

February 10, 2015

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., February 10, 2015.

Members present: Mayor Robert T Wandrei; Councilman Tim Black; Councilman Robert D. Carson; Councilman Stacey L. Hailey; Vice Mayor Steve C. Rush; Councilman Beckham A. Stanley; and Councilman 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 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 January 27, 2015, were approved as submitted and corrected.

Town Manager Kolakowski reported on the following:

- On February 11 at noon there will be a ribbon cutting for Edward Jones Financial Advisors at their new facility.

Clerk of Council Hatcher read aloud the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

Year of the Senior 2015

WHEREAS, the Town of Bedford, **Virginia**, includes over 1,000 citizens who are age 65 or older, and will increase to over 2,000 by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the older adults in the **Town of Bedford** have made countless contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the **Town of Bedford** is committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 services are provided in Region 2000 to help older adults remain healthy and active; and

WHEREAS, the **Town of Bedford**, in partnership with those for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, provides services that address the basic needs of those citizens who lack the resources to seek or obtain such services on their own; and

WHEREAS, a substantial decrease in the availability of funds coming to this community from the Commonwealth of Virginia, along with increased demands on

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charitable contributions, has created challenges this community will need to address in the months and years ahead.

NOW THEREFORE, I, as Mayor of the **Town of Bedford, Virginia**, do hereby proclaim 2015 as the Year of the Senior. I urge every group, organization and resident to take time during this year to recognize older adults and those who serve and support them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to this community. I also urge that Town, organization and community leaders work together to address the increasing needs of this valuable community resource, and take appropriate steps to agree on actions which will assure our ability to continue to provide the services needed to sustain their quality of life in the years to come.

Councilman Vest, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported the committee met last week and said that the Electric Department expenses are stabilizing; however, the Town will not be in a position this year to transfer funds from the Electric Department to the General Fund. He said that last year the transfer was \$400,000.

Councilman Black, Chairman of the Electric Committee, reported the committee met earlier in the evening to discuss several items, the most important one being the proposed four percent electric rate increase. He said a public hearing will be held on the increase on February 24. The committee also discussed the Operation Study and will be looking at some of the recommendations proposed in that study. Councilman Black stated the committee talked about some financial goals and the possibility of restructuring some of the debt.

Mayor Wandrei explained to the representatives from the outside agencies who have requested an increase in their annual contributions from the Town that the Town's source of revenues has decreased since it is no longer a City.

The Mayor said that the following items will be added to the agenda:

- Ordinance – Amending Section 2-35 of the Town Code
- Closed Session (pursuant to Section 2.2-344(a) (5) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for discussion concerning a prospective industry where no previous announcement has been made)

The following individuals gave presentations regarding FY 2015-16 budget requests for their organizations:

- Susan Martin, President/CEO, Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
- Nichole Pietras-Stoddard, Corporate Secretary, Bedford Life Saving and First Aid Crew, Inc
- Bedford Main Street, Inc., Amanda Adams, Executive Director
- Doug Cooper, Director, Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library, and Jennifer Thompson
- Linda Brake, Program Coordinator, Bedford Ride

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- April Cheek-Messier, President, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
- Sarah Bratton, Director, Bower Center of the Arts
- Fred Duis, President, The Wharton Memorial Foundation

Mayor Wandrei stated the next item on the agenda was the ordinance amending Section 2-35 of the Bedford Town Code. The Mayor said this matter was brought up at the last Council meeting with an ordinance that was prepared by the Town Attorney. The Mayor said at that time that motion was tabled. Mayor Wandrei stated that the procedure at this meeting is to see if there is a motion to reconsider to put it back on the table at which time Council can go forward with this particular ordinance and any amendments thereto.

Councilman Black moved that the Public Comment Ordinance be reconsidered. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vest, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

Mayor Wandrei explained there were two versions of the ordinance: the original version prepared by the Town Attorney and the amended version prepared by Mr. Black and Mr. Vest.

Councilman Stanley moved that the version of the ordinance prepared by Mr. Black and Mr. Vest be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vest.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of amending the Town Code to allow for a citizen comment period at Town Council meetings.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote:

Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	nay
Vice Mayor Rush	nay
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Councilman Black	aye
Mayor Wandrei	nay

The ordinance follows as adopted:

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ORDINANCE NO. 15-4

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-35 (ORDER OF BUSINESS)
TO ESTABLISH A CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD AT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL, OF THE TOWN OF
BEDFORD, VIRGINIA as follows:**

Section 1. Section 2-35 of The Code of the Town of Bedford, Virginia is amended and re-enacted as follows:

Sec. 2-35 Order of Business

(a) At meetings of the Town Council, the order of business shall be as follows:

(1) Administration, including approval of minutes of the proceedings of the last meeting, the report of the Town Manager, citizen comment period, and council comments. In the event of a scheduled public hearing, the citizen comment period will follow the public hearing and action on the public hearing issues. Comments on matters that are subject to a public hearing will not be allowed during the citizen comment period.

(2) Consent agenda, being those items of business, which shall be automatically approved collectively upon the consent of town council.

(3) Old business.

(4) New Business.

(b) The Town Council shall set aside on the agenda for each meeting a citizen comment period of fifteen (15) minutes. Individual citizens shall limit their remarks to three (3) minutes each and to those matters that are within the scope and authority of the Town Council. Council may elect to extend this time period with approval of a majority of its members. Citizens of the Town and individuals who own businesses in the Town will be allowed to address Council.

Citizens are encouraged to contact an appropriate member of the administrative staff or a member of the Town Council to

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resolve issues prior to Council meetings. Citizens requesting to address Town Council must sign in at the Council Chambers prior to beginning of the meeting.

The mayor or other presiding officer shall allocate the time among speakers in an equitable manner and by order of receipt of requests to speak. Each speaker shall be allowed to speak only once. Speakers will address the Council as a whole, not to individual members. The presiding officer shall enforce the observance of order and decorum and the rules of order.

The presiding officer may refer matters to appropriate members of the Town staff or of the Council, or to an appropriate committee for further study. Any ruling by the presiding officer may be appealed to the Full Council in accordance with parliamentary procedures.

- (c) When any matter is made the special order for a future meeting, it shall at such meeting take priority over all other business except the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall go into effect upon enactment.

Councilman Stanley moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-344(a) (5) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for discussion concerning a prospective industry where no previous announcement has been made. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried unanimously the following roll call vote:

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

Council adjourned into closed session at 7:54 p.m. The following non-council members attended: Town Manager Kolakowski, Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV, and Assistant Town Manager, Barrett Warner.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:01 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following resolution:

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

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

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.