinning relationship with Bedford. Ivy Bridge is the village that was the last home of the Bedford soldiers before they boarded the ship to depart for Normandy in World War II.

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, September 25, 2001, at the City Municipal Building, Council Hall, 215 East Main Street for the purpose of:

.. To consider an amendment to Section 901.02, Temporary Uses and Temporary Buildings, of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations.

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

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

By the Authority of the

City Council of the City of Bedford

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:59 p.m.

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

City Manager Meadows stated the Planning Commission met on September 6, to consider the proposed amendment of Section 901 of the Land Development Regulations dealing with accessory and temporary buildings. The recommendation of the Planning Commission follows:

A. Temporary residential uses –

1. The use is limited to twelve consecutive months. One six-month renewal may be granted if substantial reconstruction of the dwelling has occurred and work has progressed and continues to do so.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Vice Mayor Messier, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission amending Section 901 of the Land Development Regulations.

Mr. Bill Gillespie, Executive Director of the Region 2000 Regional Commission, spoke regarding the following: an overview of the Commission's organization, the services provided, and its goals; what's different about the Commission; the need for continued regional cooperation and why; and what can be done to assure the success of the Commission.

Joanne M. Caldwell, City Treasurer, gave the following report on uncollected taxes:

REAL ESTATE TAX STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2001:

TAX YEAR	ASSESSMENT	UNCOLLECTED	TAX PERCENTAGE COLLECTED
1998-99	\$2,037,089.73	\$ 2,705.24	99.86%
1999-00	\$2,067,132.93	\$11,972.23	99.42%
2000-01	\$2,086,934.46	\$34,664.21	98.38%
		LESS RUBATEX \$13,179.23	99.01%

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2001:

1998	\$1,189,529.96	\$ 6,560.73	99.44%
1999	\$1,239,361.23	\$ 5,693.94	99.54%
2000	\$1,167,131.92	\$270,652.11	76.81%
		LESS RUBATEX \$262,239.91	99.27%

The City Manager stated that October 7 – 13 has been designated as Public Power Week, in which communities across the United States celebrate their commitment to providing public power for their citizens and customers. October is also the month in which the City of Bedford Electric Department celebrates its 102 anniversary as the provider of public power to the community.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council adopted the Proclamation.

The Proclamation follows as adopted:

Public Power Week and Centennial Celebration

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bedford have chosen to operate a community-owned, not-for-profit electric utility; and

WHEREAS, we are both consumers and owners of our public power system and have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bedford Electric Department provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at the lowest possible rates; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bedford Electric Department is part of a community of 2,000 publicly owned electric utilities in the United States that through consumer-ownership ensure cost-cutting competition in the electric utility industry to the benefit of electricity consumers everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Power Association initiated Public Power Week in 1987, and it has proven a successful means to educate our community's consumers and the general public about public power's public service mission and community betterment goals; and

WHEREAS, the City began operation of its municipal electric system in 1899 and has provided our citizens and other customers with reliable, low-cost power for 102 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of October 7 - 13 be designated Public Power Week in order to honor The City of Bedford Electric Department, its consumers-owners, policy makers, and employees, who work together to provide the best possible electric service, and that our community join hands with other public power communities across the nation and celebrate the benefits of public power to our local and national progress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The City of Bedford Electric Department be recognized for the 102 years of service provided to our community by our home-town energy provider.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

