



Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2019

The Bedford Town Council of the Town of Bedford held a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, March 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, Councilman Darren Shoen and Councilman Robert Wandrei

**Town Council members absent:**

None.

**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 called Council Meeting held on February 21, 2019 and the regular Council Meeting held on February 26, 2019, were approved as distributed.

**REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER:**

Town Manager Bart Warner reported:

- I have nothing specific to report tonight, but, I would be pleased to respond to any questions about operations at this time.

Mayor Rush congratulated D. W. Lawhorne for being named Citizens of the Year by the Central Virginia Business Coalition.

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

### Public Services

Director of Public Works D. W. Lawhorne reported:

- Last week I went to Harrisonburg to attend the annual DEQ meeting for the Litter and Prevention programs and was able to get about \$4,000 of extra free stuff through a grant that I brought back that provided us in materials and is separate from the money grant. The last couple of years they have started doing a materials grant that they divide up amongst everybody.
- We had the contractor here last week working on the guard rails. They should be complete until someone runs into another one.
- Hurt & Proffitt were here today doing a ride around with Wayne looking at all of the sidewalk projects. They will start surveying next week and getting those plans laid out for the sidewalks and we should be moving forward quickly with that.
- I provided each of you with a copy of the arborist report on Poplar Park. The good thing is that tree is not dead, it has life in it and new growth. We are going to take his recommendations and have him do the work. We have gotten with the County and the Core of Engineers about putting a drainpipe in the creek so we can build a little bridge to cross the creek so we can maintain that area. We already do the front side and we are working on the benches and cut the grass. We are going to get a pipe in so we can get equipment across there and spruce up around that area and keep it looking nice.

Councilman Hailey asked how the brush project at the landfill was going.

- We moved the chip bin to inside the gate. We got the brush moved and started dismantling the bay where people dropped off brush and put up barricades because we are half way through moving it. Someone moved the barricades last night and dumped in the parking lot anyway. We went today is cleaned it up and put up signs. A citizen who stopped by to complain was advised he could leave brush in front of house for pickup. The citizens lived one mile outside of Town. Another citizen stopped by my office to complain and I explained that he could leave brush in front of his house. He advised he lived in Town but was doing a job for a local attorney out by Northside and needed a place to dump it. I told him he could not dump it there. We may get complaints and hammered on social media, but, I assure you we are doing the right thing.

### Finance

Assistant Town Manager Sonia Jammes reported:

- You have before you some analysis that I have done for our budget discussion later on and I will reserve my comments until later on in the budget discussion regarding those.

### Police

Chief of Police Todd Foreman reported:

- We had some excitement here last night. Chief Brad Creasy's men and women did a great job with the fire at the Longwood Shell Station. We had officers there and then the firefighters came and took care of it.
- We had a pursuit through Town on Sunday night that went out into the County and involved a crash. We have to get one of our vehicles repaired. There were no injuries.
- We are working on the PAAL's program. The Chairman of the 501 3 C and I met with Denny Huff about looking into some grants for it and came up with some ideas on things we are going to take to the board on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Electric**

Electric Director John Wagner reported:

- The contractor who is working on Forest Road around Shady Knoll/Independence you will see that there are some tall structures being erected there and that will relocated the 69 KV line that goes over the restaurant on Shady Knoll.

**APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL:**

None.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

None.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Bruce Johannessen - I have been passing the hat among the Council members and a couple of folks on our streets and we are going to have enough money to put the flowers out around Town like we have in the past. We will get them watered and my wife is getting that straight.

Councilman Stacey Hailey – I want to thank Bedford Fire Department and Bedford Police Department regarding the unique fire at the Shell Station. Great response time.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Public Safety Committee

Councilman Hailey reported that the committee is not going to proceed with the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance due to complications.

**REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

The closed session will not go on tonight.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Budget Work Session

Bart Warner said the tax rate on the revenue side of the budget that we have presented for your consideration today is based on .32/100 real estate tax rate. That was done before we had the reassessment numbers from the Commissioner of Revenue. I need to bring your attention to the material fact related to the rate we wish to advertise. We do need to advertise the rate we intend to charge shortly and we will do that this month with a hearing on the next. If we proceed with the rate of .32/100 based on the increased assessment in Town which averages a 6 ½% increase for most folks that will equate to an increase in the taxes that those impacted people would pay and would necessitate another separate public hearing in conjunction to make the tax payers aware. Conversely, if you were to advertise a tax rate of .30/100 you could avoid that separate public hearing, however, you would be limited to that amount of tax rate. You can always lower the rate you advertise but you cannot increase it once it hits the public hearing notice. We would appreciate your direction on the rate we advertise to begin with and we also think that it would probably inform some of your subsequent discussions about the budget itself.

Discussion ensued regarding raising or lowering the rate, public hearings/advertisement and when to publish, current amount in proposed budget, monies collected at each tax rate, proposed budget with regard to a new fire truck, capital improvements and how they are to be paid, appeals to tax rate and is COLA built into this budget.

On a motion by Councilman Wandrei to advertise the tax rate at .32/100, seconded by Councilman Schley, discussion ensued regarding giving public notice, hearing date, proposed budget hearing, billing of real estate and adopting the tax rate.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Vice Mayor Black  | Nay |
| Councilman Hailey | Nay |

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Johannessen | Aye |
| Councilman Schley      | Aye |
| Councilman Shoen       | Nay |
| Councilman Wandrei     | Aye |
| Mayor Rush             | Aye |

The motion carries.

Mayor Rush went through the revisions to the proposed FY 2019-2020 budget line by line. Council’s questions were answered by Bart Warner and Sonia Jammes. John Warner answered questions regarding the proposed Polaris ATV and replacement digger truck. Brad Creasy answered questions regarding the proposed fire truck.

Council reconsidered monies given to outside agencies and a need for a policy to be in place. Mayor Rush appointed Councilman Schley to chair and Councilman Shoen to serve on the Committee to prepare a policy. Council members discussed their opinions on monies given.

The consensus of Town Council was:

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Bedford Museum and Genalogical Library | \$ 6,000.00               |
| Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce       | \$ 2,500.00               |
| Bedford Ride Program                   | \$ 8,500.00               |
| National D-Day Memorial Foundation     | \$12,000.00               |
| Wharton Gardens Memorial Foundation    | \$ 6,000.00               |
| Bedford Area Educational Foundation    | \$ 2,500.00               |
| Retail Merchants Association           | \$ 0.00                   |
| Bower Center for the Arts              | \$ 9,000.00 pending grant |

Vice Mayor Black asked about the status of the Crenshaw Street project. Discussion ensued regarding the engineering and design work up to \$175,000, Phase I to be the section between Visitors Center and Liberty Lake Park, project will be bided out.

Bart Warner advised that sidewalk work is to commence in May.

Councilman Hailey asked about where we stand on the entrance signs into Town. Bart Warner advised we are still negotiating the approval with VDOT.

Councilman Hailey asked how the facility use plan was working as to people charging admission and fees or are we waiving certain things.

Bart Warner said charging fees does not have anything to do with policy. We have our fees designed to recover our costs for scheduling and insuring venues but that does not mean you can't post the event on our property and still charge admission. We reserve the right to recover our cost as part of the policy. We don't tell whether or not they can charge admission.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Rush adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.