

March 1, 2016

A work session of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., March 1, 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; Assistant Town Manager Bart Warner; Finance Director Sonia Jammes; Chief of Police Todd Foreman; Public Works Director D. W. Lawhorne; Electric Director John Wagner; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher

Mayor Wandrei opened the meeting and said the purpose of the meeting was a work session on the proposed Town budget for FY 2017.

Members of Council reviewed the proposed budget, asked questions of the staff, and discussed various items.

During discussion of the budget, the staff was instructed to make the following adjustments in the proposed budget: remove recycling references in the Solid Waste Description and remove the Legal Services budget line of \$1,000 from Solid Waste Refuse Disposal.

It was the consensus of Council to include the Fire Department generator in the proposed FY 2017 budget.

The Mayor declared a recess from 7:10 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.

Town Manager Kolakowski presented the Town of Bedford Fee Schedule for Council's review. The Mayor deferred discussion on the Fee Schedule pending recommendations from the staff.

It was the consensus of Council that anyone who uses the Town's landfill should pay a fee or take their garbage to Bedford County's landfill.

The Mayor stated that the staff recommends an across the board increase of five percent for cemetery and burial charges. It was the consensus of Council to include this increase in the proposed budget.

Council reviewed and discussed the budget requests by community agencies. It was the consensus of Council to include the following in the proposed budget:

- Bedford Chamber of Commerce                      \$ 3,000
- Bedford Lifesaving & First Aid Crew                      10,000

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- Bedford Main Street, Inc. 34,000
- Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library 7,500
- Bedford Ride Program 8,500
- National D-Day Memorial Foundation 9,000
- Wharton Bower Center for the Arts 15,000
- Wharton Gardens Memorial Foundation 6,500

The Town Manager stated the only change in the General Fund Budget at this point was an additional \$10,000 for recreation equipment.

Mr. Wagner reviewed the Electric Committee Draft Update dated February 17, 2016, and discussion ensued regarding the electric rates.

It was the consensus of Council to include in the proposed budget an increase in the electric rates based on Option No. 2 of the Electric Committee Draft Update dated February 17, 2016, five members for the increase and two members opposed.

Discussion ensued about increasing the meals tax and using the funds for economic development.

Vice Mayor Rush moved that the meals tax be increased from 5% to 5.5% for a period of three years (sunset provision) and Councilman Black seconded the motion.

It was determined that the proposal to include the increase in the meals tax would be decided by a consensus of Council.

It was the consensus of Council that an increase in the meals tax from 5% to 5.5% for a period of three years be included in the proposed budget.

It was the consensus of Council to include in the proposed budget an increase in the lodging tax from 5% to 7%.

The Mayor said a suggestion was made to put \$400,000 from the Electric Fund in a one year CD to mature March, 2017. Mayor Wandrei stated that if the funds have not been utilized for operations by then, they will be transferred to the General Fund.

Mayor Wandrei said he thought the matter should be handled by the Town Manager and the Finance Director.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.