



**Town Council
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021**

The Town Council of Bedford, Virginia, held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 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 Steve Rush, Councilman Stacey Hailey, Councilman Bruce Hartwick, Councilman Bruce Johannessen, Councilman Darren Shoen, and Councilman C. G. Stanley

Town Council members absent: None

Town Staff present:

Town Manager Bart Warner, Assistant Town Manager Sonia Jammes, Town Attorney Michael Lockaby, Electric Department Director John Wagner, Director of Public Works D. W. Lawhorne, Director of Planning and Community Development Mary Zirkle, Clerk of Council Debra B. Anderson, and Recording Secretary Julia Peters

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Black noted a correction on Page 5 of the July 27, 2021 meeting minutes under **NEW BUSINESS**. Vice Mayor **Rush** made the motion to appoint Michael Lockaby, not Mayor **Black**. He declared that the minutes of the Town's regularly scheduled meeting of July 27, 2021 were approved as amended.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Bart Warner reported:

- The Mosely Substation is back online as of the past Thursday which is significant good news.
- The Electric Department is currently testing an outage management system which should roll out in the next few months. It is a tool that will allow customers to obtain and report information directly in the event of power outages and it will also allow the Town to put information out when needed. This will have the dual benefit of increasing the level of information available to customers as well as improving the efficiency of the Town's response.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

Ken Parker, Bedford Boys Tribute Center, 524 Longwood Avenue, Bedford, VA

Mr. Parker addressed the Councilmen and attendees and presented an update focusing on three items. He thanked the Council for including in the new fiscal year 2021-2022 budget the \$3,000 for the Tribute Center. Mr. Parker said the funds would be used in a manner that would benefit both the Tribute Center and the historical downtown Bedford area.

He noted that in his application for community agency funding, he said that the goal of the Bedford Boys Tribute Center was to educate. He is pleased to report about an important example of the fruits of this goal. As prearranged by Dr. C. Thomas Long, JD Academic Director, two weeks ago, on July 27, 2021, they hosted 27 students, faculty, and deans from the Alfred H. Small Normandy Institute within the History Department of the George Washington University, Washington, DC. It was a four and a half hour, very extensive tour of the Bedford Boys Tribute Center. This event was incredibly beneficial historically, educating the attendees about the Bedford Boys and the use of the Center's classroom and auditorium. In addition, they were able to hear an interview for 45 minutes from one of only three surviving sisters of a Bedford Boy. This was education displayed at its highest level. In addition to this educational experience, the retail business brought to Bedford was also extremely beneficial with the group's two-night stay at the Super 8 Motel, lunch at Bella's Italian Restaurant, and a full dinner at the Liberty Station that evening. Dr. Long expressed his gratitude by stating he will schedule at least two trips per year to the Tribute Center. The diamond in the rough, Green's Drugstore and the Bedford Boys Tribute Center brings value to historic downtown Bedford and the expending of taxpayers' money is well justified.

Given the extent of the expansion of the Tribute Center and the numerous additional artifacts and personal affects that are continually brought in by the families, he extended an invitation to each Council member to take a tour of the Tribute Center so they could gain an appreciation of the diamond that is in their own backyard. He thanked Council again for their financial support as the Center grows and makes an undeniable impact in the promulgation of the legacy of the Bedford Boys in teaching us that freedom is never free.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Hartwick thanked Mr. Parker for coming in and talking about the Bedford Boys Tribute Center. He also thanked Mr. Wagner for getting the substation back on-line and welcomed Michael Lockaby as the new Town Attorney.

Vice Mayor Rush said Mr. Parker did a great job and was a good tenant.

Councilman Hailey thanked Mr. Parker for coming to Council and officially welcomed Mr. Lockaby to the Town's team.

Councilman Stanley echoed what was already said and added that 36 years ago that day, a much younger woman convinced him to say "I do" and he has not looked back since. Council members wished him a happy anniversary.

Mayor Black thanked Mr. Parker and was able to see the new addition and classroom and encouraged other Council members to let Mr. Parker show them around the Tribute Center. He also welcomed Mike Lockaby and he looked forward to the future years of service and providing Council with solid legal advice.

Mayor Black then asked David Key to come forward. Mayor Black continued:

Mr. Key has 12 years of service with the Town of Bedford and first joined the Town as a Maintenance/Operator in the Public Works Department on February 23, 2009. David's work in the department is vital to the services the Town provides to its citizens. His contribution to the Public Works team is invaluable in the standards that he brings to the job and the quality of work he produces. As he retires, David will be missed as he was always willing to work extra when needed and could always be counted on in the case of after-hours call out and snow removal. David has also been a mentor to many of the new employees at Public Works throughout his time here. Prior to joining the Town's team, David worked for local businesses in the area.

Mayor Black presented Mr. Key with a small gift as a token of the Town's appreciation and wished him well in his retirement. Attendees applauded Mr. Key for his service to the community.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Councilman Hailey said the Streets Committee went on a tour of the Town's different projects that will need to be addressed in the next budget session. They rode from Liberty Lake Park to the Greenway Park and around Town to see what needs to be done and hopefully they can work these projects into the future budget year to get them completed.

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Request to Close Streets for the 39th Annual Bedford Centerfest - Central Virginia Business Coalition

The Central Virginia Business Coalition is requesting to close the following streets for the 39th Annual Bedford Centerfest on Saturday, September 18, 2021, 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 Downtown Business 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 Street from parking lot area)

They are planning for Beale's to hold the ABC Banquet License and provide beer for the beer garden.

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 close the above streets for the 39th Annual Bedford Centerfest on Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Hailey moved, seconded by Mr. Hartwick to grant permission to close the above listed streets for the Centerfest event on September 18, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Hartwick	aye
Councilman Johannessen	aye
Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Mayor Black	aye

The motion carried with seven members voting aye.

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

The Central Virginia Business Coalition is sponsoring the 2021 Bedford Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. with a rain/snow date of Sunday December 5th 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 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 of 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 4, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. with a rain/snow date of Sunday, December 5th at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Hartwick moved, seconded by Mr. Stanley to grant permission to close the above listed streets for the Bedford Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4, 2021 with a rain/snow date of Sunday, December 5, 2021.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Hartwick	aye
Councilman Johannessen	aye
Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Mayor Black	aye

The motion carried with seven members voting aye.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Carson, Boys With A Dream

Mr. Carson introduced himself and addressed the Council. He was speaking on behalf of his organization, Boys With A Dream. He said that Covid-19 shut down everything, including his organization and they could not do many things that they had planned. They kept in touch by phone, Facetime, and Skype to take care of business. Finally, everything opened back up and they discussed what they could still do. The first thing they decided upon was to thank and show their appreciation to those health care workers, first responders, and law enforcement that put their lives on the line throughout the pandemic and are still doing so. They came up with the idea of a wreath called the Wreath of Life that Mr. Carson designed and Virginia Fabricators constructed the frame. He is asking permission from the Council to allow dedication of this wreath to the health care workers and first responders at the park on Bridge and Main Streets, where the Bedford Clock is. They want to make this a community event, not just the Boys With A Dream. They want to send out invitations to businesses and put signs in windows and have vehicles parade through just before the program. He has put in an application for street closures but in speaking with the City Manager, they may not need to do so. They could just drive through as a procession, which would allow people to park at the Farmers' Market and walk over to the park. This unveiling of the wreath will take place on Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Carson asked for the Council's permission to dedicate the wreath in the park and allow them to leave the wreath at the park for a couple of days until a permanent place to display it is found. They would like to be able to change out the flowers seasonally as well. They are willing to pay the fees associated with making this a community event. Council will receive an invitation to attend the event, but they cannot go any further in the planning until they have received permission from Council.

Vice Mayor Rush moved, seconded by Mr. Hailey, to permit Mr. Carson to proceed with the Boys With A Dream wreath dedication event.

The motion carried by a voice vote.

Mayor Black read Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a) (3) of the Code of Virginia of 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.

Councilman Hartwick moved, seconded by Councilman Shoen to enter into Closed Session.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Johannessen	aye
Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Hartwick	aye
Mayor Black	aye

The motion carried with seven members voting aye.

Council adjourned into Closed Session at 7:17 p.m.

Non-Council members present: Mr. Warner, Mr. Lockaby, Ms. Jammes, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Lawhorne

Council reconvened into Open Session at 8:20 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 Hailey, seconded by Councilman Hartwick, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye

Councilman Hartwick aye
Councilman Johannessen aye
Mayor Black aye

The motion carried with seven members voting aye.

Mayor Black noted that the Governor's Hill Agenda Item that was tabled at a previous Council meeting would be handled at the Council's next meeting on August 24, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

8:21 p.m.

Tim Black, Mayor

Debra Anderson, Clerk of the Council