



Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2019

The Bedford Town Council of the Town of Bedford held a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, January 22, 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 and regular Council Meeting held on December 11, 2018 and the called meeting on January 2, 2019 were approved as distributed.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER:

Town Manager Bart Warner reported:

- The Chamber of Commerce annual dinner is scheduled for March 28. The Town is planning to have a table and if you are interested please let Debra know.
- Some of us will be attending on behalf of the Town VML's Legislative day on Thursday in Richmond.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Electric

Electric Director John Wagner reported:

- Very few outages with the extreme weather we have been having.
- Contractors are going to be working on Shady Knoll then down Longwood Extension. That is the transmission line we are upgrading.
- Initial engineering has begun on the Blue Ridge Parkway Crossing project.
- The line 122 relocation, which VDOT will be paying for, work will begin in April.
- We had peak alerts yesterday morning and this morning.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Foreman reported:

- We did have a few weather events and did have a few accidents, not because of public works, people got on the streets and were driving when the roads were very slick.
- We had a bank fraud cause in Town. They had been traveling across the state committing fraud and we caught them here in Town. The other two individuals were arrested in Lynchburg.
- Monday we had the Martin Luther King Day march and that was a successful event with about 40 people.

Finance

Assistant Town Manager Sonia Jammes reported:

- You have before you the FY 2020 budget for your review and addition to that the notebook under that is the CIP request from 2020-2024. You should have received in your packets the December financial report and related reports to that.
- Finance committee meeting tomorrow at 4 p.m. if you have questions you would like to discuss.

Public Services

Director of Public Services D. W. Lawhorne reported:

- Busy with several winter weather events.

- Mr. Shoen visited us and took a tour of the facilities and landfill. Mr. Black came out during a winter weather event to see how snow operations and road clearing goes.
- We had 11,140 visitors during the month of December at Liberty Lake Park to view the Christmas lights.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL:

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Vice Mayor Black thanked D. W. for the opportunity to ride with him during the winter weather event.

Mayor Rush said last Thursday Mr. Warner and I went to the Omni in Richmond to receive an award from the Conservatives for Clean Energy for the solar farm. Legislator Terry Kilgore, Frank Wagner and Microsoft also received awards.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilman Schley reported the electric committee met last week to discuss the current contract with Hydro and we will discuss that further in Council.

REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Request to Close Street for 5K Run – Bedford Science and Technology Center’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment

Bedford Science and Technology Center’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment will be hosting a regional Raider Challenge which will be held on February 23, 2019, at the

National D-Day Memorial site. As part of the competition, the Cadets will participate in the 5K run.

The run course encompasses parts of the Memorial, Bedford Elementary School property and Tiger Trail. They are asking permission to close Tiger Trail from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

They will notify the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Police Department of the street closing. They have secured permission to use the Bedford Elementary School property.

Town Council is requested to close the above street for a 5K Run on February 23, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

On a motion by Councilman Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved the request to close Tiger Trail. Roll call vote follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The following individuals gave presentations regarding FY 2019 – 2020 budget requests for their organizations, activities of the organization, and answered questions raised by members of Council.

Linda D. Brake	Bedford Ride Program
Desmond Black	Bower Center for the Arts
Wendy Gaylor	Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
Sara Holdren	Bedford Area Educational Foundation
Doug Cooper	Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library
April Cheek-Messier	National D-Day Memorial Foundation
Heather Alto & Dianne Erb	Retail Merchants Association
Fred Duis	Wharton Memorial Foundation

Resolution - Support to Apply for a Grant for Design and Construction of an Amtrak Station

Staff, with assistance from members of the Bedford-Franklin Regional Rail Initiative, requests to file an application with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for funding assistance for the Design and Construction of an Amtrak Passenger Station project. The specific funding source from the state is the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital (IPROC) Fund. The State would like a resolution of support from the applicant, which is the Town. This resolution has been provided to Bedford County and Franklin County for their respective Boards of Supervisors to endorse. To date, letters of support have been received from Steve Newman, Kathy Byron, Charles Poindexter, D-Day, Smith Mountain Lake State Park, Booker T. Washington National Monument, Region 2000, the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, and Smith Mountain Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Applying for the grant does not obligate the Town to fund the local portion of the project at this time. Final estimates for local funding and applicable offsetting funding sources can be discussed as the project progresses. The application deadline is February 1st.

Town Council is requested to adopt the resolution supporting applying for the Amtrak station grant.

On a motion by Councilman Hailey, seconded by Councilman Schley, discussion ensued regarding is this the same resolution that the Board of Supervisors passed last week, commitment to future funding and application for grant last year.

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

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

**Support of Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital (IPROC) Fund Grant
Application
For
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF
AN AMTRAK PASSENGER STATION
IN THE TOWN OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, The Town of Bedford, Virginia, desires to file an application with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for funding assistance for the Design and Construction of an Amtrak Passenger Station project, which will provide Amtrak service to a significant underserved population with notable regional and statewide benefits; and

WHEREAS, estimates indicate that this project will cost approximately \$9.81 million; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, through enactment of the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital (IPROC) Fund, provides for funding for certain improvements and operation of intercity passenger rail in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, an Amtrak Passenger Station in the Town of Bedford is an important element of the regional transportation system; and

WHEREAS, an Amtrak Passenger Station in the Town of Bedford is instrumental in the economic development of the area, and provides relief to the highway system by providing an alternate means of transporting passengers; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bedford supports the project and operation of rail service; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board has established procedures for all allocation and distribution of the funds provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Bedford, as part of its application for IPROC funds, does hereby request the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to give priority consideration to the Design and Construction of an Amtrak Passenger Station project proposed by The Town of Bedford for inclusion in the projects funded in the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Fund.

Termination of Hydroelectric Purchase Power Contract

The Town of Bedford currently purchases power generated by private hydroelectric plants on the James River (Holcomb Rock and Coleman Falls) under a contract executed on August 11, 2011. The contract was originally effective for a period of seven years. However, Section 2.2 of the contract states that “[u]nless any Party gives written notice at least six (6) months prior to the scheduled termination of this PPA of that Party’s intention not to extend or renew this PPA upon hits scheduled termination, this PPA shall automatically be extended for consecutive one (1) year terms under the same terms, conditions and pricing as stated herein, until such six months’ notice is duly given or until the Parties mutually agree to amend the terms of the PPA.”

At a meeting on January 15, 2019, the Electric Committee voted to recommend termination of the existing Power Purchase Agreement Between the City of Bedford, Virginia and Holcomb Rock Company and Coleman Falls Company.

Town Council is requested to take action upon the recommendation of the Electric Committee.

On a motion by Councilman Schley, seconded by Councilman Hailey, discussion ensued regarding Mr. Mark Fendig’s comments in an email about the termination of the contract and power that comes from Hydro is cheaper. Councilman Wandrei suggested that if this motion is passed in the preceding months we consider looking to AMP Ohio and see if they would reduce

the amount of power that is sold to Bedford. Councilman Schley agreed and would like to see staff continue to work to come up with a contract with Hydro. Councilman Wandrei added that if this Hydro power goes elsewhere it will be difficult for the Town of Bedford to get it back. Vice Mayor Black said the first step is to terminate it and if we want to renegotiate another contract this is fine, myself, I think we need to figure out how to deal with our load issues. It makes no sense to buy power that we have to turn around and sell and we certainly should not have to buy it at a cost and sell it at a loss. It needs to benefit our customers somehow. Other issues include operating, electric feeding back on the line and clarification on maintenance issues. Mayor Rush said he agrees with what Bob, Bryan and Tim said, but, we have to deal with this contract or it automatically renews. We have more power than we can use and when we need it, it is not available. I agree with the termination and renegotiate it at a later time.

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

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

Mayor Rush read Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (a) (1) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, to discuss personnel matters.

On a motion by Councilman Schley, seconded by Vice Mayor Black, the motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Council adjourned into closed session at 8:16 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:32 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 Vice Mayor Black, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. 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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Rush adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m. to February 2, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room at Liberty Lake Park for a Budget Retreat.