

February 9, 2016

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 9, 2016.

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.

On motion by Councilman Hailey, seconded by Councilman Carson, voted upon and carried unanimously, the minutes of a Council work session held on January 26, 2016, were approved as corrected.

On motion by Vice Mayor Rush, seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried unanimously, the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on January 26, 2016, were approved as distributed.

Town Manager Kolakowski reported on the following:

- The Council retreat scheduled for Saturday, February 13, will be held at the Municipal Building in the Conference Room. He said that Council will receive additional information for the retreat.
- Expressed condolences to John Wagner, Electric Director, who suffered a pair of losses in his family within the past week.

Sarah Clair Turpin, a field representative from Congressman Robert Hurt's office, said if Council needs anything this year or has any updates regarding the Town to contact her at the Danville office.

Councilman Vest said Council received a letter from Mark Woods, U.S. Department of the Interior Park Service. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Park Service is suggesting that each community put together a group of one hundred young people to hike on the Appalachian Trail. He said that a member of the Friends of the Blue Ridge has agreed to head that up.

Councilman Black, Chairman of the Electric Committee, said the committee met on February 4 and reviewed the year-to-date financial reports for the first six months of the year - revenues are staying steady. He said the committee reviewed the feasibility study that goes along with the bond financing, presented some questions for the Finance Director to ask AMP Ohio to get more details. Councilman Black reported that a major maintenance issue has come up at the Snowden Hydro Plant with Unit 4 - the unit is

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currently offline. The Electric Director is working on strategies and costs on what will have to be done to make that repair. He said the committee discussed policy considerations for waiver of fees or deposits and it was the consensus to leave the policy as is.

Vice Mayor Rush, Chairman of the Community Development Committee, reported the committee met and discussed some economic development opportunities and some possible incentives from the Town.

Mayor Wandrei said the following items were added to the agenda: 1) Presentation - Arts Council and 2) Closed Session - Personnel Matters.

Mr. Gary Christie, Executive Director of the Local Government Council, gave members of Town Council the FY 15 Annual Report. Mr. Christie reviewed the work being done by the Local Government Council. He said the Local Government Council and the Workforce Development Board continue to focus on those items of regional and multijurisdictional interests such as coordinating the workforce training programs, helping commuters find low cost options to get to work, regional transportation planning, regional economic development planning, regional tourism planning, regional agriculture planning, as well as managing the regional landfill for four jurisdictions.

Mr. Ben Bowman, Workforce Development Director, spoke about changes to the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act that affect what is done regionally. Mr. Bowman said the Board would appreciate the opportunity to have more Bedford businesses engaged and represented on the Workforce Development Board. He said that a Family Career Night will be held in the spring at the Bedford Public Library.

Susan Martin, President and CEO of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation regarding the FY 2016-17 budget request for the Chamber. She spoke about the collaborations, partnerships, and programs that have been held within the Town of Bedford. Ms. Martin said that the Chamber's primary objective is to create a climate of growth and success in the community. She also spoke about the Chamber's upcoming activities.

Mayor Wandrei said that on February 20 Leona Hardesty will be turning one hundred years old. He stated that Ms. Hardesty is a life long resident of Bedford County, she worked at Green's Drug Store and then at People's Furniture. The Mayor said that Council has been invited to English Meadows on February 22 to join in the celebration of her birthday.

Sara Braaten and Patrick Ellis, Arts Council, presented a Downtown Bedford Arts and Culture Overview 2015 Report to Town Council. Ms. Braaten said that a downtown arts and cultural meeting was held recently and an item discussed was establishing a central calendar. She said the group was asking Council to help come up with a way to have a central calendar. Ms. Braaten said the artist community would like to be of use to the Town and economic development.

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Mr. Ellis reported that next year there will be a new downtown artisan group called Create Bedford. He said it is an organization of existing artisans and entrepreneurs getting together to promote economic development within the Town. Mr. Ellis stated that the organization is going to try to foster more cooperation. He said downtown businesses always say they need more foot traffic and greater visibility. Mr. Ellis said what they are asking of the Town is to help them do that.

Councilman Vest asked Mr. Ellis what they want the Town to do. Mr. Ellis answered as follows: to figure out how we can monopolize all of this amazing amount of creative energy downtown.

Councilman Vest asked if Bedford Main Street has been helpful in promoting the artisan culture. Mr. Ellis stated he thought the artisan culture would say no.

Ms. Braaten said they are looking for a way to sit down at the table with Council. She said that Council could possibly benefit from some of their enthusiasm and some of their knowledge.

Mayor Wandrei said at the last Council meeting a representative from Main Street spoke and made a very good impression and he thought they would be more than willing to work with the Arts Council. He suggested the Arts Council may want to make a presentation to Bedford Main Street.

Vice Mayor Rush moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a)(1), personnel, of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Councilman Hailey seconded the motion. The motion was 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

Council adjourned into closed session at 7:37p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Wandrei noted that Councilman Stanley left the meeting at 7:37 p.m. and that Councilman Stanley said he had other business to attend to.

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 by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

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

The Mayor asked the Clerk of Council to include in the minutes that Councilman Stanley left the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

The Mayor indicated that he would not be able to attend the work session on February 13.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m. until Saturday, February 13, at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and the work session at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building.