



Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2018

The Bedford Town Council of the Town of Bedford held a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Municipal Building Council Hall.

Town Council members present:

Mayor Robert T. Wandrei, Vice Mayor Tim Black, Councilman Stacey Hailey, Councilman Steve Rush, Councilman Bryan Schley and Councilman Bruce Johannessen.

Town Council members absent:

Councilman Robert Carson

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Wandrei declared that the Minutes of the regular Council Meeting held on July 24, 2018, were approved as distributed.

REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER:

Town Manager Bart Warner reported:

- We have circulated a comprehensive facility use policy proposal for your consideration and staff has worked on this quite a bit and discussed it and I would respectfully request that we refer that to the property committee for further vetting and discussion at a meeting to be scheduled in the future.

- I would also like to bring to your attention that on August 28, 2018 our consultant for our FERC relicensing will be in town to meet with us and I will be requesting a meeting of the electric committee prior to that meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Public Services

Director of Public Services D.W. Lawhorne reported:

- A quick update on the landfill closure, we submitted a request for permit modification to DEQ about 45 days ago and we got a response back last week and they had some questions and some clarification on a few items and they asked us to change a few things so we are working with our consultant, Golder & Associates, to make those changes and resubmit the modification to get it approved and once we get that approved we will be moving forward with the bid for construction.
- We issued a P.O. this week for the tennis courts for the rebuild so that work will probably start early spring of next year. The work on Edmund Street where we took out the tennis courts and put in new basketball courts that work to resurface, restripe and recoat will start Thursday, they did some preliminary work this weekend.
- Tomorrow we are having a visit from the Town of Vinton with their Town Manager and some other people, they are looking into going to the trash cart system that we implemented several years ago. They saw a lot of good response and a lot of good things from how ours went, a pretty smooth transaction. They want to take a look at how we do it, our operation and look into some of our records and the letters we sent out and some of the day to day operations of that. They will be here tomorrow morning for that.
- We went to Edmund Street today and cut a lot of the vegetation back, cut the trees back that were overgrowth problems. We cut back on some of those people's property and we did tell them what we were doing and they were ok with that.

Discussion ensued regarding the following regarding Edmund Street: retaining wall, property lines, easements, start date for tennis, grant and grant requirements.

Finance

Assistant Town Manager Sonia Jammes reported:

- The auditors will be on site next week so if you need anything from the finance or treasuring staff they will not be as present as you are used to as far as customer service goes. Hopefully we will finish up before the time allotted and have our finalized audit done prior to the November 30th deadline. The Gateway signage project contract is currently being finalized and I have been assured that we will have the scopes of work by Friday on that. As soon as we receive the scope of work and solidified that we agree with that scope then the next step in the process we will start into the identity phase of the

actual Gateway signage. At that point we will need councils input on the different designs that we are provided for those structures.

The town has been asked to sponsor the Minutemen Club and by doing so we will have a banner displayed on the fence at LHS and will be honoured at a half time during one of the home athletic events. If there are no objections to this then we are going to proceed with that sponsorship because staff thinks it is a good community development type of thing.

There were no objections to the staff recommendation.

Discussion ensued regarding the following: should the finance committee meeting be postponed. Ms. Jammes stated she should be able to handle the audit and the monthly financial reports.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Foreman reported:

- We had National Night Out last Tuesday and it was a successful event we had probably 400 people at the event so it was really good. A lot of activity and a lot of community involvement. We also were with Jonathan Hayden he had a back to school event where he gave book bags out to a lot of the kids in town, book bags and school supplies last week and the sheriff's department was there with us and it was a successful event we were able to work it out and be at the middle school gym to help him with that. Two events that are coming up Boys With A Dream are going to have a prayer for first responders on August 18, 2018 and the following week on August 25, 2018 the NAACP is going to have a song fest, both events are to be held at the Farmers Market.

Electric

Electric Director John Wagner reported:

- With the cooler weather we don't have any peaks and don't anticipate anymore hopefully until January.
- The main project we have going on at the operations center is the roof covering. It is just about complete and the contractors are doing some clean up work and gutter work.
- I checked over at the electric vehicle charging station earlier today and I found two cars using it which was gratifying to see that it is getting used and getting some recognition.
- We have also been moving forward with our SCADA project and that is on schedule and on course.
- Our FERC relicensing application, the preliminary documents have been filed and we are moving forward with that project as well.

Discussion ensued regarding the following: a meeting to be held tomorrow, council invited, time and location.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mayor Wandrei would like the Liberty High School Softball Team come up, but, before you do I would like to read into the record the resolution we have in recognition of your success this past year.

Mayor Wandrei read the Resolution aloud before presenting it to the Liberty High School Softball Team. The Resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BEDFORD HONORING THE 2018 LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

WHEREAS, the 2018 Liberty High School softball team recently completed its season with a record of 21 wins and 3 losses;

WHEREAS, the team captured the first regional championship in the sport in school history along with the championship of the Seminole District;

WHEREAS, the Lady Minutemen qualified for the state tournament for the first time in the history of the program and advanced to the semifinal round by defeating Broadway in a thrilling extra inning quarterfinal game;

WHEREAS, Millie Thompson and Rebecca Hensley were named to the first team of the Class 3A All-State team;

WHEREAS, in addition to Miss Thompson and Miss Hensley, Taylor Friess was named to the first team of the Region 3C All-Region team;

WHEREAS, Kacey Whorley (2nd team), Machenze Flood (honorable mention), and Kinnice Turner (honorable mention) were also recognized with All- Region honors; and

WHEREAS, Mike Thompason was named Region 3C Coach of the Year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Bedford hereby commends and congratulates the softball team of Liberty High School for its outstanding accomplishments and representation of the community during the 2018 season.

Adopted this, the 14th day of August, 2018.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Chris McDonald

Good evening guys, I am Chris McDonald, I live in Town of Bedford and I also work for Bedford County Parks and Recreation. I am over the athletics and programs for Bedford, Montvale and Big Island. As a whole the Town of Bedford athletics wise is growing tremendously with youth athletics just this past summer, over the summer, Coach Watts put on football clinics and our football numbers have grown tremendously. We have about 120 kids participating in tackle football just in the town, Town of Bedford kids, and about 65 cheerleaders and probably 50-60 soccer players in the town. We have always used Liberty Lake Park for football practice in years past and we have done real well. D.W. I know I have never met you face to face but have talked to you on the phone a bunch of times and we have always scheduled things through D.W. about field usage and everything and we have had a great working thing. As you guys know that top field at Liberty Lake Park was the high school field this year and we did not use it for park and rec activities this year as we were told we couldn't. Our baseball teams went to the Moose Lodge to play baseball, town kids at the Moose Lodge. This afternoon we get a phone call, nothing against you guys or anything, we can't use the top field for football practice anymore so we can only use the middle field football at Liberty Lake Park and I believe my boss told me today we need to quit assuming that we can use Liberty Lake Park for free. So, I don't know if you guys are planning to start charging kids in the Town of Bedford for facilities or what but I had to call my football coach today and let him know hey you need to get your equipment off that field the top field hold them back from coming up here today but there is 200 some town kids and parents I don't know what else to tell them I didn't make the decision that we can't practice. There is no schedule or anything I have emailed a ton of times, some people it has gone dead silent crickets, my boss, Wyatt Woody, has emailed people about scheduling no answer and the today we get a call that we can use the top field which is fine if someone else needs to use it but there is no scheduling and we can't do anything I don't know what to tell these kids if we go up on our prices if you guys start charging a fee for rec kids that use Liberty Lake Park and then you are going to move these kids out and I'm sure I'm glad we had those sports you guys probably played rec sports I mean that is what feeds into the high school program. All I am asking is if, my kids are playing in sports, I live here if we can come up with an agreement or something, better scheduling, anything for these kids to participate otherwise we are going to push them out they are going to start playing Forest, Montvale, there may be town kids going somewhere else to play sports. Thank you.

Discussion ensued regarding the following: scheduling the use of the field, looking at a facility use policy, equipment left on field, communication, parks in town and substitute fields.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Hailey commented that they had throwed a thing around about the Farmers Market maybe it is something next year making a change and I just wanted to know what the council would think about the idea of bringing it into the town from the Y.

Mayor Wandrei commented that he received correspondence from the Commonwealth of Virginia Legion of Legislative Services talking about the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and they reminded us that we have until September 31, 2018 to file for grants that they have available. What I will do Mr. Warner is give that to you, if it is a grant that we can get let's do it.

Mayor Wandrei commented that he received a very nice letter from Mrs. April Cheek-Messier from D-Day thanking us for the contribution that we made to the D-Day Foundation.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

None

REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Discuss the entrance to the town building, namely, the fountain or former garden whichever you choose to call it. Mr. Rush would like to bring up another matter on that.

Discuss a matter concerning property.

There will be a closed session concerning personnel matters at the end of the regular agenda.

I would also like to remind you that we are going to adjourn this meeting to 5:00 p.m. on August 16, 2018 for a closed session.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Request to close streets for the Bedford Christmas Parade.

Mr. Warner read the notice as follows:

Lynchburg Retail Merchants Association, Inc. is sponsoring the 2018 Bedford Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1, 2018, at 11:00 a.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 approximately 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 to the Winn Dixie Parking Lot.

Lynchburg Retail Merchants Association, Inc. will notify the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Police Department of the street closings. Suitable public service announcements regarding these closings will be placed on the radio and in the newspaper. The residents of the affected streets will also be notified and will have ingress and egress to their homes.

On a motion by Councilman Rush, seconded by Councilman Schley, all in favour signify by saying aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Rush said it has come to his attention and unfortunately I was in the hospital during the budget discussion and I was told it was brought up in the property committee meeting about redoing the concrete fountain out here in front of the building. I did not find it in the property committee meeting but I would like to recommend that instead of doing a fountain which was a maintenance issue many years ago some of us have lived here all of our life remember coming by here just about every weekend and there was soap suds coming out of it. The fountain had to be shut down because the soap degraded the pipes so bad and the Bedford Garden Club took it over as a flower garden, of course they have decided not to continue that. My argument is that it is an obstacle coming into the building and the structure is not attractive at all and keeping it clean as we can see out there now it is a mosquito pit. I know when we put water in it it will be a fountain but it can only be used during the warm weather what are we going to do with it when the water starts freezing? I think it should be a plaza either concrete or with a structure sitting in a hardscape maybe with the town seal in it. Put some nice benches out there it would be a fine place for public speaking events and the site could also be used for the town Christmas tree. I don't think a fountain is a good idea.

Discussion ensued regarding the following: cost, matching concrete, down the road making a plaza, barricades in front of the building for security, facilities monies to put into that area, cameras being installed, refer to property committee.

On motion by Councilman Schley, second by Vice Mayor Black, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved to restore the fountain as it was originally constructed. Roll call vote follows:

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|------------------------|--------|
| Councilman Carson | absent |
| Councilman Hailey | aye |
| Councilman Johannessen | aye |
| Councilman Rush | nay |
| Councilman Schley | aye |
| Vice Mayor Black | aye |
| Mayor Wandrei | nay |

Motion carries that we go forward with the recommendation from the property committee as previously discussed and approved by council.

CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Wandrei moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (a) (7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel concerning litigation (non-council members Mr. Warner, Ms. Jammes, Mr. Berry, Mr. Lawhorne, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Foreman attended) and closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (a) (1) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, to discuss personnel matters (no non-council members attended). On a motion by Councilman Rush, second by Councilman Schley. Roll call vote follows:

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| Councilman Hailey | aye |
| Councilman Johannessen | aye |
| Councilman Rush | aye |
| Councilman Schley | aye |
| Vice Mayor Black | aye |
| Councilman Cason | absent |
| Mayor Wandrei | aye |

Council adjourned into closed session at 7:36 p.m.

Non council members left the closed session at 8:10 p.m.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:23 p.m.

Mrs. Boone 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 Rush, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the Resolution. Roll call vote follows:

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| Councilman Johannessen | aye |
| Councilman Rush | aye |
| Councilman Schley | aye |
| Vice Mayor Black | aye |
| Councilman Cason | absent |
| Councilman Hailey | aye |
| Mayor Wandrei | aye |

Motion carries with six members voting aye and one member absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

This meeting will be adjourned until August 16, 2018, in the Conference Room, for a closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (a) (7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, for consultation with legal counsel concerning a contract.

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.