

7-09-02 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., July 9, 2002.

Members present: Vice Mayor E. Thomas Messier; Councilman Thomas M. Padgett; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman Robert T. Wandrei; and Councilman W. D. Tharp.

Members absent: Mayor G. Michael Shelton and Councilwoman Mary L. Flood.

Staff present: City Manager F. Craig Meadows; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

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

Vice Mayor Messier declared that the minutes of the June 25, 2002, adjourned Council meeting and the minutes of the June 25, 2002, regular Council meeting were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reported on the following items:

- Asked that the Consent Agenda item "Appointment of Member – Recreation Advisory Committee" be moved as the first item under "New Business" for further information to be presented
- He and Rosie Jordan will be attending the Brown, Edwards & Company - 6th Annual Governmental Conference.
- July 24 – the "State of the City/County" address will be held at the Bedford Museum
- The \$3.00 per month recycling fee charge will begin appearing on the July 20 utility bills.
- Fourth of July events very successful – Bedford Main Street raised over \$6,000 in gate receipts, half of which will be donated to the National D-Day Foundation.
- The Dixie Boys State Baseball Tournament for ages 13 and 14 will be held at Liberty Lake Park beginning on July 19.
- Reservoir update: as of July 8, the reservoir was down approximately four inches. The staff feels very comfortable that the City's water supply is in good shape for the summer. An ordinance was adopted in 1999 during a drought which addresses certain conditions and restrictions required for each condition. At this point, condition 1 addresses voluntary water use reduction by the City's water customers. A notice will be sent out in the next utility bills asking for voluntary water use reduction, if endorsed by Council.

- A representative of the Bedford Area Education Foundation contacted the Manager's Office regarding endorsement of the Foundation.

Chief of Police Graham reported that Captain Tony Sullivan has accepted the position of Police Chief in Abingdon, Virginia. The Chief stated that Captain Sullivan would be missed.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried, the Consent Agenda item was moved as the first item under "New Business."

It was determined that as there is an ordinance in place, it was not necessary for Council to endorse the Voluntary Water Use Reduction Notice.

Vice Mayor Messier suggested that the request for endorsement of the Bedford Area Education Foundation be included on the agenda of the next regular Council meeting.

The City Manager stated that there are presently two vacancies on the Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Michael Johnson of 401 West Main Street is willing to serve on this Committee. Since the agenda was distributed, a letter was received from Ms. Glenda Stanley requesting reappointment. The other incumbent on the Committee had verbally expressed interest in being reappointed, but a letter had not been received requesting reappointment.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried, Council appointed Michael Johnson and Glenda Stanley to serve three-year terms on the Recreation Advisory Committee, said terms to expire June 30, 2005.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried, Council appointed Mickey VanDerwerker, Debora Spinner, and William Ross to three-year terms on the City School Board, said terms to expire June 30, 2005.

The City Manager stated that for a number of years, the Bedford City Police Department and law enforcement agencies from surrounding Central Virginia localities operated under informal mutual aid agreements. These mutual aid agreements: 1) helped promote regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies, 2) helped participating jurisdictions provide necessary law enforcement services during emergencies and 3) helped enhance the overall quality of law enforcement services in the Central Virginia area. In 1997, the Virginia General Assembly amended the State Code to authorize law enforcement agencies and localities to enter into formal, written mutual aid agreements. By resolution adopted August 28, 2001, Council approved the City's participation in a written mutual aid agreement. Since that agreement was entered into in 2001, there have been a number of revisions to the State Code. The City Manager stated that it is appropriate at this time to amend the written agreement to reflect these changes.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the Resolution regarding the Mutual Aid Agreement. Roll call vote follows:

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

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, for a number of years the cities, counties and towns in Central Virginia and their law enforcement agencies participated in mutual aid agreements; and

WHEREAS, these mutual aid agreements (a) helped promote regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies (b) helped participating jurisdictions provide necessary law enforcement services during emergencies and (c) helped enhance the overall quality of law enforcement services in Central Virginia;

WHEREAS, the 1997 General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia to authorize law enforcement agencies and local governing bodies to enter into formal written mutual aid agreements; and

WHEREAS, during its 2002 session the General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia to eliminate the requirement that localities are required to have contiguous boundaries in order to participate in mutual aid agreements and this amendment allows all of the localities and law enforcement agencies in Central Virginia to participate in a joint mutual aid agreement; and

WHEREAS, written mutual aid agreements are viewed as a means of improving law enforcement services throughout Central Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, in order to take advantage of the 2002 amendment to the Code of Virginia it would be appropriate for the Bedford City Council to adopt a resolution authorizing the City of Bedford to participate in a mutual aid agreement with the localities and law enforcement agencies in Central Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedford City Council hereby authorizes the City to enter into a written mutual aid agreement which would include as its parties the Amherst County Sheriff's Department, the Appomattox County Sheriff's Department, the Bedford County Sheriff's Department, the Campbell County Sheriff's Department, the Town of Altavista, the Town of Amherst, the Town of Brookneal, and the City of Lynchburg for the joint use of law enforcement forces, both regular and auxiliary, equipment and materials, in order to maintain the peace and good order, and the City Manager is authorized to execute such agreement on behalf of the City of Bedford. This agreement does not in any way affect or negate any other mutual aid agreement, including the City's agreement with the Sheriff of Bedford County.

City Manager Meadows stated that the City's written position on Equal Opportunity needs to be updated on a regular basis. The signed written statement is posted on the City's Legal Posting Board in the Municipal Building.

Councilman Wandrei moved that Council approve the written statement as the City's position on Equal Opportunity. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried.

The statement follows as adopted:

City of Bedford

Equal Opportunity Employer Statement

The City of Bedford is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and hereby affirms that it is the policy of the City to maintain and promote equal opportunity and diversity for all employees, applicants for employment and contractors in accordance with the relevant federal and State Laws.

The City will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, ancestry, or citizenship status.

In support of a diverse workforce, decisions as to hiring, promotion and other aspects of the employment relationship will be based solely upon job related qualifications.

The City will not tolerate any kind of harassment of employees or retaliation against an employee who brings a complaint forward. Allegations of harassment will be taken seriously, promptly investigated, and appropriate action taken depending on the severity of the situation.

Councilman Wandrei encouraged all citizens and businesses to support "D-Day Dollars" prepared and promoted by Danny Johnson.

Vice Mayor Messier adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.