

December 1, 2015

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, from the November 24, 2015, regular meeting was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., December 1, 2015.

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

Members absent: Councilman Beckham A. Stanley

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

David Sensenig, Middle School Advisory Committee, presented a power point presentation on the use of the Middle School. He stated the committee was appointed in December 2014. Mr. Sensenig said the committee has met nine times and there have been numerous site visits for the committee to consider what has been done in other places.

Mr. Sensenig reported that the committee has reached a consensus on the following items: 1) avoid any residential uses of the school 2) the Town should retain ownership of the building and the facility to maintain control of it 3) the use of the facility should provide some direct benefit to Centertown or complement Centertown. Mr. Sensenig said the committee did not have any recommendation at this time concerning the "Old Yellow" building - the thought by the committee is that should be left as opportunities and possibilities are explored.

Mr. Sensenig reviewed proposals made by the committee:

- Proposal A - boutique hotel/restaurant/pub/theater
- Proposal B - higher education/community center

Mr. Sensenig reviewed the next steps proposed by the committee:

- 1) obtain the services of a qualified architectural firm to assess the feasibility of the two options on a pro bono basis
- 2) receive the report of findings from the architectural firm
- 3) submit the findings and recommendations to Council

Mayor Wandrei thanked Mr. Sensenig for his presentation.

Discussion ensued regarding the cafeteria and gym facilities.

The Town Manager said the next step discussed was to bring in an architectural firm on an informal basis to have some discussion on the process, the next steps that should be taken, what is possible to do with the buildings and the space, and provide examples of what could be done. Mr. Kolakowski stated that at some point Council will have to do an RFP for hiring a firm to do that.

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Mr. Sensenig said the consensus of the committee is that Proposal A is the preferred choice

Discussion ensued regarding maintenance and potential uses of the facilities.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Wandrei expressed appreciation to the members of the committee for their contributions and for the report.

Councilman Vest asked that Council members be provided with a copy of the report.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.