

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the regular meeting of April 24, 2007, was held in the Bedford Welcome Center at 9:00 a.m., May 2, 2007.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Jeffrey B. Hubbard; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman Thomas M. Padgett; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor 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 Tharp opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The purpose of the meeting was for discussion of the proposed FY 2007-08 City budget.

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

Valerie Wilson, Commissioner of the Revenue, reduced expenditures, revenue stagnant

Debbie Roberts, Treasurer, rising cost of supplies and postage; set-off debt - has the potential to bring in a lot of delinquent accounts; the increase in electric cutoffs

Mayor Tharp suggested that the City allow prepayment of grave opening expenses.

The City Manager stated he will study the development of a program and make a presentation to Council at a later date.

Randy Nixon, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries, increase in cemetery fees; maintenance issues; middle school activities after school program; columbarium

Mayor Tharp stated he is opposed to the twenty percent increase in cemetery fees.

Linda Exley, Main Street Director, mission of the Main Street organization to focus on economic development; reviewed new businesses; activities and festivals

Corey Crompton – Information Technology, maintenance of systems; high speed Internet

Russell Stevens, Fire Chief, the increase in number of calls received last year; increases in expenditures such as communications, electricity, gasoline,

insurance; the need for the best equipment; ladder truck estimated delivery date – September or October.

Council took a break from 10:13 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

The following departments heads spoke following the break:

James Day, Chief of Police, new organizational chart of Police Department; patrol cars; deer status; bicycle program

Bart Warner, Director of Planning & Community Development, new construction; Community Development Block Grant applications for improvements in Centertown – Washington and Depot Streets, and King Street; demolitions; GIS

Gene Ratzlaff, Electric Utility Director, CIP's; City Industrial Park new substation; transmission line; load growth in the eastern side of the City; concern with hot spot at the Orange Street substation

Clarke W. Gibson, Director of Public Works, Stoney Creek spillway upgrade; Route 460 West joint economic development area water and sewer project; sewer line extension and new pump station to serve the Little Otter River Business Park off of Route 221; Region 2000 Services Authority; Fourth Street storm drain replacement project; storm water improvement projects; rebuilding Gold Road; old Grammar School; middle school kitchen floor

Rosie Jordan, Director of Finance, employee wellness program; cost of County services; Sheriff's Department costs

The City Manager expressed appreciation to the department heads, Rosie Jordan, and Bart Warner for their preparation of the proposed budget.

The Mayor declared a recess for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

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

Mayor Tharp stated the staff will do a comparability study of what city councils and their staffs are paid and bring back a recommendation to Council.

The City Manager spoke of methods to determine the amount of funds for Outside Agencies.

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>
• Bedford American Red Cross	\$ 15,000
• Bedford Area Family YMCA-Bldg	5,000
• Bedford Chamber of Commerce	5,000
• Bedford City/County Museum	7,500
• Bedford Christian Free Clinic *(one time start up donation)	*5,000
• Bedford Community Orchestra *(auditorium improvements)	*8,000
• Bedford Ride Program	15,000
• Bedford Habitat for Humanity	3,000
• Bedford Life Saving & First Aid Crew	22,000
• CASA of Central Virginia	0
• Central VA Agency on Aging	9,000
• Central VA Community Services	10,967
• D-Day Memorial Foundation	20,000
• Wharton Gardens	7,500
• Bedford Hospice House *(first year of a three year commitment)	*10,000

Discussion ensued regarding clarifying “special projects” in the budget.

The City Manager stated he will present the budget with specific items.

Councilman Vest stated Council should set a borrowing limit. Mr. Vest suggested that the Sheriff come to a Finance Committee meeting and review the costs of his department.

The Mayor asked the City Manager to review the proposed increase in cemetery fees and how that fits into the Parks & Recreation budget.

A brief discussion of the old Grammar School building ensued.

The City Manager stated it is a safety issue and a decision needs to be made on the outcome of the Grammar School Building.

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.