

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the regular Council meeting of April 26, 2005, was held at the Bedford Area Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m., May 2, 2005.

Members present: Mayor E. Thomas Messier; 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: None

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.

The purpose of the meeting was for discussion of the proposed FY 2005-06 City budget.

The following department heads reviewed various items in the budgets for each of their departments and spoke on the following topics:

Barbara Parker, Director of Human Resources, employee health insurance

Rosie Jordan – Director of Finance, purchasing cards

James Ervin – Information Technology, wireless network

Zeph Cunningham – Acting Fire Chief, ladder truck replacement

Randy Nixon, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries, perpetual care fund for cemeteries

Clarke W. Gibson, Director of Public Works, sidewalk construction

City Manager Meadows reported that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has funds available on a one to one match up to one million dollars. The City Manager stated that he has asked Mr. Warner and Mr. Gibson to compile a list of projects that may qualify for funding. Mr. Meadows stated this may be an item that Council should further discuss, even if the City had to borrow the money to make that match.

It was the consensus of Council to approve participation in the VDOT funding program and review the list of suggested projects being prepared by City staff.

Councilman Wandrei suggested that the naming of items in the budget be consistent in all sections of the budget.

Mayor Messier declared a break from 10:05 a.m. until 10:25 a.m.

The following departments heads spoke following the break:

Gene Ratzlaff, Electric Utility Director, new electric department building plans - going out to bid by the end of May; peak generator

Joanne M. Caldwell, Treasurer, elimination of vehicle decals and adding fee to personal property taxes – savings approximate \$3,000

Brenda A. Daniel, Commissioner of the Revenue, elimination of vehicle decals – no savings in the Commissioner’s office

Bart Warner, Director of Planning & Community Development, completion of GIS

Nanci Drake, Director of Tourism, reviewed reasons for increases in Tourism budget

Elizabeth Berry-Mosley, new businesses, natural gas

Scott Smith, Main Street Director, Community Development Block Grant project, expansion of the Centertown designation

City Manager Meadows, spoke regarding the Police Department as Chief Graham was unable to attend the meeting: salary and benefits increase due to eight new positions in the Police Department

Clarke W. Gibson, Director of Public Works, landfill composting facility, Rt. 460 West water line, inflow & infiltration progress.

The Mayor declared a recess for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

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, real estate. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council adjourned into closed session at 1:01 p.m. The following non-council members attended: City Manager Meadows, City Attorney Berry, Director of Finance Jordan, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Cemeteries Nixon, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 2:05 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 Councilman Stanley, seconded by Councilman Padgett, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. 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	aye

Members of Council asked questions regarding items in the budget.

Mayor Messier directed the Finance Committee to review the proposals to perform the reassessment of real estate and report back to Council with a recommendation.

It was the consensus of Council to eliminate funding in the proposed budget for Bedford Community Health Foundation.

The City Manager will prepare information regarding the Travel and Training line items in the budget.

City Manager Meadows spoke regarding the Public Safety Building. Mr. Meadows suggested that the Public Safety Committee or Council review the plans and status of the project. The City Manager stated that project might have to be completed in phases due to funding.

The City Manager will find out why water and electric services are being provided to the City animal shelter when no animals are being housed there.

It was the consensus of Council to defer discussion of the Public Safety Building until a later time.

It was the consensus of Council to eliminate funding in the proposed budget in the amount of \$3,000 for landscaping at Bedford Elementary School.

It was the consensus of Council to move funding for the D-Day Memorial Foundation to “Funding for Outside Agencies” and include funds in the amount of \$20,000 (for reduction of debt).

The City Manager stated that Bedford Main Street is asking that the salary of the Main Street Director be increased. Mr. Meadows stated that the Director’s salary is included in the budget at the same level of increase as City employees. Council made no change to the Director’s salary as listed in the proposed budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the increase in the solid waste budget due to the old City landfill situation.

It was the consensus of Council to increase the residential monthly refuse collection fee from \$10.00 to \$13.00.

Discussion ensued regarding problems with the dumpster behind the Municipal Building.

Council took a break from 3:10 p.m. until 3:25 p.m.

The City Manager and staff will review increasing commercial refuse collection rates by 10% to 15%.

It was the consensus of Council to include funding in the proposed budget for Outside Agencies as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>proposed funding</u>
• The ARC of Central Virginia	0
• Bedford American Red Cross	\$ 17,500
• Bedford Area Family YMCA-Bldg	0
• Bedford Chamber of Commerce	5,000
• Bedford City/County Museum	27,500
• Bedford’s Promise (America’s Promise)	0
• Bedford Ride Program	10,000
• Bedford Habitat for Humanity	3,000
• Bedford Life Saving & First Aid Crew	20,000
• Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.	0
• CASA of Central Virginia	0
• Central VA Agency on Aging	9,000

• Central VA Community Services	10,000
• D-Day Memorial Foundation (for retirement of debt)	20,000
• Lynchburg Area Center For Independent Living	0
• Transdominion Express	0
• Wharton Gardens	7,500
• What's Next Organization	0

Discussion ensued regarding the request from the Fire Department for funding for a new ladder truck. Members of Council requested further information on the cost of refurbishing the ladder truck currently in service and if Bedford County would appropriate funds for the purchase of a new ladder truck.

There was discussion concerning various items in the Capital Improvement budget that included: office furniture, security at the Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants, extension of sewer lines in the City and County.

The City Manager reported that the proposed budget has a 2-½ percent cost of living increase and a 2-½ percent merit increase for City employees. Mr. Meadows reviewed pay increases in surrounding jurisdictions. The City Manager reviewed health insurance costs for City employees.

The City Manager stated if Council is considering making any changes to the proposed cost of living and merit increases, he would suggest that Council make changes to the way health insurance is funded.

City Manager Meadows reviewed the following suggested schedule regarding the proposed budget: May 10, work session following the regular Council meeting; May 24, public hearing; adoption of the budget, June 14 or June 28.

The City Manager stated a summary of changes in the proposed budget will be presented at the next work session.

Mayor Messier adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.