

December 17, 2013

A called meeting of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building at 3:00 p.m., December 17, 2013.

Members present: Mayor Robert T Wandrei; Councilman Robert D. Carson; Councilman Stacey L. Hailey; Councilman Steve C. Rush; and Vice Mayor James A. Vest

Members absent: Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr. and Councilman W. D. Tharp

Staff present: Town Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Deputy Clerk of the Council Debra B. Anderson

Others present: Delegate-Elect Terry L. Austin, John Barnhart with the Bedford Bulletin, and Alex Rohr with the News and Advance

Mayor Wandrei opened the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to speak to Delegate-Elect Austin about legislative issues.

The Mayor said that Council is concerned about continued funding for education including the transition incentive money, which is about four to six million dollars each year for the schools.

The City Manager said that of particular interest to the Town is continued funding and support for community colleges. Mr. Kolakowski said a lot of people take advantage of the Central Virginia Community College branch in Bedford.

The Mayor said another concern is mandates placed on localities.

Mr. Austin spoke about mandates placed on localities. Mr. Kolakowski said that the mandates affect citizens and businesses.

Mr. Austin said he was really concerned about the underfunding of the Virginia Retirement System.

Discussion ensued about State and local funding.

Mayor Wandrei said the State needs to maintain funding for roads and sidewalks maintenance.

Vice Mayor Vest said a concern is the situation regarding Judge James Updike and all those in the legal area have nothing but high praise for Judge Updike.

A brief discussion ensued.

Councilman Rush spoke about a section in the Code of Virginia regarding fees and charges for water and sewer services. Councilman Rush reviewed an incident that occurred because of this legislation.

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The City Manager said this is an example of the State passing something to solve one problem and not realizing that it is causing three other problems.

Discussion ensued regarding various items.

Mayor Wandrei said that Council appreciated Mr. Austin meeting with them and Council looks forward to working with Mr. Austin.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.