

April 14, 2009

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., April 14, 2009.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp (arrived at 7:34 p.m.); Councilman Jeffrey B. Hubbard (arrived at 7:31 p.m.); Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; 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

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

Vice Mayor Wandrei declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on March 24, 2009, were approved as distributed

City Manager Kolakowski reported on the following:

- presentations will be held later in the meeting by representatives of Bedford Main Street and the Bedford Museum regarding proposed programming for the current year and next year
- he attended a meeting last Friday called by Congressman Perriello – the meeting was for towns, businesses, and universities in the Congressman's district and focused on alternative energy sources

Councilman Hubbard arrived at 7:31 p.m.

The Vice Mayor stated that the Keep Bedford Commission's pickup drive will be held on April 18.

Councilman Vest reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening regarding the following: reviewed the March financials – City Staff is working to improve the reports to make them easier to understand; the City Manager issued General Fund projections - copies will be provided to all members of City Council; the Main Street Program; repairs in the parks area; and the situation with the Cop Camp because of no funding for the Camp.

Vice Mayor Wandrei added the following item to the agenda under *New Business*: Discussion – Main Street Program.

The Mayor arrived at 7:34 p.m.

City Manager Kolakowski reported that currently there are two vacancies on the City School Board - one term expiring June 30, 2009, and another term expiring June 30, 2010. Ms. Andrea Trotter and Mr. James H. Hundley have expressed their interest in

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serving on the City School Board. The vacancies have been advertised in the local newspaper, and no other citizens have volunteered to serve.

On motion by Councilman Stanley, seconded by Vice Mayor Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council adopted the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote follows:

Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilman Hubbard	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

Ms. Diane Wilson, representing Bedford Main Street, reviewed activities of Bedford Main Street and awards the program has received. Ms. Wilson stated that Bedford Main Street's goal is to help ensure the commercial district's future as the center of community life.

Mr. Jeff Sadler, Virginia Main Street, stated he is Virginia's Downtown Redevelopment and Revitalization Specialist. Mr. Sadler stated that next year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Virginia Main Street Program, which will also be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bedford as a Main Street Community. Mr. Sadler mentioned training opportunities and technical assistance that will be available this year and next year.

Mr. Sadler stated that a review was made of the Bedford Main Street Program that identified issues needing improvement. Mr. Sadler said that Virginia Main Street representatives met with the board and since then several members have left; new board members were identified, and there was discussion of a new financial plan. Virginia Main Street requires a Main Street organization to have a full-time executive director. At that time, Virginia Main Street suggested it was better to work on the board issues rather than the financial issues for the next six months to a year and then address hiring an executive director. Mr. Sadler stated one of the issues identified was that so much of the time was spent toward special events that there was not enough time given to the retailers on a daily basis.

Mr. Cooper, Bedford Museum, reviewed activities and events at the Museum: Kit Homes presentation with Rosemary Thornton, worldwide expert on Kit Homes, including a driving tour of the Kit Homes in Bedford; partnering with the D-Day Memorial to display artifacts; display of old radios to include the history of the WBLT radio station; and educational programs. Mr. Cooper stated the Museum has a small budget and all employees are part-time. Mr. Cooper asked Council to consider the Museum's request for \$7,500 in the 2009-10 budget.

On motion by Councilman Vest, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council accepted the resolution in support of Older Americans' Month and Elderfest. Roll call vote follows:

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Councilman Hubbard	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

**RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH  
AND ELDERFEST CELEBRATION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bedford recognizes and appreciates the vital role that our senior residents provide in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, communities such as Bedford desire to recognize their senior citizens by proclamation of the month of May as Older Americans' Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bedford plans to recognize and honor the importance of Older Americans' Month and our senior citizens with the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Elderfest to be held on May 7 and 8, 2009 and

**WHEREAS**, the Bedford City Department of Parks and Recreation will proudly host the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Elderfest in honor of our senior citizens and in recognition of Older Americans' Month;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Bedford hereby resolves that the month of May 2009 be recognized as Older Americans' Month, and that the City supports the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Elderfest to be held to honor and celebrate our senior citizens.

Vice Mayor Wandrei stated the Finance Committee discussed the Main Street Program at its meeting. It was pointed out that the Main Street Program has been without an Executive Director since January. The Vice Mayor stated this is a contractual agreement between Bedford Main Street and the City. whereby the City funds the employee. Vice Mayor Wandrei stated since January there has been a savings by not paying the compensation for the Director's salary and benefits, of about \$4,625. The Vice Mayor stated that during that period of time, Bedford Main Street has been without the services of a full-time employee, which obviously has some effect on programs that it runs, such

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as: the Farmer's Market, Christmas Parade, Centerfest, façade grant, advertising, and working with the Bedford Historical Society.

Vice Mayor Wandrei moved that Council appropriate \$10,000 to Bedford Main Street to tide them over to the end of the year and then Council can reevaluate what the program's future is going to be when the budget is planned for next year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vest.

Vice Mayor Wandrei stated the funds would come out of what has already been budgeted: Account No. 10088180.

The Mayor stated that he would rather see tangible evidence that Main Street has cured the systemic problems that have been inherent in the Bedford Main Street Program before more money is given to the program.

Vice Mayor Wandrei stated that he believes the systemic problems cannot be cured if the program does not have a director. The Vice Mayor commented that he thinks the program has proven to be a viable and important project and it deserves the City's support.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	nay
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilman Hubbard	aye
Mayor Tharp	nay

City Manager Kolakowski stated that the terms for the members appointed to the City School Board earlier in the meeting need to be designated for each individual member.

Councilman Stanley amended his motion to include the terms for the School Board members as follows: James Hundley, term to expire June 30, 2009, and Andrea Trotter, term to expire June 30, 2010. Vice Mayor Wandrei, who seconded the motion agreed to the amendment. The motion was then voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilman Hubbard	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

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Councilman Stanley moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a)(1) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for discussion of personnel matters. Vice Mayor Wandrei seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilman Hubbard	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

Council adjourned into closed session at 8:35 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:55 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 Hubbard, seconded by Councilman Vest, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilman Hubbard	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.