

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., August 12, 2003.

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

Members absent: 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 July 22, 2003, were approved as distributed.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- The police accreditation team will begin evaluation of the Police Department on July 24.
- The City is applying for an Enterprise Zone.
- A contract has been signed with Harris Computer Corporation for new utility billing software.
- The Public Safety Building Committee has met several times and has agreed on the space needs for each of the three departments.
- New banners have been installed on the light poles in the downtown area by the Electric Department. The banners were purchased by Bedford Main Street, Inc., and will be changed quarterly. Many compliments have been received on the banners.
- The “Blues & Barbeque” event was held on August 9 and was very successful.
- Centerfest will be held on September 27.
- East Main Street widening project – according to VDOT’s website “Dashboard”, the current completion date is estimated for November.
- Asked Council to be thinking about a date for a Council retreat in October or early November. Mr. Meadows suggested that there be more involvement by the staff at this retreat.

Councilman Wandrei asked if adjustments could be made to the banners in the downtown area as teens are jumping up and hitting them.

The City Manager stated this matter was discussed at the staff meeting earlier in the day. The banners cannot be raised because of interference with the Christmas decorations.

City Manager Meadows will check into whether or not the banners could be installed on the street side of the poles instead of the sidewalk side.

The Mayor asked for an update on the deer control program.

Chief Graham stated the Police Department is in process of contacting the Game Commission to get the authorization to restart the program, which may begin in September.

Ms. Nanci Drake, Director of Tourism, reported that the bid opening for the permanent Welcome Center was held on August 7. Ms. Drake indicated that eight general contractors submitted bids and the apparent low bidder was Coleman Adams.

Ms. Drake also reported that the website has been very successful with many hits and requests for information. Ms. Drake reviewed upcoming events.

Vice Mayor Tharp moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a)(3) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, regarding potential acquisition of real estate and Section 2.2-3711(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, to discuss water/sewer moratorium with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stanley. The motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council adjourned into closed session at 7:59 p.m. The following non-council members attended: City Manager Meadows, City Attorney Berry, Director of Planning & Community Development Warner, and Director of Public Works Gibson.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:52 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 Hubbard	aye
Councilman Padgett	absent
Councilman Stanley	aye
Vice Mayor Tharp	aye
Councilman Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Mayor Messier	aye

Mayor Messier adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.