



**Town Council
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022**

The Town Council of Bedford, Virginia, held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 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, Vice Mayor C. G. Stanley, Councilman Bob Carson, Councilman Stacey Hailey, Councilman Bruce Hartwick, Councilman Bruce Johannessen, Councilman Darren Shoen

Town Staff present:

Town Manager Bart Warner, Fire Chief Brad Creasy, Town Attorney Michael Lockaby, Electric Department Director John Wagner, Police Lieutenant Shannon Walker, Firefighter Russell Stevens, 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 February 22, 2022, were approved as presented.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Warner reported that the new Director of Finance, Anne Cantrell, is on the clock and doing an outstanding job. She is also far along in her pregnancy and could not join the meeting tonight but he looks forward to introducing her at a Council meeting as soon as she is able.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Black recognized Firefighter of the Year Russell Stevens and Fire Chief of the Year Brad Creasy. They were named several weeks ago by Governor Youngkin and Bedford is very proud of them. Council members and the townspeople appreciate the service they provide to the community for so many years. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Creasy were given a round of applause from the meeting attendees.

Fire Chief Creasy thanked Council and said that Firefighter Stevens has run 13,000 calls since he began his career and it is unbelievable what he has done for the Town and County as well. He said what the department does continually is remarkable. Last year, 1,134 runs were answered, never turning a call over. This is unheard of in today's time. Career fire departments have a hard time getting applicants paying \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year, but Bedford's volunteer fire department pays nothing and still provides excellent service, and they have been dynamic in their recruitment and retention and he could not be prouder of his department.

Mr. Hartwick congratulated Mr. Stevens and Chief Creasy. He said they have provided excellent service over the years. He told them to keep up the great work and thanked them for what they do for the community.

Mr. Johannessen also congratulated Mr. Stevens and Chief Creasy.

Mr. Stanley said his father was a member of the fire department for about 30 years and he is proud that they have kept the tradition of the Bedford fire department going, like it was 40 or 50 years ago. He told them to keep up the good work.

Mr. Hailey stated that Mr. Russell had been with the fire department for many years and has taught a lot of members, training them well. He thanked Chief Creasy for his leadership and keeping the department on the right track and moving forward into the future.

Mr. Shoen thanked both firemen and told them to keep up the good work.

Mr. Carson thanked both firemen as well.

Mayor Black reminded attendees about the discussion that took place at the budget work session regarding the deteriorating Christmas decorations and their replacement. He has appointed a committee of four citizens; Patrick Ellis from Goose Creek Studios; Susan Martin of the Bower Center; John Hayden, who is active in many Christmas activities in Town; and Wendy Witt of ElectricCoArt. They will ascertain what decorations are needed and provide a recommendation to Town Council. Councilman Hailey will act as Council liaison. All Council members were agreeable to having these community members handle the task.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Black presented former Police Chief Foreman with a framed Proclamation that acknowledged his long and excellent service to the Town of Bedford. He read the Proclamation aloud and meeting attendees applauded Mr. Foreman.

The Proclamation follows.

WHEREAS, F. Todd Foreman has served with distinction for over seven years as Chief of Police for the Town of Bedford; and

WHEREAS, under Chief Foreman’s leadership the Town of Bedford Police Department has demonstrated a level of professionalism and operation as well as a commitment to excellence sufficient to earn the nationally recognized and prestigious accreditation status offered by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), a rarity among communities as small as the Town of Bedford; and

WHEREAS, Chief Foreman has modernized police operations insuring that all officers are fully trained and all cars are fully equipped with the necessary tools to serve the public; and

WHEREAS, Chief Foreman has served as an able representative of the Town of Bedford and shared his vast knowledge and professional expertise on numerous boards, commissions, and organizations and has been called on as an expert consultant and lecturer at the regional, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Chief Foreman has made a major contribution to the life, welfare, and culture of the Bedford community through his commitment to community involvement and policing, which he both directs and models as a law enforcement professional; and

Whereas, Chief Foreman's impact on the Town of Bedford will surely endure long beyond his tenure with the Town through policies and procedures he established and the selection and development of a highly professional staff; and

WHEREAS, Todd Foreman will be sorely missed as a dedicated employee, colleague and friend by the Town of Bedford;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Town of Bedford recognizes F. Todd Foreman for his tireless efforts on behalf of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor of the Town of Bedford on behalf of all the citizens thanks Todd Foreman for his efforts to make Bedford a better place to live, work and play and to claim status as the World's Best Little Town.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Bedford to be affixed this 8th day of March 2022.

Timothy W. Black, Mayor

Mr. Carson thanked Chief Foreman for being an excellent Chief as well as a friend. He appreciated all his community work and helpful conversations, and he wished him good luck with his new endeavor. He will miss him.

Mr. Shoen thanked Chief Foreman and said he was a very visible Police Chief who got out among the people and he hopes the next Chief will also have such a visible presence.

Mr. Hailey said Chief Foreman has been a great friend and an awesome community member. When he became Chief of Police, it was a great benefit to the Town, with his leadership and capabilities. He wished him well with his future endeavors and he will be missed.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Proclamation sums everything up. Chief Foreman made Bedford a safer place to live and he got out into the community. Everyone in Town knew who the Police Chief was and he led by example. He wished him all the best in the future and he would not say goodbye, but he would see him around Town.

Mr. Johannessen hoped Chief Foreman would stick around as a citizen of the Town and help Council when needed. He has been a wonderful example to the police officers who are kind and considerate and he appreciated that. He thanked him for his service.

Mr. Hartwick thanked Chief Foreman for keeping the community safe, not only through his police work, but also through his military service. The Police Chief position will be filled, but Chief Foreman cannot be replaced.

Mayor Black noted Chief Foreman's long and distinguished career in Bedford, which shows that rising up through the ranks can be done and is part of his legacy. His professional leadership and staff are commended. He cannot imagine that there are many small towns that have such a well-serving and professional police department as Bedford's. It is part of Chief Foreman's legacy. He led with a community-policing philosophy and it has been successful and has done wonders to keep the community safe. He has implemented many youth programs, including Cop Camp, Shop with a Cop, and basketball tournaments. These programs help to build relationships with the young people and help them to understand the role of the police department. He thanked Chief Foreman for a job well-done and he would see him around Town.

Resolution – VDOT Smart Scale Grant Application

The Town of Bedford, through the Bedford-Franklin Regional Rail Initiative, has been actively studying the need for and placement in Town of an Amtrak rail stop. The preferred site as selected through various studies is currently along Macon Street within the Norfolk-Southern right-of-way. Access to this site is along Macon Street, a narrow street connecting Baldwin Street on the west with 4th Street on the east.

Significant work is needed on this road in order to improve the surface and width for public traffic. One of the funding sources is through VDOT with the SMART Scale program, which is only open for application on even numbered years. The current year 2022 is one of those years.

Town Council at the February 26, 2022, Budget Retreat meeting confirmed improvement to Macon Street is a priority transportation project. The attached resolution directs staff to submit the pre-application through the VDOT process. A more formal Resolution of support will be required when the final grant submittal occurs later in 2022.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Town Council is requested to adopt the attached resolution authorizing approval for submittal of an application for SMART Scale funding.

Mr. Hartwick moved, seconded by Mr. Carson to adopt the resolution authorizing approval for submittal of an application for SMART Scale funding.

Mayor Black said this project has many different aspects and there is potential economic development down the road resulting from this project. It is a good project and hopefully VDOT will agree.

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.

The resolution follows.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BEDFORD
IN SUPPORT OF APPLYING FOR A VDOT SMART SCALE GRANT IN THE TOWN
OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA FOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO MACON STREET**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bedford, through the Bedford-Franklin Regional Rail Initiative, has been actively studying the need for and placement of an Amtrak rail stop;

WHEREAS, the preferred site is currently along Macon Street, a narrow street connecting Baldwin Street on the west with 4th Street on the east;

WHEREAS, significant work is needed on this road in order to improve it for public traffic;

WHEREAS, one of the funding sources is through VDOT with the SMART Scale program, which is open for application in 2022;

WHEREAS, Town Council at the February 26, 2022 budget retreat meeting confirmed improvement to Macon Street is a priority transportation project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedford Town Council supports an application seeking grant funding from VDOT; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Manager is authorized to sign forms and documents related to the grant application.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Black adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m. until March 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. for a Budget Work Session in Council Hall regarding IT budget proposals and the outside agency funding.

Tim Black, Mayor

Debra Anderson, Clerk of the Council