

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Work Session at 6:00 p.m. and Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive on the 10th day of May 2011 with the following members present:

Jim Story	Mayor
Chris Brown	Council Members
Ray Champney	
Roger Fisher	
Jim Griffin	
Roy Savage	
Roy W. Turner	

Constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Beverly Queen Griffith	City Manager
Cathy Cunningham	City Attorney
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Roger Gibson	Interim Police Chief
John Kubala	Public Works Director
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden	Managing Director of Community Services
Maria Redburn	Library Manager
Bill Syblon	Development Director
James Tindell	Fire Chief

### **WORK SESSION**

Mayor Story called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

- **Review and discuss items on the regular agenda and consider placing items for approval by consent.**

Council discussed placing the following items on consent: 5, 7, 8, and 9.

- **Presentation of the Police Department Annual Report.**

Interim Police Chief Roger Gibson gave a presentation on the Police Department Annual Report. In 2010, there were approximately 25,000 calls for service initiated by the public and 33,000 initiated by officers. Out of those calls for service, 3,800 were Priority 1. Over the last five years, these numbers have been consistent. In the category of violent crimes, Chief Gibson explained that there was no explanation why the numbers in 2009 were so low. In regards to aggravated assaults, in 2010 85% of the victims had a relationship or familiarity with the offender. With this type of crime, there are also many repeat victims and offenders.

In the category of property crimes, the burglary of motor vehicles is the City's biggest problem. The number of vehicle burglaries increased from 438 in 2009 to 541 in 2010.

In the category of domestic violence, there was only an approximate 30 report difference between 2006 and 2010. As with aggravated assaults, there are many of the same offenders and victims over and over

again.

The number of accidents in 2010 was the lowest over the previous five years. There were 1,400 accidents with 310 injury accidents in 2010 compared to 1,600 accidents with 348 injury accidents in 2009. There also has been an improvement in the number of hit-and-run accidents.

In April, for the first time since 2004, the Traffic Division is at full strength. Chief Gibson anticipates the number of traffic citations to increase over the next few years. He mentioned that these numbers do not include citations from red light cameras.

In September of 2006 the City Council approved the policy for the towing of vehicles in citations involving failure to maintain financial responsibility. This policy has had an impact as there has been a drop over the previous four years in the number of citations issued for this violation, as well as fewer tows.

In the Animal Services Department, 2,800 new licenses were issued in 2009 which dropped to 1,745 in 2010. Chief Gibson believes this is due to the fact that in 2009, Animal Control Officers along with Public Service Officers and Code Enforcement Officers, conducted neighborhood area sweeps addressing all code violations, which accounts for the additional numbers that year. The number of animals received was up, while the number of animals adopted was down, which probably has to do with the state of the economy.

Looking ahead, Chief Gibson stated that the Department has some work to do. In regards to motor vehicle burglaries, they are pursuing a grant to purchase an observation tower. In a study of 10 cities that already have these towers, every one reported a decrease in the number of motor vehicles burglaries. The Department is also working with other agencies, including the District Attorney's Office, to develop strategies. They will also look at better using volunteers. In regards to mental health, there has been an increase in mental health detentions from 245 in 2006 to 375 in 2010. He believes this is also tied to the state of the economy.

Last year, the Criminal Investigations Division cleared 75% of person crimes; the national average is 47%. They cleared 16% of property crimes, while the national average is 18%. Chief Gibson said what he is most proud of is the level of customer service by the Department.

- **Update on new Library usage since opening day.**

Library Manager Maria Redburn presented an update on the new Library usage since opening day. Library visits increased 50%, checkouts increased 22%, check-ins increased 17%, new Library cards issued increased 185%, the number of reference questions increased 73%, computer usage increased 37%, and program attendance increased 62%. The Library started monitoring meeting room usage at the old building last October. Meeting room usage is up 121%; however, if you subtract story times that were held in the Bonnie Finn room then the increase was 250%. Most of the usage so far has been from non-profit organizations and City programs. In the recent Library Satisfaction Survey, 76% of respondents gave the Library an "A" which was an increase of 20%.

Mayor Story adjourned the Work Session at 6:43.

**REGULAR SESSION 6:30 P.M.**

Regular Session began at 6:43 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mayor Story called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION (Pastor Charles Brown, St. Timothy Cumberland Presbyterian Church)**

Pastor Charles Brown of St. Timothy Cumberland Presbyterian Church gave tonight's invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**OPEN FORUM**

Nobody chose to speak under tonight's Open Forum.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT**

Motioned by Councilman Champney, seconded by Councilman Brown to approve the following items by consent: 5, 7, 8 and 9.

Motion passed 7-0-0. Mayor Story declared the motion carried.

Councilman Fisher requested that Council spend some time and do a thorough review of the Sign Ordinance and put an equal emphasis on business, business retention, and business development as well as considering the aesthetics in the City.

**COUNCIL RECOGNITION**

**1. Proclamation declaring June, July and August 2011 as Summer Reading Club Season.**

Mayor Story read a proclamation declaring June, July and August 2011 as Summer Reading Club Season. Helene Ray, the Meadow Creek School Librarian, and her Super Readers were on hand to accept the proclamation.

**2. Proclamation recognizing the week of May 15-21, 2011 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Bedford, Texas.**

Mayor Story read a proclamation recognizing the week of May 15-21, 2011 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Bedford, Texas. Deputy Fire Chief Bobby Sewell and a group of firefighter/paramedics were on hand to accept the proclamation.

**3. Proclamation in observance of National Police Week and Police Officers' Memorial Day.**

Mayor Story read a proclamation in observance of National Police Week and Police Officers' Memorial Day. Interim Police Chief Roger Gibson was on hand to accept the proclamation. Chief Gibson stated that the Police Open House will be this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.

**4. Proclamation declaring the week of May 15-21, 2011 as National Public Works Week.**

Mayor Story read a proclamation declaring the week of May 15-21, 2011 as National Public Works Week. Public Works Director John Kubala was on hand to accept the proclamation.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**5. Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:**

- a) April 26, 2011 regular meeting

This item was approved by consent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6. Public Hearing and consider an ordinance to rezone properties known as Tract 7G, Abstract 860, William H. Jasper Survey and Lot 3R, Block 1, Crossroad East Addition, Bedford, Texas**

**from Light Commercial to Light Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Community Garden. This property is generally located west of Industrial Boulevard and north of State Highway 183. (Z-208)**

Mayor Story explained that there will be a special meeting for this item next Tuesday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. The public hearing for tonight had already been published, so they he will open up the hearing and keep it open until the special meeting.

Mayor Story opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak under tonight's public hearing.

The public hearing will be kept open until the special meeting on May 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

**7. Consider an ordinance amending the following sections of the City of Bedford Sign Ordinance: Chapter 6, "Advertising," Section 6-67 "Definitions," and Section 6-71 "Permanent Signs."**

This item was approved by consent.

**8. Consider a resolution to accept bids and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Highway Technologies, Inc. for the 2011 Pavement Striping and Marking Program at Various Locations in the amount of \$43,130.85.**

This item was approved by consent.

**9. Consider a resolution amending the Council Rules of Order and Procedure, Section 12. Citizen's Rights, Item 12.2 Persons to be Heard, to add e-mail as a way to send a copy of the Citizen's Rights Guidelines to a person requesting to speak to Council.**

This item was approved by consent.

**10. Report on most recent meeting of the following Boards and Commissions:**

- ✓ **Animal Control Board- Councilman Griffin**

Councilman Griffin stated he attended the Pet Fair on April 30. It was a great event and Chief Gibson did a fabulous job cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. There was a lot of discussion with citizens on the animal control process. He also left with a new dog.

- ✓ **Animal Shelter Advisory Board- Councilman Griffin**

Councilman Griffin's report above covered this Board as well.

- ✓ **Beautification Commission- Councilman Turner**

Councilman Turner stated the Commission is making considerable progress on the community garden. They are looking forward to getting it approved next week and getting plants in the ground before it gets too hot.

- ✓ **Community Affairs Commission- Councilman Fisher**

No report was given.

- ✓ **Library Board- Councilman Brown**

No report was given.

- ✓ **Parks & Recreation Board- Councilman Griffin**

Councilman Griffin stated the Board met last week. They looking into putting together a packet of information for staff and Council in regards to a dog park. They are focusing their attention on Meadowpark. Information has been acquired on other dog parks, such as cost. They are also focusing on trying to set up along the lines of the Library with donations and contributions for the start-up costs.

✓ **Senior Citizen Advisory Board- Councilman Savage**

No report was given.

✓ **Teen Court Advisory Board- Councilman Champney**

Councilman Champney stated Teen Court had a successful banquet and awards ceremony.

**11. Council member reports**

Councilman Griffin stated that fire fighters will be working the next two Saturdays to collect money for MDA at Bedford Road and S.H. 183 and Central Drive and S.H. 183.

**12. City Manager report**

City Manager Beverly Queen Griffith stated that the fire fighters collected approximately \$10,000 last Saturday for MDA.

**13. Take any action necessary as a result of the Executive Session.**

No action was necessary as a result of tonight's Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Story adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

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Jim Story, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary