

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., December 12, 2006.

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 Charles P. Kolakowski; 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 November 28, 2006, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Kolakowski spoke regarding the following:

- The annual Christmas parade was very successful with 168 entries, only one injury and a few minor glitches with the traffic. Later that afternoon it was learned that Nanci Drake, Tourism Director, had passed away. Mr. Kolakowski stated that she will be missed deeply by the City and the staff.
- The Chief of Police has been successful in having grant funds for police related duties reallocated and the funds will be utilized for the formation and training of police patrols on bicycles. It is projected to have the bicycle patrols start in the spring of 2007.

Gary Cristy, Region 2000, thanked Mayor Messier for his service on the Region 2000 Local Government Council and the Region 2000 Economic Development Council during the last several years. Mr. Cristy read aloud a resolution adopted by the Region 2000 Local Government Council in appreciation of Mayor Messier's service.

Vice Mayor Tharp read aloud the following proclamation:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, E. Thomas Messier has served the City of Bedford with distinction as a member of City Council for 18 years and as Mayor for over 7 years; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his particular talent in building bridges, the City of Bedford has enjoyed mutually beneficial relations and prosperity with its neighbors and within the region, as well as gained recognition beyond its borders and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Messier has expanded citizens' international awareness by his involvement in the Bedford International Alliance and International Twinning Relationships with eleven Omaha Beach villages in France, Woburn England and Ivybridge England; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Messier has helped demonstrate to the Commonwealth of Virginia the benefits of regional cooperation through the historic Joint Revenue Sharing Agreement with Bedford County and through his leadership in the Region 2000 Regional Commission and in Region 2000 Workforce Investment Council; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Messier has enhanced opportunities for all citizens through continuing efforts in planning, economic development, tourism, education and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Messier has truly protected and served the families and youth of this community through his commitment to voluntarism and his participation in community groups dedicated to serving the less-fortunate citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Messier was a key player in the rebirth and revitalization of Centertown and the establishment of the City of Bedford as one of the first five Main Street Cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the members of Bedford City Council, past and present, who have served with Mayor Messier wish to state and reflect their deep respect and their pleasure at having had an opportunity to serve and work with Mayor Messier;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City of Bedford recognizes E. Thomas Messier for his tireless efforts on behalf of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Vice Mayor of the City of Bedford on behalf of all the citizens of the City of Bedford honor and thank Mayor Messier and his family for their tremendous effort and personal sacrifice for the well-being of the City of Bedford.

Mayor Messier stated the accomplishments are not the work of one person as it takes a team and during all the years he has served on Council there has always been an excellent team sitting on Council. The Mayor expressed his thanks for the proclamation.

Mayor Messier stated the joint tourism concept was the creation of City Council and the Bedford County Board of Supervisors, but the driving force behind it was Nanci Drake. The Mayor said that Ms. Drake was the one that picked the location of the Welcome Center; she was the one that really controlled what the building looked like; she was the

one that got the antique fire engine to be on display at the Center; and she was the one that got the wing utilizing the memorabilia from Bedford's sister cities in England and in France and the USS Normandy. The Mayor suggested that it would be a pleasant tribute if the City and the County look into creating a portrait of Nanci to hang in the Welcome Center.

Councilman Hubbard, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Committee met earlier in the evening to discuss repairs to Gold Street, reviewed the General Fund statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and the General Fund balance, and also received a report on the Solid Waste Transfer Station hauling and disposal contract.

It was the consensus of Council to add the following item as the second item under "New Business:" Contract – Waste Management Systems and Thompson trucking.

City Manager Kolakowski stated it is the City's intent for the Comprehensive Plan to be an accurate and current representation of the City's policy at any given time. To that end, the Planning Commission and staff have reviewed the present document and noted specific changes that are necessary to maintain its currency. The City Manager reported the Planning Commission met on December 7, 2006, and recommended that Council amend the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan as stated in its memorandum dated December 8, 2006.

Mayor Messier waived the reading of the proposed resolution amending the Comprehensive Plan.

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

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

The resolution follows as adopted:

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD
AMENDING THE CITY OF BEDFORD
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford, Virginia (the "City") is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia exercising public

and essential governmental functions pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia requires that local governments adopt and update every five years a comprehensive plan in order to best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bedford adopted an updated version of the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan on January 28, 2003;

WHEREAS, the City's intent is for the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan to be an accurate and current representation of the City's policy at any given time; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on December 7, 2006, held a public hearing and recommended the attached amendments to the City of Bedford Comprehensive Plan,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia that APPENDIX 3 OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN be amended this 12th day of December 2006.

The amendments to the Comprehensive Plan referred to in the previous resolution follow:

**RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
SUBMITTED BY STAFF TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION
DECEMBER 7, 2006**

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Current: The City is currently developing engineering plans to serve the first priority revenue sharing zone – 460 East - with public water. This project is scheduled for completion by the end of 2002.

Proposed: *Public water has been implemented within the first priority revenue sharing zone (460 East).*

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Current: The 460 East corridor extension, which was identified as the first priority, is scheduled for completion by the end of 2002.

Proposed: *The 460 East corridor extension, which was identified as the first priority, has been completed.*

Current: The City's landfill should reach capacity in 5 years.

Proposed: A solid waste transfer station is under construction which is part of a regional effort. The transfer station is expected to extend the lifespan of the current City landfill's capacity by approximately 12 years.

Pages 32-34 (Law Enforcement)

Proposed changes to this section are attached separately.

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Current: For the fiscal year 2001-02, the City of Bedford had total revenues of \$31,336,842 and total expenditures of \$30,305,576, with a contingency fund of \$1,031,266. Table XVI summarizes the City's FY 2001-02 Budget.

Real estate tax is based on 100% of fair market value and is levied at \$0.80 per \$100 in value.

Proposed: For the fiscal year 2006-07, the City of Bedford budgeted total revenues of \$44,996,872 and total expenditures of \$43,899,958, with a contingency fund of \$1,096,914.

Real estate tax is based on 100% of fair market value and is levied at \$0.81 per \$100 in value.

[Delete Table XVI]

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Current: 9. Develop and implement regulations designed to protect the area around Bedford Elementary School, the National D-Day Memorial, and adjacent residential development along Burks Hill Road.

Proposed: [This task has been completed. Therefore, this section can be deleted.]

Law Enforcement

The City of Bedford Police Department has a staff of 28 sworn officers consisting of the Chief of Police, a Captain, a Lieutenant and 4 Sergeants. This also includes 4 investigators, an animal control officer, and 16 patrol officers, two of which are assigned as school resource officers. This provides a ratio of one officer per 239 Bedford City residents. The Police Department also has a support staff consisting of one administrative assistant, one records clerk, two part-time crossing guards, and one emergency management planner/training coordinator. Each sworn member of the Department meets or exceeds the training standards as established by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

The Police Department's administrative offices are located in the lower level of the City Municipal Building. The office is open weekdays from 8:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. The City and County joint communications center is a state-of-the-art Enhanced-9-1-1 dispatching facility located in Bedford County on Falling Creek Road. The operating costs for the center

are shared by the City and County of Bedford. The communications center dispatches calls for police, fire, and emergency medical response. There is a push-to-talk telephone located in the Department's foyer which allows citizens to contact the 9-1-1 center anytime the Department's offices are closed.

Firearms training is conducted at the Police Department's training facility located on Orange Street adjoining the landfill. The facility has a 100-yard range with concrete walkways. A metal building on the property serves as a storage area and may also be used for small class training. Several other law enforcement agencies use the range and contribute toward its maintenance. The Bedford Police Department is a member of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Training Academy, one of nine regional Department of Criminal Justice Services certified training academies. Many of our state mandated and specialized training classes are received at this facility in Salem, VA. Several officers from the Police Department are part-time instructors at the academy teaching such courses as firearms, defensive tactics, radar operation and state code.

In 2005, the Bedford Police Department responded to 6140 calls for service, a 22.3% increase since 2001. Of these, 2393 were related to criminal complaints, a 41.1% increase over the 2001 numbers. In addition, 261 traffic crashes were investigated, 1812 traffic citations were issued and a total of 1693 parking citations were written during 2005. 490 animal related complaints were received in 2005. The City has an agreement with Bedford County regarding the operation of the animal shelter which is located at 1307 Falling Creek Road.

The 2005 Crime in Virginia publication lists a total of 593 Group A* offenses reported in the City of Bedford. Group A offenses include such crimes as Robbery, Homicide, Larceny, Assault, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Burglary as well as 18 other types of crime. 8 Robberies, 1 Homicide, 148 Larcenies, 158 Assaults, 3 Motor Vehicle Thefts, and 16 Burglaries were among those crimes reported to the Police Department. The Department made 729 arrests for Group A offenses in 2005.

Group B** offenses include Driving under the Influence, Drunk in Public, and Bad Checks as well as a number of other offenses. Bedford Police made 912 arrests for Group B crimes in 2005. This resulted in a total of 1641 arrests for Group A and Group B crimes by Bedford Police.

There are a number of crime prevention initiatives and programs offered by the Police Department. Among them are Neighborhood Watch programs, Business Watch, home security checks and a variety of traffic safety related programs. The Department has one officer that has received certified crime prevention officer status through the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Police Department also is involved in teaching the gang resistance program (G.R.E.A.T.) in the elementary school. During the summer, the Department, along with Bedford Sheriff's Department, participates in the "Great Summer Cop Camp" which is one week long and this year provided instruction for 88 students.

The Police Department is housed in the Municipal Building at 215 E. Main St. and has outgrown its facilities. Additional space is a significant need. Updated security for the building is also a concern. A review of building security is currently being undertaken with recommendations to be made regarding limiting free access while still addressing needs related to disabled persons.

Community policing is a well known process of policing, part of which is referred to as problem solving. Problem-solving policing is a method whereby officers, through crime analysis techniques and crime prevention surveys, determine those areas or problems that are repetitive in nature. The officer then determines how best to address or correct that problem through use of City or State codes and by collaboration with citizens and other municipal departments. The goal is to develop a long-term solution for problems that affect our communities.

An especially important part of the community policing process is citizen involvement. Citizens need to feel they are a part of the solution to crime issues in their neighborhood. Building a trust relationship between police and citizens is essential to a successful community policing program. One means by which a Police Department builds this trust is simply through regular casual contact with citizens who currently are not in immediate need of police services. Having officers periodically getting out of their vehicle for foot or bike patrol, conducting crime prevention surveys in a neighborhood or downtown area, and attending neighborhood watch meetings, are some of the ways officers meet and converse with the citizenry and build the rapport that is fundamental to the success of community policing.

Modern, technologically advanced equipment is also necessary for effective and efficient policing. Routine updating of computers, surveillance equipment, weaponry and vehicles are crucial to combat an increasingly well-trained and well-equipped criminal element. Identity theft, gang infiltration and terrorist activity are all crimes that have recent development but are becoming more commonplace. Up-to-date training to fight these new crimes and to maintain standards is a primary need to ensure that officers are competently prepared. Leadership training for upper level police staff should be utilized as well as community policing techniques for all police employees.

Currently, the Basic Training Academy is 20 weeks long. Training and equipping a new officer is an expensive investment for the City, so it is

wise use of resources to retain trained officers. Competition for new and certified officers is very intense, so the City must make every effort to maintain their current competitive salary and benefit structure to attract quality personnel and retain Police personnel.

*Group A offenses consists of arson, assault, bribery, burglary, counterfeiting/forgery, destruction/damage/vandalism of property, drug/narcotic offenses, embezzlement, extortion/blackmail, fraud offenses, gambling offenses, homicide, kidnapping/abduction, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, pornography/obscene material, prostitution offenses, robbery, sex offenses, stolen property offenses, and weapons violations.

**Group B offenses consists of bad checks, curfew/loitering/vagrancy, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drunk in public, non-forcible family offenses, liquor law violations, peeping tom, runaway, trespass of real property, conspiracy, and all other (less traffic).

The City Manager stated there is the need to award contracts for solid waste transport and disposal. The Director of Public Works has received and negotiated agreements with two companies to haul and dispose of the solid waste generated by the City. Mr. Kolakowski stated that Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to enter into the proposed unit price contract for one year with Waste Management and Thompson Hauling for the disposal of solid waste.

On motion by Vice Mayor Tharp, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to enter into the contract as described. Roll call vote follows:

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

As it was Mayor Messier's last Council meeting, he thanked the City staff and Council members for their support over the last 18 years.

Mayor Messier adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.