

December 3, 2014

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, from the November 25, 2014, regular meeting was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., December 3, 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

Mayor Wandrei opened the meeting.

On motion by Councilman Rush, seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council adjourned into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a)(1) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, to discuss personnel matters. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Vice Mayor Vest	aye
Mayor Wandrei	aye

Council adjourned into closed session at 5:35 p.m. The following non-council members attended: Town Manager Kolakowski, Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV, Assistant Town Manager, Barrett Warner, Beckham Stanley and Tim Black, future Council members.

Council reconvened into open session at 5:50 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town 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 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 Stanley, seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

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Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Vice Mayor Vest	aye
Councilman Carson	aye
Mayor Wandrei	aye

Town Manager Kolakowski stated that annually Council tries to discuss issues that may come before the legislature. Mr. Kolakowski said that the staff discussion on this is as follows: stop unfunded mandates and leave the local resources, as far as tax revenue, alone. The concern is there has been discussion on a bi-partisan nature of going after the Personall Property Tax Relief Funds, which would impact the Town over \$280,000.

Discussion ensued regarding unfunded mandates. The Town Manager will furnish Council with information on the Virginia Municipal League's Legislative Day that is scheduled for January 28, 2015.

Town Manager Kolakowski asked Council to consider consolidating some of the standing committees: Solid Waste Committee and Streets Committee into a Public Works Committee. He suggested creating a new committee, Community Development Committee, which would be for development and redevelopment programs which affect economic development and also quality of life with in the Town.

Mr. Kolakowski said that one of the things he has talked to Council about is the idea of creating redevelopment areas in the Town to allow the Town to focus certain efforts in particular areas: downtown area, 6C's, Westgate, Main Street, Depot Street, Jackson Street, the center retail commercial district, and a residential redevelopment area from Washington Street towards Bedford Science and Technology Center. Mr. Kolakowski said this could focus loan programs and grant programs where there would be an impact.

There was discussion regarding closed sessions and people revealing information discussed in a closed session. The Town Attorney said there is no law in Virginia that is being violated if someone discloses information discussed in a closed session.

The Town Manager said it is allowed for members of Council to attend committee meetings but the only people allowed to enter into discussion as part of the committee are the actual committee members. Council members attending committee meetings who are not a member of that committee and are attending as members of the public are allowed to make comments as members of the public but not as a general discussion.

Mr. Beck Stanley asked what authority the committees have. The Town Manager said the committees serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council.

The Town Attorney said that a social function where no Town business is discussed is not a public meeting.

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Town Manager Kolakowski said that electric rates and power costs are going up and that tax revenues are looking strong. He reviewed improvements being made at local industries and businesses, and new businesses that have opened.. Mr. Kolakowski said the Town needs to focus on community development, the individual entrepreneurs, companies, and on keeping businesses here. Mr. Kolakowski explained that Centra is making significant improvements at the hospital. He spoke about determining how to encourage small businesses to operate in Bedford.

A discussion ensued regarding the downtown merchants and Bedford Main Street, Inc. Councilman Tharp explained that the Main Street Program has been defined as a Main Street Program in crises.

Mayor Wandrei explained how the Farmer's Market began. The Mayor said Council should encourage the group of merchants to take over the better parts of Main Street and keep it and work together to develop it. The Mayor said that the Main Street Program provides opportunities to get grant money.

Councilman Carson said something needs to be done about parking in the downtown area and having more signs near the D-Day Memorial promoting downtown Bedford.

There was a brief discussion about marketing the area, the expense involved, and setting up a joint effort.

Mr. Beck Stanley asked if Delegate Terry Austin or the Commerce Secretary could be invited to Bedford to show them what Bedford has to offer and get them on board.

The Town Manager said they have been to Bedford and have tried to steer some prospects here. Mr. Kolakowski said people can be invited from the State and region to explain the programs available for economic development and community development.

Mayor Wandrei and the Town Manager said the Army Reserve Center will begin operations in January 2015.

The Mayor said it seemed to be the general consensus that a little more money needs to be spent for marketing and economic development and this might be considered in planning the budget even if taxes have to be raised.

Town Manager Kolakowski gave Council a list of projects that need to be done:

- Municipal Building: roof repairs, heating and air conditioning upgrades, ADA improvements and upgrades
- Liberty Lake Park: every part of the facility needs to be upgraded – repairing the tennis courts, dredging the pond, constructing a dog park, paving the trail and the roads
- improving the streetscapes and public areas throughout the Town – volunteers groups have stepped forward to help maintain areas – refreshing downtown decorations
- sidewalk renovations – repair and make connections

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- landfills – short-term and long-term considerations
- would like for Police to be more proactive in dealing with the community – work toward becoming a certified crime prevention town

The Town Manager said that prioritizing projects is done through the budget process and those things that are legally required are first.

Mr. Kolakowski said he had asked the staff to identify the costs of providing services.

There was a discussion about signage in the Town.

Vice Mayor Vest said that all of the staffing should be reviewed. He said the staff in the Treasurer's Office has not been reduced since the reversion and the Police Department is top heavy with the management end.

Councilman Rush recommended that the Public Safety Committee look at staffing in the Police Department.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.