



**Town Council  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2021**

The Town Council of Bedford, Virginia, held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 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, Attorney Jeremy Carroll (for Town Attorney Michael Lockaby), Chief of Police Todd Foreman, Electric Department Director John Wagner, Director of Public Works D. W. Lawhorne, Clerk of Council Debra B. Anderson, and Recording Secretary Julia Peters

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Black declared that the minutes of the Town's called Council meeting of August 24, 2021, and the minutes of the regularly scheduled Council meeting of August 24, 2021 were approved as presented.

### **REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER**

Town Manager Bart Warner reported:

- He has notified the staffing company that the Town intends to retain the temporary workers in its employment throughout the current fiscal year in an effort to complete the list of current projects approved by Council. Typically, they are employed on a seasonal basis, mainly for grass cutting, but the intention is to continue that arrangement throughout the year. This means that the line items related to temporary staffing will likely exceed budgeted amounts, but staff will monitor that affect and update Council on the first of 2022. This was based on a recommendation from the Streets Committee and staff.
- Due to other immediate priorities, Bedford County will not be participating with the Town in projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) at this time. However, the Town intends to proceed in partnership with the Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) to complete eligible water and sewer projects within Town. Brian Key, the Executive Director of BRWA, will attend the next Council meeting to clarify the list of projects that they can pursue and reach a consensus in order to move forward.
- Centerfest returns this coming weekend and the Town is looking forward to welcoming people back to the largest outdoor festival in Town. This is the first major event undertaken since the effects of the Covid pandemic and he asked everyone to afford some grace to the Town staff, the Central Virginia Business Alliance and the vendors who will be participating.
- Boys With A Dream will be sponsoring a special processional and presentation at Centertown Plaza to honor the community's health care workers. It will take place beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 25, 2021.
- The Otter Bus is up and running on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Currently, the rides are free. Anyone can catch a ride on the bus due to a grant obtained by the Bedford Community Health Foundation.

Mayor Black asked Council members if they wanted to meet to get a consensus regarding the ARPA funds and what projects to pursue before they met with Mr. Key. Councilman Hartwick said he wanted them to make the best decision possible and they could always use more information to make the best decision possible and not to become another Flint. Council members were agreeable to meet after the Conflict of Interest training that is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. Councilman Stanley noted that he would be on vacation that week.

In a response to a question from Mayor Black regarding the Town's temporary workers, Mr. Warner said they would monitor the impact on the budget and if it triggers a budget amendment, he will bring it before Council for a formal recommendation. He will also give Council an update on the project plans to utilize the labor.

#### **APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL**

**Thomas Ippolito, 1680 Fuqua Mill Road, Bedford, VA**

Mr. Ippolito wanted Council to know that since the park was put there, the traffic has gotten worse, there are no sidewalks for people to use, and the area is not lit. Something needs to be done to alleviate this issue and he doesn't want to be the first person to hit someone on the road.

Mr. Warner and Mayor Black noted that the park is in the County's jurisdiction. Mr. Ippolito said that sidewalks could still be constructed to the Town line around the corner. He thinks that the Town should be able to work with the County to get this done. Mayor Black said he would mention these concerns to the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and he recommended that Mr. Ippolito attend a County BOS meeting since they are ultimately responsible for the park and the park is what is creating his concerns.

Mr. Ippolito also said that the mowers will cut up to the sumac but won't cut it down. When coming off the highway and people are coming into the Town, it could be beautiful. It used to be landscaped but now they just trim up to the sumac instead of cutting it and making it look nice.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Hartwick said that on Thursday it will be one year since his grandmother passed away. He had dedicated his last run to her. She would not have wanted him to give up and he was helping people out. He thanked Mr. Ippolito for coming to the meeting and wished other citizens would come and tell Council what is going on. He spoke with County representatives last night regarding the light poles but unfortunately it is up to the private property owners to put them up.

Mayor Black reminded everyone about the Centerfest event and the Police, Public Works, and Electric Departments will be putting in long days and many hours and Council appreciated them. Also, on Friday, September 17, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Greenwood Cemetery, there will be a ceremony sponsored by the American Legion for Private Bobby Daniels and anyone could attend. On Saturday, he will attend and welcome the USA Patriots softball team to Town, and what the team can do is impressive. Next week is Constitution Week, celebrating the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, and he has signed a proclamation.

The proclamation follows.

**WHEREAS**, our Founding Fathers, in order to secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity, did ordain and establish a Constitution for the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, it is of the greatest importance that all citizens fully understand the provisions and principles contained in the Constitution in order to support, preserve, and defend it against all encroachment; and

**WHEREAS**, the two hundred thirty-fourth anniversary of the Signing of the Constitution provides an historic opportunity for all Americans to realize the achievements of the Framers of the Constitution and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities it affords; and

**WHEREAS**, the independence guaranteed to American citizens, whether by birth or naturalization, should be celebrated by appropriate ceremonies and activities during Constitution Week, September 17 through 23, as designated by proclamation of the President of the United States of America in accordance with Public Law 915,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tim Black, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Bedford, in the state of Virginia, do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as

**CONSTITUTION WEEK**

in the Town of Bedford, and urge all our citizens to reflect during that week on the many benefits of our Federal Constitution and American citizenship.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

None.

**REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Request to Close Streets – Liberty High School Homecoming Parade - Liberty High School Student Council Association**

Liberty High School Student Council Association is requesting that Council authorize the closing of the following streets for the Liberty High School Homecoming Parade on October 14, 2021. The parade is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

College Street, Peaks Street, Bridge Street and right onto Main Street

They will notify the Fire Department, Police Department and Bedford County Fire & Rescue of the street closings. The residents of the affected streets will also be notified and will have ingress and egress to their homes.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Town Council is requested to close the above streets for Liberty High School’s Homecoming Parade on October 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Hartwick moved, seconded by Mr. Stanley to approve the street closings for Liberty High School’s Homecoming Parade scheduled on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 6:00 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 – Box Car Derby**

Ms. Jennifer Overstreet, who owns Overstreet Cities Service, is requesting to host a Box Car Derby on October 1, 2022, and close South Bridge Street from the Centertown Clock to the Bedford County School Board office for the event. She is requesting approval for a time frame between 11:00 a.m. to allow for set up time; race times to begin at 1:00 p.m. and run through 6:00 p.m. and then allow for breakdown and clean-up until 8:00 p.m.

The Derby is a fun event where parents can work with their children to build a box car. She is planning to identify a local charity and give 90% of the proceeds towards the charity.

They will notify the Fire Department, Police Department and Bedford County Fire & Rescue of the street closings. The residents of the affected streets will also be notified and will have ingress and egress to their homes.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Town Council is requested to approve the closing of South Bridge Street on October 1, 2022, for a Box Car Derby with time as noted above.

Mr. Hailey moved, seconded by Mr. Hartwick to approve the street closures for the Box Car Derby scheduled for October 1, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voted upon 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.

In response to a question from Ms. Overstreet, Mr. Warner said that the route for the Otter Bus will be posted on the Town's website and he will give her a copy as well.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Phase II Gateway Sign Installation**

Based on prior discussions and direction from Council, staff has developed a proposal for Phase II of the Gateway Signs as follows:

1. The design, size, and appearance for these particular signs will be in accordance with the sample on display at the September 14, 2021 Council meeting;
2. These signs will be posted at the "secondary" entrances to Town along all routes designated as state routes (specifically Routes 122, 221, and 43) at the discretion of Council;
3. It is not anticipated that any of the signs will be artificially illuminated; and
4. The Building Official has issued a current estimated cost for each sign at approximately \$1,600. This does not include additional expense related to brick bases and footings (which would be approximately \$2,500 for each sign) or the cost of obtaining easements on private property (where that may be necessary).

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Town Council is requested to authorize the installation of Phase II Gateway Signs at specific locations under the parameters recommended by staff.

Mayor Black said that the Streets Committee met several months ago with staff and debated the signs on a post versus brick monument base. He thought the brick monument-type sign would look nicer and would be consistent with what the Town has now coming off Route 460. Councilman Stanley said he has heard numerous positive comments about the signs already up



and that they represent the Town well and have a good upscale appearance. Mayor Black stated that some locations would be compatible for brick monument signs while other places would not and he noted that a copy of a map was handed out to the Council members indicating the possible locations for the signs. Discussion followed regarding the best locations for pole or brick monument signs and which locations received consensus from the Council. It was decided that two signs would be installed with brick with an additional sign in brick, if it was feasible, and two signs with post installation. The cost would be roughly \$20,000 from existing funds and not counting easements. Landscaping would not be needed per consensus from Council members

Vice Mayor Rush moved, seconded by Councilman Hailey to authorize the installation of Phase II Gateway signs at the specific locations on the referenced map with either pole or brick bases receiving consensus from Council and under the parameters recommended by staff.

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.

### **Memorial to Ed Wennerstrom at Liberty Lake Park**

The Bedford Rotary Club has submitted a request to honor the memory of Mr. Ed Wennerstrom by naming the press box at the main baseball/athletic field at Liberty Lake Park for him. Mr. Wennerstrom passed away several months ago. According to the club, the press box was built with a grant from Rotary International. Mr. Wennerstrom was the individual who designed it, secured the materials, organized the work force, and was the lead carpenter for the project.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Town Council is requested to designate the press box at the main baseball/athletic field at Liberty Lake Park as the “Ed Wennerstrom Memorial Press Box.”

Randy Patterson, addressed the Council on behalf of the Bedford Rotary Club. He said the Rotary Club wanted to honor Mr. Wennerstrom with this memorial. He stated that Mr. Wennerstrom was involved in so many projects within the community and wanted to show their appreciation for his faithful service through the Rotary for over 20 years. He noted that the centennial sign would be taken down and a larger one made with Ed’s name and his birth and death years listed. Mr. Wennerstrom was true to the Rotary’s motto of “Service above Self” and these words would also be listed on the sign. Since the press box and field were on Town

property, the Rotary Club was asking permission from the Council to go forward with this memorial.

Mr. Johannessen moved, seconded by Mr. Hartwick to designate the press box at the main baseball field at Liberty Lake Park as the “Ed Wennerstrom Memorial Press Box”.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Black adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. until Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. for the Conflict of Interest training and also discussion of the ARPA funding