

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:35 p.m., March 22, 2005.

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

Members absent: Mayor E. Thomas Messier

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

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

Vice Mayor Tharp declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on March 8, 2005, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Meadows asked Council to approve the following changes to the agenda:

- Add under New Business: Appointment of Planning Commission Members
- Move agenda item *Presentation – Bedford American Red Cross* from the seventh presentation item to the first presentation item

The City Manager reported on the following items:

- Members of Council had been given copies of the newest edition of the Handbook for Virginia Mayors and Council Members
- A candidate for appointment to the City School Board was contacted and that candidate declined to be considered for appointment.
- Ongoing renovation of Centertown Park – several of the trees have been removed – expressed appreciation to the Electric and Public Works Departments in removing the trees
- There will be a public meeting on April 21 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposed east side (i.e. Independence Boulevard) master plan.
- Opening Day Ceremony – softball/baseball at Liberty Lake Park – April 9 at 10:00 a.m.
- City Council Retreat – May 2 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bedford Area Welcome Center

Councilman Padgett, Chairman of the Streets Committee, stated that Streets Committee reviewed the paving schedule and passed the schedule back to the staff.

The City Manager stated the paving schedule will be placed out to bid.

On motion by Councilman Hubbard, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried, Council approved the suggested changes to the agenda.

The public hearing notice follows:

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing to be held by the City Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, to be held in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building at 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia, on March 22, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., to consider the following ordinances:

1. An ordinance pursuant to Virginia Code Section 24.2-222.1 amending the City Code to add a new section providing for City Council elections to take place on the date of the November general elections in even-numbered years beginning in 2006.

2. An ordinance amending City Code Section 1-9 (b) to provide that the polling place for Ward Two shall be the Bedford Area Welcome Center located at 816 Burks Hill Road, Bedford, Virginia. A description and map of the proposed polling place change is available in the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours.

3. An ordinance creating a Central Absentee Precinct pursuant to Virginia Code Section 24.2-712 to be located at the Bedford Area Welcome Center located at 816 Burks Hill Road, Bedford, Virginia.

Individuals, whether in favor of or opposed to the ordinances, will have an opportunity to express their views at this hearing.

Vice Mayor Tharp opened the public hearing regarding Council elections at 7:41 p.m. As there were no comments, the Vice Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Vice Mayor Tharp opened the public hearing regarding changing the polling place for Ward II at 7:42 p.m. As there were no comments, the Vice Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

Vice Mayor Tharp opened the public hearing regarding the creation of a Central Absentee Precinct at 7:43 p.m. As there were no comments, the Vice Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried, Council appointed Mr. Tommy Reynolds to a four-year term on the City Planning Commission, said term expiring March 31, 2009.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried, Council appointed Mr. Jaimeson English to a four-year term on the City Planning Commission, said term expiring March 31, 2009.

On motion by Councilman Stanley, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried (five members voting aye, one member voting nay (Wandrei), one member absent, Council appointed Ms. Charlene McFall to a four-year term on the City Planning Commission, said term expiring March 31, 2009.

Mr. Skip Stanley of Advanced Voting Solutions gave a demonstration of the new voting equipment that has been selected for use by the City Electoral Board.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the cost of the equipment and demonstrations of the new equipment for the voters.

On motion by Councilwoman Flood, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried, Council waived the reading of the proposed ordinance changing the date of City Council Elections.

On motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the proposed ordinance regarding changing the date of City Council Elections. Roll call vote follows:

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

The ordinance follows as adopted:

**ORDINANCE NO. 05-5**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1 OF THE CODE  
OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD BY ADDING THEREIN A  
NEW NUMBERED SECTION, SECTION 1-12, THAT PROVIDES  
FOR CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE  
ON THE DATE OF THE NOVEMBER GENERAL  
ELECTION IN EVEN NUMBERED YEARS BEGINNING IN 2006**

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

Section 1. Chapter 1 of the City of Bedford is hereby amended by enacting a new Section 1-12 as follows:

Section 1-12. Election of City Council at November General Elections in even numbered years.

(a) Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 24.2-222.1 and the provisions of City Charter Section 8 and Virginia Code Section 24.2-222, (i) three members of the Council shall be elected at the November General Election in November 2006 for four-year terms commencing on January 1, 2007, and the election for such office shall be held at four-year intervals thereafter at the November General Election; and (ii) four members of the Council shall be elected at the November General Election in November 2008 for four-year terms commencing on January 1, 2009, and the election for such offices shall be held at four-year intervals thereafter.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 24.2-222.1(c) members of the City Council whose terms expire on June 30, 2006 shall continue in office until their successors have been elected at the November 2006 General Election and have been qualified to serve, and members of the City Council whose terms expire on June 30, 2008 shall continue in office until their successors have been elected at the November 2006 General Election in 2008 and have been qualified to serve.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2005, and only upon approval by the United States Department of Justice. If such approval is received on or before July 1, 2005, the Ordinance shall take effect upon July 1, 2005. If such approval is received after July 1, 2005, such ordinance shall take effect only upon the date of approval by the United States Department of Justice and only if such approval is received at least 60 days prior to the general election on November 8, 2005.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried, Council waived the reading of the proposed ordinance changing the polling place for Ward II.

On motion by Councilman Stanley, seconded by Councilwoman Flood, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the proposed ordinance changing the polling place for Ward II. Roll call vote follows:

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

The ordinance follows as adopted:

**ORDINANCE NO. 05-6**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1-9 OF THE  
BEDFORD CITY CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
POLLING PLACE OF WARD TWO (2) SHALL BE  
THE BEDFORD AREA WELCOME CENTER  
LOCATED AT 816 BURKS HILL ROAD,  
BEDFORD, VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS**, the City is divided into two (2) wards for election purposes, Ward 1 consisting of the area north of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and Ward 2 consisting of the area south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Tracks; and

**WHEREAS**, the polling place for Ward 2 is currently the National Guard Armory located at 29A Omaha Beach Circle, Bedford, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the increased role of National Guard Units and National Defense, including the activation of the Bedford National Guard Company and its deployment to Afghanistan, there is more probability of conflicts in use of the Bedford National Guard Armory as a voting precinct; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bedford Electoral Board has recommended that the polling place for Ward 2 be moved from the National Guard Armory to the new Bedford Area Welcome Center on Burks Hill Road;

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

Section 1. Section 1-9 of the City Code is hereby amended  
and reenacted as follows:

**Sec. 1-0. City wards and polling places.**

The city is hereby divided into two (2) wards, as required by Section 5.1-999 of the Code of Virginia, whose boundaries are as follows:

(a) Ward one shall consist of all of that area of the city lying north of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks to the corporate limits. The polling place for ward one shall be the Bedford Public Library, located at 321 North Bridge Street.

(b) Ward two shall consist of all of that area of the city lying south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks to the corporate limits. The polling place for ward two shall be the Bedford Area Welcome Center, located at 816 Burks Hill Road.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2005, and only upon approval by the United States Department of Justice. If such approval is received on or before July 1, 2005, the Ordinance shall take effect upon July 1, 2005. If such approval is received after July 1, 2005, such ordinance shall take effect only upon the date of approval by the United States Department of Justice and only if such approval is received at least 60 days prior to the general election on November 8, 2005.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried, Council waived the reading of the proposed ordinance creating a central absentee precinct.

On motion by Councilwoman Flood, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the proposed ordinance creating a central absentee precinct. Roll call vote follows:

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

The ordinance follows as adopted:

**ORDINANCE NO. 05-7**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A CENTRAL ABSENTEE PRECINCT  
PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 24.2-712  
AT THE BEDFORD AREA WELCOME CENTER  
LOCATED AT 816 BURKS HILL ROAD**

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

Section 1. Chapter 1 of the City Code is amended by adding a new Section numbered 1-13 as follows:

### Section 1-13. Central Absentee Voter Precinct

(a) Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 24.2-712, there shall be a Central Absentee Voter Precinct located at the Bedford Area Welcome Center on Burks Hill Road for the purposes of receiving, counting and recording absentee ballots cast in the City of Bedford. The Central Absentee Voter Precinct shall be used for all elections.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2005, and only upon approval by the United States Department of Justice. If such approval is received on or before July 1, 2005, the Ordinance shall take effect upon July 1, 2005. If such approval is received after July 1, 2005, such ordinance shall take effect only upon the date of approval by the United States Department of Justice and only if such approval is received at least 60 days prior to the general election on November 8, 2005.

City Manager Meadows indicated that at the January 25, 2005, Council meeting, the City's consultant gave a presentation on the proposed electric rates to be effective with the April 2005 bills. The new rates will increase approximately 19.8% in all tariff classes as a result of an increase of 61% in the cost of wholesale power. Mr. Meadows stated that Council adopted the electric rate increase at that meeting. Mr. Meadows explained that the new electric tariffs incorporating the increase in the electric rates need to be adopted by Council.

On motion by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried, Council approved the new electric tariffs reflecting the new rates, effective April 1, 2005.

The following individuals gave presentations regarding FY 2005-06 budget requests for their organizations:

- Bedford American Red Cross (Safe Haven Program) – Chairman of the Bedford County Chapter of the American Red Cross - \$17,500. Others who spoke in favor of the Safe Haven Program: President of the Kawanis Club of Bedford, Camille Stevens, Safe Haven Coordinator; parents and children in the program.
- Habitat for Humanity, Warren Opitz, President - \$4,500
- Bedford Ride - Ira Doom - \$15,000
- Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. - John Whitfield, Executive Director - \$1,160
- Bedford Lifesaving and First Aid Crew – Freda Easterly, President - \$22,000
- Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce – Lee Ann Car, Executive Director - \$5,000
- Bedford City/County Museum – Nancy Fitzgerald - \$26,000 operational grant and \$20,000 curator grant. Ms. Eleanor English, Board of Directors, also spoke and asked for Council's support.

- Bedford Area YMCA – Mary Jo Boone, Executive Director, \$25,000

Vice Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.