

Minutes 10-25-2002

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the October 22, 2002, regular meeting was held at Mountain Lake, Virginia, at 1:40 p.m., October 25, 2002.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Vice Mayor E. Thomas Messier (arrived at 3:00 p.m.); Councilman Thomas M. Padgett; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; and Councilman W. D. Tharp.

Members absent: Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

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.

The City Manager and members of Council suggested the following items to be discussed at the retreat: Division of Motor Vehicle issue; changing election date (May to November); Council position/statement on state budget issues; education/cooperation with Bedford County; water resources/future sources; solid waste issues/planning; issues with VDOT funding/projects; health insurance issues; impact of state budget cuts on services, education; recycling/other operational challenges; deer management issues/wildlife; public safety concerns with walkers/runners/bike paths; legislative agenda for 2003; day care facility/teen center; possible combination of services with county; electric issues (deregulation,CLEC).

Chief of Police Graham reviewed the results of the deer survey.

Various methods of controlling the deer population were discussed.

Chief Graham gave a presentation regarding controlled hunting at night by authorized personnel, which could be police officers or contracted personnel. The Chief reviewed the costs involved with this program.

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing the controlled kill process for the deer.

There was discussion of citizens having problems with wildlife in the City.

Vice Mayor Messier arrived at the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council appropriated \$10,000 from the unappropriated contingency towards the deer management program, and any useable deer meat is to be donated to Hunters for the Hungry. Roll call vote follows:

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

The City Manager will prepare a press release on the deer management program.

Discussion ensued regarding the public safety facility and the vote by the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department to not be housed in the public safety building.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed as originally planned with the public safety facility; communicate to the Fire Department the importance of their involvement in this; and involve the Public Safety Committee as the City Manager sees necessary during this design discussion relevant to the plans.

The location of the E911 Center was discussed.

Council briefly discussed safety concerns regarding walkers/runners/ bike path.

The Mayor declared a recess from 3:50 p.m. until 4:05 p.m.

The City Manager reported that the City will have a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on November 9, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Recycling Center on Orange Street next to the landfill.

Discussion ensued regarding the closing of the Bedford Division of Motor Vehicles office. Concerns included: hardship for the elderly to drive to Roanoke or Lynchburg, car dealers (titling and registration), effect on revenue stream.

A resolution will be developed addressing this issue. Council may hold a called meeting to adopt the resolution.

Council discussed and supported the Region 2000 Regional Commission's resolution supporting tax reform.

The City staff will develop a resolution supporting tax reform and the City's legislative agenda.

Council discussed the state budget cuts.

It was the consensus of Council that the City Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue develop plans that would reduce their expenditures by the amount of money that was defunded for operations and submit the plans for review.

City Manager Meadows addressed his strategy for dealing with funding reductions:

- reduction/elimination of capital
- reduction/elimination of programs
- "freeze" on filling vacant positions
- reduction of personnel based on service level expectations

The City Manager gave members of Council information on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Discussion ensued regarding activity in the community for establishing a day care facility and a teen center. Mr. Earl Childers is interested in building a day care center in the City. The YMCA is interested in having a teen center established.

The Vice Mayor will meet with the City Manager and Earl Childers about the day care facility.

The City Manager made Council aware that the City has begun the process to rezone parcels fronting Bedford Elementary School from B-2 to PRD.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. on October 26, 2002.