



**Town Council
Called Council Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023**

The Town Council of Bedford, Virginia, held a Called Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 6:30 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 C. G. Stanley, Councilman Bob Carson, Councilman Stacey Hailey, Councilman Bruce Hartwick, Councilman Bruce Johannessen, Councilman Darren Shoen

Town Staff present:

Town Manager Bart Warner, Town Attorney Michael Lockaby, Chief of Police Ronnie Lewis, Clerk of Council Debra B. Anderson, and Recording Secretary Julia Peters

Mayor Black called the meeting to order and led all those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Black stated that the night's called meeting was in response to a request from County Administrator Robert Hiss. The Council received an email from Mr. Hiss which said that the North Hills and Town and Country Subdivisions would automatically become part of the Town. However, the remaining rural, non-urbanized parcels were optional in the Phase II Boundary Adjustment, and the Town could reconsider those parcels. Mayor Black said they would debate the pros and cons of two areas in Phase II, which were Route 43 North of the Little Otter River and the Route 221 corridor on the outskirts of the current Town limits.

Both parcels would be individually discussed and Council would weigh the pros and cons.

Discussion began with the Route 43, north of the Little Otter River parcel. Councilman Stanley questioned why Council was discussing this change. Mayor Black noted that this particular parcel was rural and a scenic viewshed to the mountains and it was probably included as a potential growth area. Councilman Shoen said the boundary adjustment decisions were made ten years earlier and this annexation was part of the deal with the County and he didn't think any changes should be made. Councilman Stanley agreed. Councilman Hailey said that a lot has happened over the past ten years and he doesn't see growth happening in 20 or 25 years unless

the property is sold in the future. He did not see that the annexation of this area would make or break the Town at this time. Mayor Black said it was not urbanized, with only four or five houses. Councilman Carson thought that this was put onto paper many years ago and no one on Council really had a conversation about it and considered the services that would need to be provided to these areas. He didn't think that Council had enough time to talk about the annexation, but if it was written in the contract, then it was legal. Town people have been paying two taxes for a long time and it isn't about Council needing more money. It was about what was written and agreed upon a long time ago, but Council did not ask for it and did not want to disrupt anything. They have not as a Council discussed it enough and they should have talked about what would happen when this took place. Some areas the Town did not need and the Town could not offer the residents anything they don't already have. Councilman Hartwick wanted to know how much was the Town going to pay in providing services to this area and if the area only had five houses, then it would not make much of a difference. He thought this parcel should be taken off the table. Councilman Johannessen agreed, saying that the rural area may be falling into a land trust. He didn't think it would be developed anytime in the near future and he thought it could be removed. Councilman Shoen said a study was done years ago regarding why this area was included and people put a lot of time into identifying these areas for annexation with very large reports, presented to a three-judge Circuit Court panel, and approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia. This was not done overnight and there was a reason why the area was included and if Council removes some areas and leaves others in, it looks like Council is playing favorites. Mayor Black noted that some boundary adjustments have already been made in Phase II; looking at rural areas and some split lots and roughly 90 parcels were taken out already, because the benefit versus the costs of providing services was not economical. He agreed that this particular area, although it could be a potential growth area, should be pulled back to the natural boundary of Little Otter River. Some of the boundary adjustments were arbitrary but he would support pulling out those tracts that were within the Little Otter River. Councilman Shoen reminded everyone that there had been ten years to do this. Councilman Carson said there had not been much discussion by Council except for just recently, to take a look at things. Mayor Black felt decisions had been made on previous boundary adjustments, including purchasing another trash truck to accommodate those residents annexed. Mr. Carson agreed with Mr. Shoen, that bringing some in and leaving some out would seem like favoritism. Mr. Hartwick said things have changed over the years and people are still trying to recover from Covid and he was not sure it was the right time to go through with the boundary adjustment.

Mr. Hartwick moved, seconded by Mr. Carson, to take the presented tracts north of Route 43, north of the Little Otter River out of the Phase II boundary adjustment.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote.

Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Hartwick	aye
Councilman Johannessen	aye
Councilman Shoen	nay
Vice Mayor Stanley	nay
Mayor Black	aye

The motion carried with five members voting aye and two members voting nay.

Mayor Black stated that the next area that the County asked Council to examine was Route 221, Forest Road. Mr. Warner said there are approximately 60 parcels in this area with a mix of residential housing and businesses, a park, and industrial land. Mayor Black said it was more urbanized and has a water line running through it. He felt Council could not give up everything and not get anything in return and some room is needed to grow for the future. He would not approve to take the area out of the boundary adjustment. Mr. Shoen noted the same opinion as the previously discussed area. Councilman Stanley would be opposed to a removal as well. Mr. Hailey asked how much of a safety risk would it be for employees picking up trash and providing other services on a road that is already dangerous. Mayor Black replied by saying that there may be some operational challenges in that area in the short-term but he worried about the future and the long-term ability of the community to grow. He responded to Mr. Hartwick's question of how rural was the area, saying there are approximately five to ten larger tracts in the section but part of it contains the current business park with another large tract zoned industrial.

Mr. Carson moved, seconded by Mr. Johannessen, to leave the Route 221, Forest Road tract in the Phase II boundary adjustment.

Voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote.

Councilman Hailey	nay
Councilman Hartwick	nay
Councilman Johannessen	aye
Councilman Shoen	aye
Vice Mayor Stanley	aye
Councilman Carson	aye
Mayor Black	aye

The motion carried with five members voting aye and two members voting nay.

ADJOURNMENT

6:50 p.m.

Tim Black, Mayor

Debra Anderson, Clerk of the Council