

July 8, 2014

A regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., July 8, 2014.

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

Members absent: Councilman W. D. Tharp

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

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

Mayor Wandrei declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on June 24, 2014, were approved as distributed.

Town Manager Kolakowski reported on the following:

- The 10th annual Cop Camp began July 8 and continues through July 11. It is the largest to date with 151 campers with people still on a waiting list. Multiple companies and individuals donated to the camp this year. There will be a cookout at noon on July 11 and Council was invited to stop by the camp this week to visit and see what the kids are learning.
- July 1 was the official day when Centra Health took over ownership of Bedford Memorial Hospital. Centra has expended significant funds in the transition and are planning on spending one and a half to two million dollars in capital improvements each year for the next several years. In addition Centra is looking to expand the number and the availability of services at the hospital.
- The Town has received notification from the State that the Town was successful in its grant application for the arts funding. The grant is in the amount of \$5,000 from the State and together with the matching funds from the Town, this will contribute \$10,000 to the Bower Center for the Arts for their arts program, including the multiple free concerts and subsidized concerts.

The Town Manager said that representatives of the Moose Lodge were present to make some comments about this year's fireworks and potential plans for next year.

Mr. Andy Dooley, Chairman of the Fireworks Display, thanked Council for the contribution it made for the fireworks show. Mr. Dooley said it was a very good show and estimated 4,000 people attended. Mr. Dooley also thanked the Town Police Department, Bedford County Sheriff's Office, State Police, Public Works, YMCA, and Bedford County Parks & Recreation. Mr. Dooley said that blocking off and controlling Route 460 could become a safety factor. Mr. Dooley said the Moose Lodge has gotten permission from the D-Day Memorial to have the fireworks there on July 3, 2015, if the Town will partner with the Moose. Liberty Lake Park could be used for parking.

July 8, 2014

Mr. Dooley suggested having a celebration on July 4, 2015, at Liberty Lake Park, the Farmer's Market, or at the D-Day Memorial. He spoke about other organizations or Bedford County helping to fund the fireworks in the future. Mr. Dooley said that if Council agrees, he would like to have a meeting in August to do some early planning and have representatives from all branches involved.

Mayor Wandrei thanked Mr. Dooley and the Moose Lodge for all they have done in stepping up and taking on this project. The Mayor suggested that Main Street be included in the planning.

Councilman Carson said the fireworks were great and he liked the idea of making it a family celebration..

Councilman Rush said that he felt the D-Day Memorial is a much better venue because of Route 460. He said that if the Public Works Department works on July 4 it is overtime.

Mayor Wandrei asked the Town Manager if Centra Health made any comments so far as improvements in light of the fact that Centra is bemoaning the fact that nothing has been done on Medicaid and they are talking about losing a bundle of money this year because of the failure of the General Assembly to act on that issue.

The Mayor said he was wondering if the shortfall Centra expects because of the failure to adopt some form of Medicaid expansion program, would affect Centra's ability to fund improvements to Bedford Memorial Hospital.

Town Manager Kolakowski said that Centra did not comment on that.

Vice Mayor Vest, Chairman of the Finance Committee, said the Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed the financial reports.

The Mayor added the following item to the agenda: Discussion of Solid Waste and Recycling.

The Town Manager reported that the Town's written position on Equal Opportunity needs to be updated on a regular basis. When approved by Council, the signed written statement is posted on the Town's Legal Posting Board in the Municipal Building. Legal counsel has reviewed and approved the proposed updated Equal Opportunity Statement. Mr. Kolakowski said that Council was requested to approve the proposed written statement as the Town's position on Equal Opportunity.

On motion by Vice Mayor Vest, seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved the updated Equal Opportunity Statement. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye

July 8, 2014

Councilman Tharp	absent
Vice Mayor Vest	aye
Mayor Wandrei	aye

The Statement follows as adopted:

Town of Bedford Equal Opportunity Employer Statement

The Town of Bedford is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and hereby affirms that it is the policy of the Town to maintain and promote equal opportunity and diversity for all employees, applicants for employment and contractors in accordance with the relevant federal and State Laws.

The Town will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, ancestry, or citizenship status.

In support of a diverse workforce, decisions as to hiring, promotion and other aspects of the employment relationship will be based solely upon job related qualifications.

The Town will not tolerate any kind of harassment of employees or retaliation against an employee who brings a complaint forward. Allegations of harassment will be taken seriously, promptly investigated, and appropriate action taken depending on the severity of the situation.

Mayor Wandrei stated he was concerned about the Orange Avenue dumpster site. The Mayor said he sees all sorts of stuff put in the dumpster and it is stuff put in there by people he knows are not residents of the Town. He said that some of the trash the people put in the dumpster is prohibited such as sofas and lumber. The Mayor said that the Town needs to do something about this because all of that goes into the Town's landfill or else it has to be hauled out to the County Landfill and the Town pays a commercial rate. Mayor Wandrei said he never realized how much he missed recycling until he had to carry it off.

Vice Mayor Vest said he had gotten several telephone calls and emails about having some plan the Town can put in place that would make it more convenient for people to recycle. The Vice Mayor said the Town needs to make recycling as user friendly as possible.

Councilman Rush said he was at the site on Orange Street two weekends in a row and all the dumpsters were overflowing – it was lumber and furniture cartons – everything in there but garbage. Mr. Rush said that as he was leaving six pickup trucks with construction material were trying to throw stuff in that dumpster. He suggested putting something in the press about tightening up on it and start issuing tickets for non-residents and abuse of stuff being dumped in there.

July 8, 2014

Town Manager Kolakowski said that the staff is working on notices for that purpose to make people aware that enforcement efforts are going to be going forth on that. He said the big problem is that an unstaffed dump gets dumped on. The Town Manager said that as much as this can be discouraged, if it is unstaffed and is open 24-7, there will be issues. Options being looked at are: restricting the hours and various efforts, and the most effective way would be to limit access to only when people can watch it. Mr. Kolakowski said the staff is working on a number of different options and will report back to Council. He suggested a committee meeting on the topic prior to the next Council meeting where the staff and committee can then come back to Council with suggestions including additional locations for recycling opportunities.

It was determined that it is a misdemeanor for non-town residents to use the Town's dumpsters and there is a sign saying that certain items are prohibited.

The Mayor said there is a camera at the site and asked if the Town could effectively bring charges against some of those people.

The Town Manager said in fairness to people notification that the Town is going to have an enforcement effort should be made through the press and through other ways. He said this would deter a lot of people and strict enforcement after that would be called for.

The Mayor said that a greater deterrent would be if a few people were charged and fined and it got in the newspaper that the Town is serious about this problem.

Councilman Carson said he had seen the area being monitored a couple of times.

The Town Manager said that is not done all of the time because there is an expense to having somebody there.

Mayor Wandrei suggested that the Solid Waste Committee meet before the next Council meeting and bring the topic up during Council Comments and the staff can also look at other things that can be done.

Vice Mayor Vest asked if residents who are concerned about this should come to the meeting.

The Mayor said he thought Council should formulate some idea and then bring it up for discussion and as an action item and let people know Council is going to take action on it.

The Vice Mayor said Council might want to hear what the residents say.

The Mayor said Council needs to have something in place so they can decide if it is a good deal or not. Mayor Wandrei said he did not think Council should open it up to general conversation for the public.

Vice Mayor Vest said that he disagreed with the Mayor.

July 8, 2014

Councilman Carson said the public should be encouraged to recycle.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.