



**Town Council
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2022**

The Town Council of Bedford, Virginia, held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Municipal Building at 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia.

Town Council members present:

Mayor Tim Black, Councilman Bob Carson, Councilman Stacey Hailey, Councilman Bruce Hartwick, Councilman Bruce Johannessen, Councilman Darren Shoen, and Councilman C. G. Stanley

Town Staff present:

Town Manager Bart Warner, Attorney Jeremy Carroll for Town Attorney Michael Lockaby, Police Chief Todd Foreman, Electric Department Director John Wagner, Director of Public Works D. W. Lawhorne, Code Official Gary McIver, Clerk of Council Debra B. Anderson, and Recording Secretary Julia Peters

Mayor Black called the meeting to order and led all those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Black declared that the minutes of the regularly scheduled Council meeting of December 14, 2021, were approved as presented.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Bart Warner reported that the Town has been facing staffing challenges recently related to the upsurge of Covid cases and more so with the associated protocols attached to that. In consultation with the Town's health care practitioner, they are encouraged by the observation that the severity of illnesses seems to be diminishing. They are also preparing to adjust the administrative response and policies accordingly. However, in the interim, they apologize for any inconvenience toward the customers and thank them for their patience and understanding.

Some adjustments had to be made particularly in the Treasurer's Office, but as of 8 a.m. that day they were operating normally.

In conjunction with Chief Foreman's retirement, a new representative needs to be appointed to the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) Policy Board. The present term expires in August. Mr. Foreman has expressed a willingness to serve until a new chief is on-board and it is Mr. Warner's recommendation that he continue to do so under those terms.

Staff continues to evaluate several options related to plans for relocation of the police department and expect to discuss this in greater depth at a public level as part of the strategic planning and budget retreat on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

Mr. Warner also recognized and congratulated D. W. Lawhorne on his appointment to the State Board for Waste Management Facility Operators by Governor-elect Youngkin. He will continue to serve as Director of Public Works in addition to his new role as a policy advisor on the state level. Mr. Warner knows the appointment was heavily influenced by representatives of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) who observed the outstanding work Mr. Lawhorne performs in running the landfill. It is a great accomplishment for him personally, and he is very proud.

If Council members have not already done so, he asked them to complete their Conflict of Interest forms and return them to Debra Anderson by January 24, 2022.

Town offices will be closed Monday, January 17, 2022, in accordance with the state holiday schedule.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Stanley was saddened to hear of the retirement of the Town's Police Chief.

Mr. Shoen echoed the sentiments and congratulated Mr. Lawhorne.

Mr. Hailey concurred. Chief Foreman will be missed. He congratulated Mr. Lawhorne for being appointed to the state position and said it was a great accomplishment for the Town.

Mr. Johannessen reported that Bob Wandrei had a stroke on December 29, 2021. He is currently recovering at Virginia Baptist Hospital. His speech is coming back and he is walking with a walker but recovery will take a while. Mr. Wandrei has done a lot for the Town and he hopes everyone will keep him in their thoughts and prayers. Mr. Johannessen also congratulated Mr. Lawhorne and wished Chief Foreman well in his retirement.

Mr. Hartwick congratulated Mr. Lawhorne on his state appointment. He welcomed Mr. Carson to the Council. He said he joined a winning team and they will do great things. He also thanked Chief Foreman for his many years of service. He is one of the best police chiefs Bedford has had. Whoever becomes the new chief will have some big shoes to fill.

Mayor Black welcomed Mr. Carson to the Council. He was glad to have him and looked forward to his vision and leadership. He also said that Mr. Lawhorne's crew always go above and beyond. When it snowed on Monday, they not only cleaned the Town up but also ran two trash routes. He congratulated Mr. Lawhorne on his appointment. It was a testament to his leadership and what he has done with the Town's landfill. He congratulated Chief Foreman on his retirement and was sorry to see him go but he has provided great leadership to the community for 25 years and he will be missed. They will be leaning on him to help them find the next person to continue in his footsteps.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Oath of Office – Robert Carson

Clerk of Council Debra Anderson read the Oath of Office to Bob Carson as he repeated the words with his right hand raised. Attendees applauded as Councilman Carson took his seat on the Town Council.

Election of Vice Mayor

Mayor Black noted that former Councilman Steve Rush had been the Vice Mayor and he wanted to wait to appoint a replacement until the new Council member was appointed. He opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Shoen moved, seconded by Mr. Johannessen to nominate C. G. Stanley as Vice Mayor.

There were no other nominations so Mayor Black closed the floor for nominations and asked for a roll call vote.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Carson | aye |
| Councilman Hailey | aye |
| Councilman Hartwick | aye |
| Councilman Johannessen | aye |
| Councilman Shoen | aye |
| Councilman Stanley | aye |
| Mayor Black | aye |

The motion carried with seven members voting aye.

Clerk of Council Debra Anderson read the Oath of Office to Councilman Stanley as he repeated the words with his right hand raised. Mr. Stanley returned to his seat as the Vice Mayor of the Town of Bedford.

Mayor Black read Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (a) (3) of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, for the acquisition or disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position.

Mr. Hailey moved, seconded by Mr. Hartwick to enter into closed session.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Hailey | aye |
| Councilman Hartwick | aye |
| Councilman Johannessen | aye |
| Councilman Shoen | aye |
| Councilman Stanley | aye |
| Councilman Carson | aye |
| Mayor Black | aye |

The motion carried with seven members voting aye.

Council adjourned into closed session at 7:13 p.m. Mr. Warner, Chief Foreman, Mr. Carroll, and Mr. McIver remained present for the closed session.

Council reconvened into open session at 7:56 p.m.

The Recording Secretary 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 a motion by Councilman Hartwick, seconded by Vice Mayor Stanley, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. The roll call vote follows.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Hartwick | aye |
| Councilman Johannessen | aye |
| Councilman Shoen | aye |
| Councilman Stanley | aye |
| Councilman Carson | aye |
| Councilman Hailey | aye |
| Mayor Black | aye |

The motion carried with seven members voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

7:57 p.m.

Tim Black, Mayor

Debra Anderson, Clerk of the Council