



Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019

The Bedford Town Council of the Town of Bedford held a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Municipal Building Council Hall.

Town Council members present:

Mayor Steve Rush, Vice Mayor Tim Black, Councilman Stacey Hailey, Councilman Bruce Johannessen, Councilman Bryan Schley and Councilman Darren Shoen.

Town Council members absent:

Councilman Robert Wandrei.

Town Staff present:

Town Manager Bart Warner, Assistant Town Manager Sonia Jammes, Town Attorney William W. Berry, IV, Director of Public Services D. W. Lawhorne, Chief of Police Todd Foreman, Electric Director John Wagner and Mary Boone Recording Secretary.

Town Staff absent:

None.

Mayor Rush opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Rush declared that the Minutes of the regular Council Meeting held on January 22, 2019 and the adjourned Council Meeting held on February 2, 2019 were approved as distributed.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER:

Town Manager Bart Warner reported:

- Thanks to the hard work and progress of Council and staff at its meeting on February 2, 2019, as well as the fact that we are waiting on revenue figures from the County there is no need to have a Budget Work Session on February 26, 2019. I ask that you adjourn this meeting normally. We will probably schedule a Budget Work Session for the second meeting in March.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Public Services

Director of Public Works D. W. Lawhorne reported:

- We have most of our members from the Keep Bedford Beautiful Commission here tonight including Mrs. Ann Wood. Ann is highly recognized in the Town and has been an anchor with this group from the beginning of its organization for over 41 years. During that time with her help and involvement with this group, volunteers from the community and organizations that we had come out during our clean ups in the 41 years they have managed to collect over 120 tons of trash from the streets of the Town of Bedford. I have been fortunate to work side by side with Ann, she is always there with a smile to help everybody and a great mentor to the group. I would like to ask Council to join us in recognizing her for her 41 years of service to the group and look forward to the next 41 years.

Mayor Rush presented Mrs. Ann Wood with a Lifetime Achievement Award KBBC.

Finance

Assistant Town Manager Sonia Jammes reported:

- We received our FY19-20 insurance rates. Those rates are already built in the proposed budget and they are not increasing the rates for the fiscal year 2020. The insurance rates that are already in your proposed budget are the health insurance rates they are proposing for next years budget.
- I am revising the proposed budget based on the outcome of our Budget Work Session that we had on February 2. Council members please turn in your notebooks so I can make the revisions and reprint.
- January financials should be in your packets on Friday.
- See handout for the Gateway Signage for your review to decide which you would like to choose.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Foreman reported:

- We will have an officer resigning at the end of this month. We will have one more opening and we are in the process of hiring and will have that position filled soon.
- I am working on a new program. We are going to have some officers that we call Community Engagement officers. They will be involved in events and more involved in the community so that the community gets to know the officers better.

- We have been working on the inoperable vehicles in Town.

Electric

Electric Director John Wagner reported:

- No significant outages this year and no peak alerts for this week.
- Establish annual peak January 30.
- Project on Longwood/Shady Knoll is underway.
- Control system at Snowden is now online and seems to be producing more energy.

Councilman Schley asked when is the next scheduled PCA. Mr. Wagner responded May 1, I believe.

Mayor Rush requested that the old pole that was replaced on Peaks Street be removed.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL:

Kyle Blanchard 110 Braddock Dr. Forest, Virginia 24551

Mr. Blanchard addressed Council with regard to having a Professional Theatre in Bedford and would like to use Liberty Lake Park for a musical production the last two weekends in May. He will get a rental agreement and loudspeaker permit and would like the blessing of Council. Mr. Blanchard also spoke with D. W. Lawhorne regarding use of Liberty Lake Park. Mr. Lawhorne advised him to drop off the paperwork at his office.

Philip Parker 1332 Homeward Dr. Bedford, Virginia 24523

Mr. Parker addressed Council with regard to the Bedford Middle School and proposed uses for the building including refurbishing the auditorium, afterschool care, center for senior adults, recreation activities, community events and renting to a church for use on Sunday and Wednesday night meetings.

Mr. Parker also inquired about permits needed for an outdoor event pertaining to the 175th anniversary of the Bedford Presbyterian Church. Mr. Warner advised him to contact Debra Anderson.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Hailey – Thank you to Mrs. Wood.

Councilman Black – Thank you to Mrs. Wood.

Mayor Rush – Thank you to Mrs. Wood.

Councilman Schley – Update on Middle School moving out issue.

Councilman Shoen – Thank you to Mrs. Wood.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

None.

REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Add Gateway Signage

Golf Cart Ordinance will be a discussion

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Appointment of Member – Town Planning Commission

There is a vacancy on the Town Planning Commission, said term to expire March 31, 2021. Ms. Gail Davis has expressed an interest in appointment to this Commission. The vacancy has been advertised in the local newspaper, and no other citizens have volunteered to serve.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Council is requested to appoint Ms. Gail Davis to the Town Planning Commission, said term to expire March 31, 2021.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Black, seconded by Councilman Johannessen, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved to appoint Ms. Gail Davis to the Town Planning Commission. Roll call vote follows:

Vice Mayor Black	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye

Councilman Johannessen	aye
Councilman Schley	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Wandrei	absent
Mayor Rush	aye

Request to Block Streets for “Centerfest” 2019 - The Central Virginia Business Coalition

The Central Virginia Business Coalition, formerly Retail Merchants Association, is requesting to block the following streets for “Centerfest” 2019 on Saturday, September 21st from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

- Intersection of West Main & Center Street
- Center Street & Washington Street
- South Bridge Street and Washington Street
- South Street and Washington Street
- Depot Street and North Bridge Street (road block set up at Market Square area for handicapped parking)
- North Bridge Street (directly in front of American National Bank)
- Plunkett Street and Depot Street
- East Main Street and Otey Street
- Court Street and Depot Street (barricades at Goose Creek Studio so cars cannot enter Depot or Court Streets from parking lot area)

Affected businesses will be notified, as well as the Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Town Council is requested to grant permission to block the above streets for “Centerfest” 2019 on Saturday, September 21st from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

On a motion by Councilman Hailey, seconded by Councilman Schley, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved to block the above requested streets for Centerfest 2019. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Johannessen	aye
Councilman Schley	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Wandrei	absent
Vice Mayor Black	aye
Mayor Rush	aye

Request to Close Streets for Bedford Christmas Parade – The Central Virginia Business Coalition

The Central Virginia Business Coalition, formerly Retail Merchants Association, is sponsoring the 2019 Bedford Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. with a rain/snow date of Sunday December 8th at 3:00 p.m. and is requesting that Council authorize the closing of the following streets for the holiday event:

From 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Bedford Avenue Extension from 4th Street to the curve of the Recreation Field, Ashland Avenue from the curve of the Recreation Field to the Elks Home Driveway, College Street from Ashland Avenue to Peaks Street and Mountain Avenue in its entirety.

From approximately 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Peaks Street from College Street to North Bridge Street, North Bridge Street from Peaks Street to East Main Street, East Main Street from North Bridge Street to South Street, South Street from East Main Street to Washington Street, Washington Street from South Street to Center Street, Center Street in its entirety, West Main Street from Center Street to 4th Street, 4th Street from West Main Street to Macon Street, Macon Street from 4th Street to Summit Street and Summit Street from Macon Street to the first entrance to the Winn Dixie Parking Lot.

Affected businesses will be notified, as well as the Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Town Council is requested to close the above streets for the Bedford Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. with a rain/snow date of Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 p.m.

On a motion by Councilman Hailey, seconded by Vice Mayor Black, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved to block the above requested streets for the 2019 Christmas Parade. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Johannessen	aye
Councilman Schley	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Wandrei	absent
Vice Mayor Black	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Mayor Rush	aye

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Golf Carts Discussion

Discussion ensued regarding changes/update/revisions to the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance. Discussion included designation of streets, maps, registration of vehicle, giving more detail to the term utility vehicle, safety inspection, proof of insurance, liability policy for vehicle, criteria for golf cart, annual inspection and registration, concern of vehicles being on the street with ambulances, fire trucks and tractor trailers, time limits of use, governors, signage and State Code.

Mayor Rush asked that this ordinance be reviewed by the Public Safety Committee.

Ordinance – Overnight Parking

There have been complaints throughout the Town of trailers parking on the streets for days, weeks and months. The current ordinance allows trailers to park on the streets for 48 hours. This is difficult to enforce. There are dangers of having trailers parked on the side of Town streets such as; children darting out from behind parked trailers and drivers not seeing them. The ordinance has been amended and reviewed to limit overnight parking of trailers.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Town Council is requested to approve the amended ordinance.

Mr. Foreman reported that Council members have had complaints about campers, trailers and different things being parked on the street. The old ordinance was written that they had to move every 48 hours and that is very difficult for an officer to know whether a vehicle has been moved in 48 hours.

Discussion ensued regarding the amended ordinance. Discussion included eliminating Section C, setting a fine of \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for subsequent offense and including Town Code.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Black to amend the ordinance to include the Town Code Section that we are amending, to eliminate Section C and to change Section F (fines) to \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for subsequent offenses, seconded by Councilman Shoen, the motion was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Schley	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Wandrei	absent
Vice Mayor Black	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Johannessen	aye

Mayor Rush

aye

The ordinance follows as adopted:

ORDINANCE NO. 19-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE BEDFORD TOWN CODE § 34-44
– ALL NIGHT PARKING PROHIBITED ON PUBLIC STREETS WITHIN THE TOWN OF
BEDFORD

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA
AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 34-44 is Amended and Reenacted as follows:

Sec. 34-44. – All-night parking prohibited.

(a) No person shall park any truck or motor vehicle of more than 18,000 pounds gross weight, or any trailer or semitrailer, whether or not attached to a tractor, on any street from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., except that this section shall not apply to trucks, trailers or semitrailers so parked while actually engaged in loading or unloading, or when the driver is in attendance with the truck.

(b) No person shall park a truck or motor vehicle used for the purpose of transporting any explosive or more than 50 gallons of gasoline, kerosene, benzoyl, naphtha, or other volatile liquids on any street or alley from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., regardless of whether such vehicle is loaded or empty.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to allow any house trailer, camping trailer, trailer designated for the transportation of any freight or goods or livestock, or any other trailer or apparatus of any kind whatsoever designated to be attached or pulled by a motor vehicle, to remain in the same location on any street in town (except on Friday, Saturday and Sunday), and between the hours of 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 6:00 a.m. the following Monday, except for the purpose of taking on or discharging passengers or cargo within a reasonable and appropriate time period as determined by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. The Town Manager may promulgate a policy to address criteria under which unlawfully parked vehicles may be towed.

(d) This section shall not apply to the following:

- (1) Public safety and emergency service vehicles; and
- (2) Public works or public vehicle while on duty and actively engaged in required job functions; regardless of size.

(e) A violation of this section shall constitute a parking infraction punishable by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the first infraction and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each subsequent infraction.

Brush Drop Off

Mr. Lawhorne reported last year we saw an increase in brush by over 250 tons at the brush convenience center set up for people to drop brush off after hours. We have to pay a contractor to grind that brush and dispose of it at a cost. People are not using the scales and are coming on the weekend and dropping brush off and it is a possibility that non-Town residents are using the brush drop off center. Mr. Lawhorne suggested that we do away with the drop off center and people will have to come across the scales and drop it off inside.

Discussion ensued regarding any free drop off, monthly pick up of brush at homes in the Town of Bedford, change of hours, discontinuing the 24 hour drop off and illegal drop offs.

Mr. Warner said we are making this policy change. This is not a Council level discussion unless you disagree with the policy. If there any objections let us know but otherwise we will proceed.

Gateway Signage

Gateway Signage discussion ensued regarding 3D effect, lighting to shine up on sign, addition of Town of, background, red,white and blue on sign, landscaping, location, approval of VDOT, brick work, contribution from Town residents of old bricks from old structures here in Town and Brick Campaign.

On a motion by Councilman Hailey to approve what we have before us and get direction on moving the second sign, seconded by Council Schley, the motion was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Wandrei	absent
Vice Mayor Black	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Johannessen	aye
Councilman Schley	aye
Mayor Rush	aye

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Rush adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.