

June 14, 2011

A called meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m., June 14, 2011.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Guy E. Murray, Jr.; 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.

The Mayor opened the meeting and stated the purpose of the meeting was for interviews of candidates for the City School Board and FY 2011-12 budget discussion.

The Notice of Called Meeting follows:

You are hereby notified that there will be a Called Meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, on June 14, 2011, 6:00 p.m., in the Council Hall of the City Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, VA 24523, for the following purposes:

- City School Board Interviews
- Budget Discussion

Ms. Tabitha J. King explained that she would like to be a member of the City School Board because she wants to become more involved and be a voice for the children due to the threatened closure of the Primary School. Ms. King wants to make sure that City children are entitled to the same academic opportunity as the rest of the children throughout the County.

Members of Council asked questions of Ms. King regarding how she will make decisions concerning School Board issues; the involvement of the City School Board in matters dealing with the County schools; the City School Board's communication with the County School Board; the schedule of City School Board meetings and having the Superintendent of Schools attend.

Ms. King explained that she would use her knowledge and background to make decisions in the best interest of the community and children; she feels the City School Board should be more aggressive in voicing its opinion; the City Board should work more with the County Board; have monthly City School Board meetings with the Superintendent attending each meeting; and find out why the inequities are taking place throughout the school zones.

Ms. Phyllis Parker explained that she wants to be appointed to the City School Board because she likes to help the children and parents. Ms. Parker said she has opened doors for parents who need help in voicing their concerns and has been the voice of the students who don't have parents in the home who want to get involved.

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Ms. Parker explained that she would listen to the parents and use her knowledge and background to make decisions; she said a change that needs to be made is more communication, an open door policy, and to listen to both sides; she believes the Superintendent of Schools needs to communicate with the City School Board and listen to everyone; she would recommend that the City Board meet every month with the Superintendent attending each meeting; would strive to ensure that the inequities among the schools are eliminated.

Mayor Tharp said that interviews for the remaining two applicants for the City School Board will be held on June 28.

City Manager Kolakowski stated that Council needs to discuss funding for the outside agencies. He said the proposed budget does not include any tax increases (real estate, personal property) but it does have a \$1.00 per month increase on residential electric bills and prorated increases on the various different size accounts; and a one percent increase on water accounts and a two percent increase on sewer accounts.

The City Manager said Vice Mayor Wandrei has suggested that a different rate structure be looked at to basically eliminate the minimum usage portion of the water and sewer charges – there would be a monthly charge and it would be billed per actual consumption. Mr. Kolakowski stated this new rate structure is possible and is a very common rate structure but will take some time and expertise to develop. The City would probably have to hire someone to put it together so that the rate structure would become revenue neutral.

The City Manager spoke regarding changes in the proposed budget, some because of reduction in state aid in various accounts. Mr. Kolakowski stated that Council's desire to extend the cost of living increase to the constitutional officers and their staff has been included in the proposed budget.

Councilman Vest asked the City Manager if he felt the contingency fund was sufficient.

City Manager Kolakowski stated the contingency is not a crucial number in his mind – the fund balance is more important as it is a better indication of the ability of the City to operate and to fund certain emergencies.

Councilman Vest moved that Council approve the City Manager's recommendation for the funding for Outside Agencies, except for the Wharton Gardens and return that to the \$3,831 as has been funded in previous years. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stanley.

Vice Mayor Wandrei stated he believes the Wharton Gardens is an asset to the City.

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Vice Mayor Wandrei made a motion to amend Councilman Vest's motion to include \$5,000 in the budget for the Wharton Gardens.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote as follows:

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

Councilman Murray moved that the amended motion to approve the City Manager's recommendation for the funding for Outside Agencies and include \$5,000 for the Wharton Gardens be approved. The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m. until June 28, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. for City School Board interviews.