

October 31, 2012

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the October 23, 2012, regular meeting was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., October 31, 2012.

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.

City Manager Kolakowski noted that the area dodged a bullet with Hurricane Sandy. There were a few electric outages and the Electric Department restored power to those affected within about twenty-four hours.

The City Manager said the first item for discussion is a proposal for power purchases in closed session.

Councilman Murray moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a)(30) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for discussion of an award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, where open discussion would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the public body. Councilman Vest seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

Council adjourned into closed session at 5:35 p.m. The following non-council members attended: City Manager Kolakowski, City Attorney Berry, Assistant City Manager Warner, Finance Director Jordan, and Director of Public Services Weddle.

Council reconvened into open session at 6:07 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

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

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

The City Manager said the second issue to be discussed was the Charter for the Town of Bedford. Mr. Kolakowski gave members of Council a draft Charter for the Town and said the draft was a work in progress. He said it is proposed that the new Charter be significantly simpler and shorter than the current Charter. The City Manager explained what the draft Charter will include. Mr. Kolakowski said the Town Charter should be as simple as possible, making it comply with what the actual operations are, and allowing Council to modify that in the future. He said the final draft of the Charter will be required within the next four to six weeks.

City Attorney Berry stated that the Charter is granted by the Virginia General Assembly.

City Manager Kolakowski reviewed two options for the initial Town Council elections:

The scenario is that there will be seven Council seats up for election. Four of those seats will have a four year term (3.5 in actual time). The other three seats will have a two year term (1.5 in actual time).

Two ways to address this are:

1. Four seats can be designated four year terms. Candidates would file for these seats. Three seats would be designated as initial two year terms and other candidates would file for those seats. In essence you would have separate elections for the two sets of seats.
2. All candidates who file would run for election with the top seven vote getters winning election. The top four vote getters would be awarded initial four year terms with the next three receiving an initial two year term.

The City Manager said the election held in May 2013 will be for all seats on Council. An election may be required to be held on November 2013 depending on the increase in population.

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Discussion ensued regarding the Town Council elections. The majority of Council members favored Option #2.

City Manager Kolakowski spoke about obtaining a low flow permit for the Hydro Plant and stated the estimated cost to get a permit is \$100,000. Discussion ensued regarding the federal regulatory agencies, cost of installing a smaller turbine, the bond issue, long term maintenance of the facility, and the return on investment.

The City Manager said that the staff is working on the make up of the new town. Mr. Kolakowski said the staff is putting together revenue numbers based on the Peterson Report: real estate tax rate, BPOL, personal property tax rate.

Councilman Murray asked about the status of appointments to the Public Service Authority.

The City Manager said the public hearing is scheduled for November 27.

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.