



Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2019

The Bedford Town Council of the Town of Bedford held a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, April 23, 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 regular Council Meeting held on April 9, 2019, were approved as distributed.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER:

Town Manager Bart Warner reported:

- The Central Virginia Planning District Commission as part of its work plan for the coming year has funded a study of the Forks intersection. They will be focusing primarily on pedestrian and bicycle issues. Just as a reminder, we have also put in a request to VDOT to look at the actual geometry of that intersection as well. The Planning District Commission has expressed a willingness to take that on on our behalf.

- As you are aware we will be discussing the proposed tax rate, which is affected by the recent reassessment. Given that it is a rather unusual situation, I know we have a part in the agenda to talk about this but I am recommending that we amend the agenda tonight to make sure the ordinance establishing the real estate tax rate for the fiscal year 2019-2020 be moved to the first item of new business. I think that probably is the decision that will inform all other activities and depending on the outcome, we may want to defer the other actions on the budget to our May 14 meeting.

Mayor Rush said we will move establishing the tax rate to the number one item of new business. Why can't we go ahead and set these other rates there are of no contention or do you not want to do it all at one time.

Mr. Warner replied we can but it depends on the outcome of the discussion of the tax rate. If the tax rate is adopted at a level beyond equalization, we cannot act on the budget tonight. If it is adopted at an equalized rate, there will be some discussion about changes to the budget and I think it might be better for Council to have a couple of weeks to digest that.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL:

None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Public Services

Director of Public Works D. W. Lawhorne reported:

- We had a very good Keep Bedford Beautiful clean up despite the weather on Saturday April 13. I want to thank all the staff that came out and both Mayors. We had about thirty people come out in the overcast and raining weather later. We appreciate that.
- We finished up the spring clean-up for the Town which had to roll over a second week because of all the stuff that was out there. We picked up 90 tons of residential junk and trash for the two weeks.
- Before the next Council meeting, probably, we will be scheduling and the Town Manager will let you know, a ribbon cutting and opening for our fitness court. It is in the final stages and just about done.

Finance

Assistant Town Manager Sonia Jammes reported:

- We have changed direction on our utility billing software. We have decided to go from the Munis product to the NorthStar software. We feel this is going to be a more efficient and economical choice and it will provide our customers with greater ability to monitor and pay their bills from home. They can actually see every bill that has ever been sent

from us on this system and they can analyse and do what they need to do to prepare for paying for it. Overall, the software fits better with our current rate structure and our overall process; it fits better than the Munis product that was originally chosen.

- The Town is embarking on a new ID/Key card process. Staff will be able to use these as ID cards as well as a badge to get in the doors of the Town buildings. I have a sample if you would like to review it after the meeting. I would like to thank Chief Foreman for his help in getting this process going.
- We were informed last week that in order to make the work that we had done on the Municipal Building air conditioner fully functional we had to replace some original installed 1966 pumps and hosing in the out building. They are no longer made so we had to buy brand new, we could not replace them. It is going to add an additional \$15,000 to the original project total that we thought. If you have any questions about that I would suggest you ask Mr. Lawhorne and not me because that is the extent that I know about the project.
- I wanted to give kudos to Custom Structures and the Public Works Department for the phenomenal job that they have done up at the fitness court. I do not know how many of you have been up there but I have been up there several times, they have worked really hard on it and it looks really good. I think it is going to be a great facility for our citizens and residents who do not want to pay a gym fee but want to work out. They can go up there and work out for free; it does not cost them a thing. There are apps and music associated with that fitness center that they could follow along each of the exercises. It is a great thing that Council has done for their citizens in order to help endeavour them to have a healthier lifestyle. In addition, I wanted to draw your attention to the exemplary work that is being done on the fountain out front. We have taken it out of winterization and the Public Works Department is doing an amazing job at minimal cost of putting that together and making it better than ever. I also want to draw your attention to the new TV in the lobby and I want to thank Public Works for that as well and IT for the purchase of it because it keeps us from having to put paper all over the walls and announcements all over the walls. It looks cleaner and more streamlined and brings up to date on that.
- You should have received your March financial reports in your packets. I will entertain any questions that you have on those at this time or any questions that you have overall at this time.

Councilman Schley asked is there some additional cost to the Munis upgrade.

Ms. Jammes replied I will tell you the Munis quote that we got in 2013 came in at \$103,000. The NorthStar that we are changing directions and going with and that was in 2013 six years later it is coming in at \$103,000 so it is obviously a cheaper product and it also uploads twenty years of our utility billing because the foundation and structure of NorthStar was and is our current pub system. So instead of us having to pay Munis to upload three years of experience that we have had for these billings everything that we have ever billed within the pub system is going to be

uploaded within that package. What I am currently trying to do is get reimbursement; I have contacted Munis and said your product is not going to work for us. I am pulling together all of the invoices that we have paid them for said product and I am going to general bill them out of their own software system and ask for any money that we have paid them thus far to be reimbursed to the Town. Then I will take what they have reimbursed and apply that towards the new software system.

Councilman Hailey asked if that changes everything in the Munis system that we have.

Ms. Jammes replied no we will keep our financial piece and we will keep our building and permitting piece but we will now go with NorthStar, which provides much more ability for our customers to maintain their own accounts. They will be able to pay straight into the system if we go with their payment product instead of them having to pay official payments and then get a number from official payments and call us on the phone and say this is the number I paid and I got from official payments. We will automatically see when they pay; it will automatically show up in our system. It is more real time and will provide a more efficient process. We looked at all these features and this product by far outweighed and was better than our current implementation that we were going through. We were supposed to go live with Munis this summer and we were nowhere ready for that. NorthStar we will be able to go live with full implementation within five months, so about the time we were going to go live with Munis we can already be live with a more streamlined product.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Foreman reported:

- We have a busy weekend coming up between Public Works and the Police Department. We have the NAACP and Boys With A Dream; they are having a prayer vigil for first responders in the Farmers Market at 1 p.m. We also have the road closures with the Company A Tribute Center at 1 p.m. at the same time in the center of Town so we have both of those events going on for us.
- Cop Camp is moving ahead, we have 150 applications out at this point for children to attend. We are waiting for those to come back in and see if there are more requests for them.
- We are working with the County for our record management system that is placed in the budget for this year but they have actually written an RFP to put out that we can partner with them on and I believe they are going to publish that so and just wanted you to be aware of that.

Electric

Electric Director John Wagner reported:

- On Friday we had a mini tornado touch down in the Sharps Mountain Road area of our service territory. Initially we thought we were going to have some extensive damage up

there and there was some damage to some homes and out buildings. We had several poles that were damaged but the crews worked diligently. I am very pleased with the way they performed and they had all of the customers back online by 4 p.m. that afternoon. That was quite an effort on their part.

- We just issued a bid document for our Blue Ridge Crossing project. We are going to replace the structures, which hold the line, which crosses the Blue Ridge Parkway in the northern section of our territory.
- I am sure you noticed the work on Longwood Ave., some new poles being set for the transmission line extension.
- Our PCA will be going up unfortunately starting May 1 it will be going from 1.3 cents per kilowatt-hour to 1.9 cents per kilowatt-hour.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee

Vice Mayor Black reported the Finance Committee met yesterday and Sonia outlined everything we discussed.

REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Ordinance establishing the real estate tax rate for the fiscal year 2019-2020 will be moved to the first item of new business.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED TAX INCREASE BY ASSESSMENT**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Town Council in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, to receive citizen comments on a proposed

ordinance for an effective tax rate increase on the total assessed value of real property for the Tax Year 2019.

The Town of Bedford proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 7.65 percent.

2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.30 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

3. Effective Rate Increase: The Town of Bedford proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$0.32 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.02 per \$100, or 7.65 percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase."

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the Town of Bedford will exceed last year's by 4.30 percent.

A full copy of the proposed ordinances is available for public review in the Town Manager's Office, Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, Virginia, during normal business hours.

Mayor Rush opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. William Stanley Orange Street Bedford, Virginia 24523

I have been a lifelong resident of Bedford and feel that the quality of life in Bedford is going down. I would like to urge Council to reduce the rate to \$0.30 which will give you somewhat of an increase according to the assessment. I just cannot see that the homeowners should keep taking the increases over and over. Our garbage fees go up, recycling has been eliminated, our water rates are going up again and I just do not think that the homeowner, especially the ones that are on fixed income, can take it. I just cannot understand why Bedford, which was once known as a no tax Town, has the highest tax rate of any of the Towns that are in our locality. Appomattox, Altavista, Rocky Mount, Vinton all have a much lower tax rates than what Bedford does. I think it is a shame that Bedford has such a high tax rate.

Mr. Bruce Hartwick 418 West Franklin Street Bedford, Virginia 24523

I urge you all to vote against a tax increase. I believe the tax increase is going to cause more people to move out of Town and do business other places. We need more people coming here to

live, to do business here and get back on the right track to being the world's best little Town once again and by voting against the tax increase you can do that.

Mayor Rush closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance - Establishing Real Estate Tax Rate – Fiscal Year 2019-2020

PRESENTATION:

Section 58.1-3005 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, requires that Council annually levy a tax on all real estate located within the Town. The attached ordinance establishes a tax rate for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 of \$0.32 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. The ordinance has been posted in accordance with § 2-54 of the Town Code.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Town Council is requested to adopt the ordinance establishing the real estate tax rate for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 at \$0.32 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

On a motion by Councilman Shoen to establish the tax rate at \$0.30, seconded by Councilman Black, discussion:

Councilman Johannessen said my concern is if we in fact increase it to \$0.32 what are we going to use this money for specifically. We do not have any project for it. I have asked around and tried to figure out what we are going to do with it, I think we come up with what \$120,000. What is it that we need to do at this point. I am trying to figure out what it is we are doing with it. We may in coming years need to increase it in when we pull in some new areas but I am just kind of wondering what are we doing with it this year.

Councilman Hailey said first of all the most thing we should be concerned about is the citizens and our employees. I think there are some things that we could adjust in our budget to find what we need. I think my proposal would be \$0.30 per 100 on the tax rate. I think that would be where we need to look into the projects and see what we can adjust to make it work to our advantage and the citizens.

Vice Mayor Black said I have been a proponent of setting the tax rate at \$0.30 from the beginning. With that tax rate, we are getting a slight increase in revenues. I feel we have been providing an excellent level of service at the level of revenues we have now. I am like Bruce I do not see a compelling overall need to get additional revenue at this time. A 7.65% tax increase is a little more than I am willing support for sure. I think this Town has a lot of good momentum with some growth and I would be one to prefer seeing increase revenue with growth, not with tax rates. I am solidly at \$0.30.

Councilman Wandrei said I would take a little different tack on this. Questions have been raised and that is we had this budget prepared based upon a \$0.32 tax increase so I guess the question I would ask is where do you propose taking this money out of the budget so you can lower the rate to say \$0.30 or \$0.31.

Councilman Hailey said we have Crenshaw project, we have outside agencies, we have other stuff in the budget that could be adjusted to a point. Our restricted funds if I am correct are 1.5 million and we have the school project and we have a signed contract with the developer. That is money that we do not have to spend in the school no more, I mean there are several different options that we can go from.

Councilman Wandrei said could you give me couple of ones that you think we should cut and the priority of these items. What would you cut first?

Councilman Hailey said first we could start with the school. We do not have to spend money in the school this year as we did last year. We can look at the Crenshaw project, that is \$175,000 right there.

Vice Mayor Black said we are talking 1% of a 10 million dollar budget we have to find cuts for. I do not think that would be difficult. The biggest one obviously is the Crenshaw Street project. Do we have to design and engineer all three phases at one time? Can we divide that into three different phases and save \$100,000 potentially right there with that one change. It does not delay the project by maybe one year and it still gets a piece of that project maybe done. Until we know what that project is going to cost are we ever going to move forward. I did not come tonight prepared to find you specifically \$100,000 worth of cuts but I think within the next two weeks I can definitely find you some of those cuts.

Mayor Rush said let's let everybody speak.

Councilman Schley said I am listening to some of these. What I will say is since I have been on Council, even before I got on Council, the tax rate went from \$0.86 when we were a City down to \$0.30 and then the tax rate had to rise because we were not balancing the budget off the current tax rate of \$0.30 so we had to go to \$0.32. I can tell you most people that are on Council now have been in those meeting where we were in a lot of debt after reversion. We have been able to control that debt so we do not have to pass that on and keep raising rates on things. We have done a heck of a job balancing our budget and keeping things the way we are supposed to. We were all in meetings where we talked about growth and how we want to do capital

improvement projects and how we want to put new sidewalks in and how we want to do things to bring economic development. These things do cost money and the facts are just sitting here Ms. Jammes talked about \$15,000 for the HVAC putting the total price tag for that this past year was what?

Ms. Jammes said about \$115,000.

Councilman Schley said \$150,000, so we have talked about cutting \$100,000 and we have an unexpected expense of \$150,000 just in one budget year. On top of that no one has talked about our current budget is based on balancing it with prior year reserves. If we continue to balance our budget off prior year reserves what is going to happen when our prior year reserves are no longer there. We also currently get and correct me if I am wrong Ms. Jammes \$750,000 from the County.

Ms. Jammes said currently through the reversion agreement we get \$750,000.

Ms. Jammes said we would be losing that revenue.

Councilman Schley said losing \$750,000.

Mr. Warner said in 2028.

Councilman Schley said and we are increasing our boundaries. I think I have spoken with a few of you that I am not against lowering the tax rate next year. I said this year the reason I thought it was not a good idea is because we have gone through budget work sessions where we based our budget off the current revenues. The discussion that we are talking right now is projected revenues we don't know the cost they are coming in, we are basing it off projections we also haven't even discussed cuts yet. The discussion is where we can find places to cut. Everybody says we can find places to cut but we have been in two-budget session where nobody wanted to cut agency funding, as a matter of fact the second time around it increased. We cannot decrease and increase at the same time or else guess where we are going to end up back in debt. Right now, we are how many years from being debt free with our current.

Ms. Jammes said approximately eight years.

Councilman Schley said eight years this Town can be debt free. That is a service that we are giving to our Town. That is a heck of a service that we are giving to our Town and here is what I will say to Town citizens because I am one of them. I will tell you we went from \$0.86 to \$0.30 then to \$0.32 and for that value guess what you still got. Police and Fire, if you need a building permit guess where you can come to the Town, Economic Development the Town, Trash/Solid Waste the Town, snow removal the Town. We are still providing those services at a heck of a rate. I want to look at it next year once we lay out our budget based off the revenues that we say are coming in. We cannot do capital improvement projects, we cannot make the Town look better, we cannot do all that stuff and cut at the same time. Last year alone we gave increases to our Public Works because our people were leaving and going to other Towns because that is

what their Public Works were making so we had to increase that. Was that in the budget Ms. Jammes or did we have to add that into the budget.

Ms. Jammes said we used budget savings and salary lapses for that. It was unbudgeted.

Councilman Schley said we also did a COLA.

Ms. Jammes said we did not do a COLA but we did a Christmas bonus.

Councilman Schley said we will in this year's budget coming up we talked about a COLA.

Ms. Jammes said yes we are, 2% COLA for all staff.

Councilman Schley said so my point is you cannot keep doing these things unless you cut things. Therefore, unless we want to sit down as a Council and seriously cut things first before we start talking about lowering the rates that is the first discussion I think we should have. That is why I suggested we should wait until next year. I am telling you I will put it on a billboard Tim Black tax cuts we will cut them all day long next year but I just think it is a little reckless right now to cut. That is where I am at until we can find those places to cut and make those hard choices I think it is a little reckless. I do not want to end up back in debt where we were five years ago.

Councilman Shoen said as far as to sit and go through this budget right now and find out exact spots where I could say okay we can cut this I'm not an accountant and I'm not on the budget committee we have employees to help us with those things so that is what I would rely on. I have to take into account what our citizens have said. That is a tax increase for these people that we have not justified. We have people of fixed incomes here. I respect what Mr. Schley said and others, it is my understanding I was not on Council then I guess it was \$0.87 then reversion \$0.30 well they are paying County taxes now so that needs to be added in there so we are still paying as citizens of this Town effectively if it is reduced to \$0.30 it is \$0.50 for the County, \$0.80. More than the folks in the County as far as Appomattox and so forth, I do not know but we still have a hefty tax rate here. It is apples to oranges there that is a different comparison before when we were the City. We are still providing I think excellent services, our folks do I great job but I think it is time for a cut. There has been nothing but raises for these folks, it is time and it is \$0.02 and we are talking about \$120,000. I am not saying I can sit here and line item all of these and tell you exactly where the cuts can be. The Crenshaw Street I would like it, it would be great to have a sidewalk coming down from there. Are we going to have retirees from D-Day walking up and down that street I do not think so, I could be wrong. I think there are other ways to beautify. I do think there is room for cuts; I do not think we can justify a tax increase.

Mayor Rush said this current budget as we all know is based on the \$0.32 rate. The prior year reserves, which we have been trying to decrease, will only increase unless we cut out this budget. I do not see a lot of fat except in one or two places in this budget. In this budget, we have proposed \$107,917 in COLA for our employees. As Brian said, we have to look after our employees and keep them here. Expenditure of the capital projects, the sidewalks, Crenshaw Street and my pet peeve is the fire truck. We still owe debt on the solid waste. This is the only

debt we have and that will be paid for whenever Sonia said. We have a pretty good interest rate on that but it is still a debt and I have always preached we need to be debt free. We need to pay as you go when we can. We have to prepare for the loss of the \$750,000 when phase II comes in and we have to prepare for that before it hits us. I going to recommend that we set the rate at \$0.32. We set the rates every year and they can be adjusted yearly. As Brian said, I think since this budget was prepared at the \$0.32 we need to go with the \$0.32. We started in April working on this budget and of course the assessments had not come in we can always lower or raise the rate every year when we do the budget but I think what upsets people more is the up and down effect, well we are going to drop it to \$0.30 this year, next year we are going to have to go to \$0.32 or \$0.33 to pay our bills. I think we need to be consistent to know where we are. I can remember when I came on Council times were tight and of course, because of the economy we have been able to do many things that we did not do. The consistency and inconsistency on tax rates I really have an issue and I have had citizens come to me because they think like I do but they are glad of what we are doing in Town. The downtown is looking good, we are doing sidewalks, we are doing infrastructure, we are providing great services, and they said they do not have a problem keeping it at \$0.32. One thing I will say about the prior year reserves if you keep using prior year reserves or your fund balance to balance our budget as we have been doing we are going to have critical failure in a few year.

Vice Mayor Black said I would like to address some of the comments. Starting with the tax rate if we go to \$0.30 and the County went to \$0.50 last night we are back to the tax rate when the reversion started. The revenues as I said are the same as we had last year; we have been able to live on that revenue. This budget, yes, it has a lot of prior year reserves in it but those prior year reserves are all for capital or one year expenses none of that prior year reserves is going towards operating expenses it is about 1 million dollars in capital and then you have about \$100,000 for the Gateway Project and about \$175,000 for Crenshaw so we are using prior year reserves to pay for one-time items instead of using debt to pay for some of those and that is a good thing. The idea that we are going to lose \$750,000 in ten years, yes we are going to lose that but in five years we are going to do a boundary adjustment, which we are going to get real estate taxes in from all of those. We do not know how much that is going to offset that \$750,000 but it will offset a good portion of that. Yes I agree we need to start planning for the boundary adjustment but I still think asking our citizens and our businesses to take a 7% increase in the real estate tax this year is too much.

Councilman Johannessen said the 7% I am concerned. What one of our citizens talked about is the fact that the folks that are on the lower end have their rates actually increased that much in this assessment. That is what I am wondering about. Will that increase their assessment that much or is this primarily in the better properties in the area.

Councilman Schley said the appeal process for the assessment is that closed.

Ms. Jammes said it is already closed.

Councilman Schley said no appeals have been made.

Ms. Jammes said they probably heard appeals but you hear the appeals at the County level. Wingate is the assessors. Wingate does not provide us a line item of every property we have within our jurisdiction for us to see which has increased and which has decreased. I cannot give you that answer. I can say the \$123,000 if you left it at the \$0.32 which is your decision it is spread across every property you have in your locality some increasing, some decreasing. I cannot give you specific locations or neighbourhoods where it increased or decreased. Unless you want to approach Wingate and ask them for line item per address calculation.

Mayor Rush said I have seven properties some of it dropped below -2% and some of it was up to 12%. There is no rhyme or reason.

Vice Mayor Black said I know from the County because I saw some numbers from the County I do not know if it is going to correlate to the properties in the Town but in the County it was like 20% of the parcels were going to pay for 80% of the increases in taxes. About 40% of the parcels were going to get no tax increase or decrease.

Councilman Johannessen said I am concerned about fixed income folks.

Vice Mayor Black said and tenants. I am sure if landlords got an increase they are going to pass that on to their tenants.

Councilman Wandrei said I would just say this argument is really a crapshoot and we cannot figure out who is going to get hurt the most, if it is going to be the people on low income or the people who are a little better off. This is a thing you should not do but I would like to propose a substitute to the resolution and we go with \$0.31. I am sure that is going to offend everybody but I think it might be a good idea to recommend that we go down to \$0.31 instead of \$.30.

On a motion by Councilman Wandrei to consider a substitute resolution of \$0.31, seconded by Councilman Johannessen, the motion was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote. Roll call vote follows:

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

The motion fails with three members voting aye and four members voting nay.

On a motion by Councilman Shoen to establish the tax rate at \$0.30, seconded by Councilman Black, the motion was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote. Roll call vote follows:

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

Mr. Warner said the vote was four members in favor. The Town Charter requires a vote of five to set the tax rate so the motion fails. We need five votes to set a tax rate.

On a motion by Councilman Schley to establish the tax rate at \$0.32, seconded by Mayor Rush, the motion was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote. Roll call vote follows:

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

The motion fails with four members voting aye and three members voting nay.

On a motion by Councilman Johannessen to establish the tax rate at \$0.31, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, 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	aye
Vice Mayor Black	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Johannessen	aye
Mayor Rush	aye

The motion carries with all members voting aye.

The ordinance is as follows:

ORDINANCE No. 19-2

**AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAX UPON REAL ESTATE AND
CERTAIN TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF
PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS AND ESTABLISHING THE TAX RATE
THEREON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, that there be, and is hereby levied for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, a tax rate of \$0.31 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation on all taxable real estate located in the Town, the respective levy hereby ordered being also applicable to the real estate and tangible personal property of public service corporations within the limitations specified by Section 58.1-2606 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, based upon the assessment thereof fixed by the State Corporation Commission and duly certified.

Mr. Warner said Mr. Mayor I would like to rise to the point of order given that we made a change and we are still going to need to identify about \$60,000 in amendments. I would suggest we defer the other items and schedule a work session prior to our May 14 meeting and add these items to the May 14th agenda if it so pleases Council.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Black to adjourn this meeting until May 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Council Hailey, the motion was then voted upon and carried by a roll call vote. Roll call vote follows:

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

The motion carries with all members voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Rush adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m. until May 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.