

Minutes 04-09-2002

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., April 9, 2002.

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

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 March 26, 2002, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reported on the following items:

- Members of the staff met with Secretary of Commerce Schewel
- The "Living Liberty" event held recently was very successful.
- The City's application for the All America City award will be submitted this week.
- Upcoming events: interviews of architectural and engineering firms for the permanent visitor center will be held on April 12; Council is invited to the opening day ceremony on April 13 for the Bedford Sports Boosters; Celtic Festival at The Sedalia Center will be held on April 14; Region 2000 Regional Commission spring dinner meeting will be held on April 17; the KBBC Cleanup Day will be held on April 20; Spring Cleanup Week will begin on April 22; community meetings will be held by the Department of Planning & Community Development on April 22 and April 24 to discuss the revisions to the Comprehensive Plan; Elderfest is scheduled for May 3 at the Bedford Moose Lodge.

City Manager Meadows stated that the Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging Board currently has a vacancy on its Board of Directors for the City of Bedford. A member of City Council has traditionally held that Board seat. Mr. D. Keith Cook has volunteered to serve.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the appointment of Mr. Cook to the Board.

The City Manager spoke regarding Governor Warner's proposed amendment to Senate Bill (SB) 592, which would impose a \$5/ton surcharge on solid waste disposal at landfills. The purpose of the fee would be to establish an environmental fund. The City would have to absorb this cost or pass it along to its customers.

It was the consensus of Council that the staff and Mayor address this issue with the members of the General Assembly and the Governor.

The City Manager reported that the Governor signed the Telecommunications Bill (SB245), which allows municipalities to enter into the telecommunications business.

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 Planning Commission at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2002 and by the City Council at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2002, at the City Municipal Building, Council Hall, 215 East Main Street for the purpose of:

- o To consider an amendment of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations, Section 611.02 n. Permitted Uses, to read:

Research and development facilities and corporate offices.

- o To consider an amendment of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations, Section 803 Minimum Yard Requirements, to delete subsection a.

Information regarding these amendments are on file in the office of Planning & Community Development.

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

By the Authority of the Planning Commission

and City Council of the City of Bedford

Mayor Shelton opened the Public Hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Mayor Shelton stated that the first item for the public hearing will not be considered: To consider an amendment of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations, Section 611.02 n. Permitted Uses, to read: Research and development facilities and corporate offices.

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Chief of Police Graham, presented letters of commendation to Sergeant C. L. Nelms, Patrolman M. G. Linton, and Patrolman M. J. Cusumano for their unselfish actions in risking their lives in order to preserve the lives of others on December 25, 2001, in response to a complaint involving an armed individual discharging a firearm into his residence.

On motion by Vice Mayor Messier, seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council accepted the recommendation of the City Planning Commission to amend the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations, Section 803 Minimum Yard Requirements, to delete subsection a.

Marie Gardner gave an update on the America's Promise program. Ms. Gardner reviewed the five promises of the program.

Heather Smith, Program Manager, Lynchburg Junior Achievement, explained the Junior Achievement Program.

The City Manager stated that Section 58.1-3370 of the Code of Virginia provides for the appointment of a Board of Equalization to be composed of not less than three nor more than five members in each tax year immediately following the year a general reassessment is conducted. A notice has been published in the local newspaper requested individuals to serve on this Board, and to date there has been no interest in serving.

The City Manager recommended the following: that Council fix the compensation for the Board of Equalization at \$100 per member per day, with no more than 10 meetings.

On motion by Councilman Brookshier, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously, Council fixed the compensation for the Board of Equalization at \$100 per member per day, with no more than 10 meetings.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.