

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 8, 2003.

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

Members absent: Councilwoman Mary L. Flood and Councilman Thomas M. Padgett.

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

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

Mayor Messier declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on June 10, 2003, and the minutes of an adjourned Council meeting held on June 18, 2003, were approved as distributed.

The City Manager asked that the following item be added to the agenda:

Request to Block Streets – Bedford Main Street – “Living Liberty Event”

City Manager Meadows stated that members of Council had been given copies of the following: an article from the Lynchburg News & Advance regarding tax reform and the new Cable TV channel lineup from Charter Communications.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The success of “Libertyfest” and the 4th of July fireworks
- “Living Liberty” event scheduled for the upcoming weekend
- Burks Hill Road neighborhood planning meetings scheduled for July 10 at 7:00 p.m. and July 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.
- The State of the City address is July 16 at 12:00 noon
- Regional 2000 Regional Commission meeting and dinner will held on July 17 in Lynchburg beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- As one of three appointees from Virginia Municipal League to serve on the new Virginia Local Government Finance Corporation, which is a joint venture between VML and VACO to set up a financing program, the City Manager will be attending a meeting in Richmond on July 9.
- Requested that the following item be added to the agenda: Appropriation-Bedford County 250th Anniversary Committee

Councilman Stanley, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening regarding the possible lockdown of the Armory,

which would make it unavailable as a polling place. Ms. Randi Herrick, City Registrar, suggested moving the polling place to Trinity Church. The Committee decided that once the new Public Safety building was built, the polling place would be moved from the Armory to the Public Safety building at that time. Trinity Church will be kept as a backup now and in the future.

Councilman Stanley reported that Roanoke is interested in contracting with the City to shoot their deer. After discussion, the Public Safety Committee agreed to decline that offer.

Councilman Stanley reported that the Public Safety Committee also discussed the suggestion by the City Manager to make the right turn from Longwood Avenue onto Oakwood Street a right turn only. The Committee agreed to implement this on a trial basis.

Councilman Hubbard, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening to consider a request for a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Bedford County 250th Anniversary Committee. The Committee recommended that Council grant the request.

On motion by Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried, the following items were added to the agenda:

Request to Block Streets – Bedford Main Street – “Living Liberty Event”
Appropriation- Bedford County 250th Anniversary Committee

The City Manager reported that the City’s written position on Equal Opportunity should be updated on a regular basis. When approved by Council, the signed written statement is posted on the City’s Legal Posting Board in the Municipal Building. Legal counsel has reviewed and approved the proposed updated Equal Opportunity Employer Statement.

On motion by Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Hubbard, voted upon and carried, Council approved the City of Bedford Equal Opportunity Employer Statement.

The statement follows as approved:

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.

City Manager Meadows reported that the City has received a copy of the Central Virginia Community Services FY 2004 Performance Contract. The staff has reviewed the contract and does agreed that it supports the mission of the CVCS Board in providing mental health, retardation, substance abuse, and prevention services within the City. The staff recommends approval of the performance contract.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried, Council approved the Central Virginia Community Services FY 2004 Performance Contract.

The City Manager reported that Bedford Main Street is requesting a brief street closure on July 12 in conjunction with the "Living Liberty" event. The parade will be held from the City/County Museum to Avenel between 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and would follow East Main Street to Bridge, North Bridge to Bedford Avenue, Bedford Avenue to Avenel Avenue, and Avenel Avenue to Historic Avenel.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Vice Mayor Tharp, voted upon and carried, Council approved Bedford Main Street's request to close the streets.

City Manager Meadows stated that the Bedford County 250th Anniversary Committee has requested that Council appropriate \$5,000 to the Committee to be used in support of its activities for the Bedford County 250th birthday celebration. The Finance Committee did review the request and recommended approval of the appropriation request. The staff recommends that the \$5,000 be appropriated from the unappropriated General Fund contingency to the Bedford County 250th Anniversary Committee.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Vice Mayor Tharp, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council appropriated \$5,000 from the unappropriated General Fund contingency to the Bedford County 250th Anniversary Committee. Roll call vote follows:

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

Vice Mayor Tharp moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hubbard. The motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council adjourned into closed session at 7:45 p.m. The following non-council members attended: City Manager Meadows, City Attorney Berry, and Chief of Police Graham.

Council reconvened into open session at 7:52 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following 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 Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Padgett	absent
Councilman Stanley	aye
Vice Mayor Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye

Councilwoman Flood		absent
Councilman Hubbard		aye
Mayor Messier	aye	

Mayor Messier adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.