

Minutes 2003-September-23

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., September 23, 2003.

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

Members absent: Councilman Jeffrey B. Hubbard

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 September 9, 2003, were approved as presented.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Requested that Council add the following items to the agenda: Resolution Declaring Local Emergency; Resolution Ending Local Emergency; and Property Purchase Matter.
- Dates to remember: Centerfest – September 27; NAACP banquet - October 11; Regional Leadership Summit Excursion Train trip – October 15; Regional 2000 Regional Commission fall dinner meeting in Concord, Va. – October 16; Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference in Roanoke – October 19.
- Electric Utility Director Gene Ratzlaff is doing well recovering from a heart attack and surgery and is working part-time.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried, the following items were added to the agenda under New Business:

Resolution Declaring Local Emergency; Resolution Ending Local Emergency; and Property Purchase Matter

Councilman Wandrei announced that volunteers are needed to work at Centerfest.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Vice Mayor Tharp, voted upon and carried, the following agenda items were deferred as Council had just received information regarding these items:

Resolution- Amending Appendix 1 of the Comprehensive Plan
Resolution – Amending Appendix 3 of the Comprehensive Plan
Resolution – Amending the Comprehensive Plan to add an Appendix 4

Mayor Messier indicated that these agenda items would be deferred to the first regular meeting on October.

The Mayor commended the City staff and employees on how the emergency was handed during the recent storm.

City Manager Meadows indicated that he had been in touch with an official from Franklin, Virginia, regarding storm damage.

Councilman Padgett, Chairman of the Property Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening regarding possible acquisition of property and held a closed session.

Mayor Messier opened the public hearings at 7:46 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the City Council at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2003, at the City Municipal Building, Council Hall, 215 East Main Street for the purpose of:

- To consider the amendment of Appendix 3 of the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan
- To consider the amendment of the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan to include the Burks Hill Neighborhood Plan as Appendix 4
- To consider the amendment of Appendix 1 of the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan
- To consider the amendment of Section 602.02 of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations

The City of Bedford is making these requests.

Information regarding these requests is on file in the office of Planning & Community Development.

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

By the Authority of the City Council

As there were no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearings at 7:47 p.m.

Dr. Lisa Syrop, Fluoridation Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Dental Health, recognized the City of Bedford Water Treatment Plant as a national award winning water utility system for successfully maintaining optimal fluoride levels and for meeting Virginia's fluoridation requirements for all 12 months of last year. Dr. Syrop presented the award to Dennis Wood.

Vice Mayor Tharp and the Mayor commended Mr. Wood and the Water Treatment Plant employees for their work.

City Manager Meadows stated that the Planning Commission recommends that City Council amend Section 602.02 of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations as stated in its memorandum dated September 5, 2003. The ordinance has been posted in accordance with Section 2-30 of the City Code.

On motion by Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried, Council waived the reading of the proposed ordinance amending Section 602.02 of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the ordinance amending Section 602.02 of the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations. Roll call vote follows:

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

The ordinance follows as adopted:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 602.02
OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD LAND DEVELOPMENT
REGULATIONS**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BEDFORD, VIRGINIA:**

Section 1. The Land Development Regulations of the City of Bedford, Virginia, are amended by adding the following new provisions:

Section 602 Single Family Residential District R-1

Section 602.02 Conditional uses. The following uses are permitted:

h. Tea rooms (a home occupation offering limited refreshments), provided that off-street parking shall be provided equal to one space per 200 square feet. Off-street parking shall not be provided within the front yard setback and such use shall be in keeping with the residential character of the neighborhood.

Section 2. This ordinance should be effective upon enactment.

The City Manager stated that Article IV, Section 6 of the Virginia Municipal League's Constitution deems the Mayor as the voting delegate for the purpose of voting upon matters considered by an annual or special meeting of the League. In lieu of the Mayor, localities may designate another official as an alternate voting delegate to vote on behalf of the member.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried, Council designated Mayor Messier as the voting delegate and City Manager Meadows as the alternate voting delegate for the purpose of voting upon matters considered by an annual or special meeting of the Virginia Municipal League.

City Manager Meadows reported that October 5-11 has been designated as Public Power Week, in which communities across the United States celebrate their commitment to providing public power for their citizens and customers. October is also the month in which the City of Bedford Electric Department celebrates its 104th anniversary as the provider of public power to the community.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

Public Power Week

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bedford have chosen to operate a community-owned, not-for-profit electric utility; and

WHEREAS, we are both consumers and owners of our public power system and have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bedford Electric Department provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at the lowest possible rates; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bedford Electric Department is part of a community of 2,000 publicly owned electric utilities in the United States that through consumer-ownership ensure cost-cutting competition in the electric utility industry to the benefit of electricity consumers everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Power Association initiated Public Power Week in 1987, and it has proven a successful means to educate our community's consumers and the general public about public power's public service mission and community betterment goals; and

WHEREAS, the City began operation of its municipal electric system in 1899 and has provided our citizens and other customers with reliable, low-cost power for 104 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of October 5 – 11, 2003, be designated *Public Power Week* in order to honor The City of Bedford Electric Department, its consumers-owners, policy makers, and employees, who work together to provide the best possible electric service, and that our community join hands with other public power communities across the nation and celebrate the benefits of public power to our local and national progress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The City of Bedford Electric Department be recognized for the 104 years of service provided to our community by our home-town energy provider.

On motion by Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the proclamation. Roll call vote follows:

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

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2003, the City of Bedford was in the path of a hurricane causing extensive flooding and wind damage as it tracked through other localities in North Carolina and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the storm had the potential to cause downing of power lines, structural damage to buildings and flooding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford found it necessary to be prepared and have all of its resources ready in order to respond to any emergency caused by the storm; and

WHEREAS, the storm did cause considerable to the City's electrical system in parts of Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, E. Thomas Messier, found it necessary to declare a local emergency in order to deal with the situation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, that the declaration of local emergency made by the Mayor on September 18, 2003, be and it hereby is confirmed.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Vice Mayor Tharp, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

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

The Clerk read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2003, the City of Bedford was in the path of a hurricane causing extensive flooding and wind damage as it tracked through other localities in North Carolina and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the storm had the potential to cause downing of power lines, structural damage to buildings and flooding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford found it necessary to be prepared and have all of its resources ready in order to respond to any emergency caused by the storm; and

WHEREAS, the storm did cause considerable to the City's electrical system in parts of Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, E. Thomas Messier, found it necessary to declare a local emergency in order to deal with the situation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford has restored services to those customers who lost electrical services during the storm;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, that the declaration of local emergency made by the Mayor on September 18, 2003, has ended.

On motion by Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

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

The City Manager stated the City has made an offer to purchase property located at 1001 Bell Town Road, Tax Parcel #13000200 on the Land Records of Bedford County, Virginia, approximately a 1.3 acre tract, contingent upon Council approval. The offer to purchase price is \$20,000. The Property Committee met earlier in the evening and approved presenting this item to Council.

City Manager Meadows requested that Council authorize the purchase of the said property for \$20,000 and that the funds to purchase the property be appropriated from the General Fund unappropriated contingency and transferred to the Solid Waste Fund.

On motion by Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council authorized the purchase of property located at 1001 Bell Town Road, Tax Parcel #13000200 on the Land Records of Bedford County, Virginia, approximately a 1.3 acre tract for \$20,000 and designated that the funds to purchase the property be appropriated from the General Fund unappropriated contingency and transferred to the Solid Waste Fund. Roll call vote follows:

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

Mayor Messier adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.