

February 18, 2014

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, from the February 11, 2014, regular meeting was held in the Community Room at Liberty Lake Park at 5:00 p.m., February 18, 2014.

Members present: Mayor Robert T Wandrei; Councilman Robert D. Carson; Councilman Stacey L. Hailey; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Vice Mayor James A. Vest

Members absent: None

Staff present: Town Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher

The purpose of the meeting was a work session on the proposed Town budget for 2014-15.

Town Manager Kolakowski gave a review of the current year. The Town Manager said this was the community's first year as a Town and the departments that remain are getting things done. Mr. Kolakowski stated that capital projects should all at least be started before the end of the year, weather permitting. The level of cooperation with the County has been very good overall. The discussions between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board are on track to begin construction of a school facility. He reported that revenue projections overall are at or almost at anticipated levels. Electric revenues, due to weather situations, for the first five months of the year were below expectations, but have come back up. The Town Manager spoke about electric transmission and congestion costs due to the extreme weather in the Midwest and the East Coast. An update on that situation will be reported on at the January 25 Council meeting.

Members of Council reviewed the proposed budget and asked questions of the staff regarding various items.

Further information regarding questions asked by Council members will be provided at the February 25 Council meeting.

Mayor Wandrei declared a five minute recess. The meeting resumed at 7:07 p.m.

Council reviewed the budget requests by outside agencies. It was the consensus of Council to include the following in the proposed budget:

- Bedford Chamber of Commerce \$ 2,500
- Bedford Community Christmas Station 0
- Bedford Main Street, Inc. 30,000
- Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library 7,500
- Bedford Ride Program 8,500
- National D-Day Memorial Foundation 12,000
- Wharton Bower Center for the Arts 5,000 (with matching State Grant of \$5,000)
- Wharton Gardens Memorial Foundation 7,000

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A decision on the Bedford Lifesaving & First Aid Crew budget request was postponed for further information to be provided by the staff.

Mayor Wandrei stated that an increase in salaries for Town Council would become effective on January 1, 2015.

It was the consensus of Council that the salaries of the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council members be increased as follows:

Mayor	\$5,000 per year
Vice Mayor	\$4,000 per year
Council members	\$4,000 per year

The Town Manager reviewed the proposed tax rates and fees:

- Real Estate – no increase in the tax of \$0.30
- Personal Property tax rate will be set at the level necessary to get the \$280,000 payment from the State
- Solid Waste fee – will go up \$1.00
- Recycling fee – will be eliminated
- Electric rates – two percent increase

The Mayor said that Vice Mayor Vest and Councilman Rush will do the evaluations of the Town Manager, the Town Attorney, and the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.