

Council Minutes February 14, 2012

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 14th day of February, 2012 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 Griffith	City Manager
David Miller	Deputy City Manager
Stan Lowry	City Attorney
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Roger Gibson	Police Chief
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden	Managing Director of Community Services
Maria Redburn	Library Manager
Bill Syblon	Development Director

CALL TO ORDER

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

WORK SESSION

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

Council discussed placing the following items on consent: 4, 9, 13 with a change in the amount in the resolution to \$18,880, and 14.

Mayor Story adjourned the Work Session at 6:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

To convene before the Regular Session, if time permits, in the conference room in compliance with Section 551.001 et. Seq. Texas Government Code, to discuss the following:

- a) Pursuant to Section 551.071, consultation with City Attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation – The Oaks of Landera Apartments.**
- b) Pursuant to Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Pentecostal Church of God.**
- c) Pursuant to Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 2A, Bedford-Arlington Road Ltd. Sub.**

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Council convened into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, consultation with City Attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation – The Oaks of Landera Apartments, Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Pentecostal Church of God and Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 2A, Bedford-Arlington Road Ltd. Sub. at approximately 6:06 p.m.

Council reconvened from Executive Session at approximately 6:32 p.m.

Any necessary action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session will occur during the regular session of the Bedford City Council Meeting.

REGULAR SESSION 6:30 P.M.

The Regular Session began at 6:34 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Story called the meeting to order. Mayor Story wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

INVOCATION (Senior Pastor Nosa Onaiwu, Arise and Shine International Ministries)

Senior Pastor Nosa Onaiwu of Arise and Shine International Ministries gave tonight's invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

OPEN FORUM

Michael Boyter, Chairman of the Beautification Commission, 3217 Sapphire Street – Mr. Boyter stated that the dream of Bedford creating its own community garden has become a reality. 13 months ago, Council challenged the Commission to conceive of and develop a community garden within the City limits. Council desired that no City personnel or assets be used in the development or construction of the garden, that it be made sustainable through voluntary efforts of the community and that this goal be accomplished while minimizing the impact to taxpayers. He is pleased to report that they have accomplished this goal in full, while complying with Council's instructions.

The Commission faced a number of hurdles to bring the project to fruition. First, they assisted staff in amending appropriate ordinances. With the City being 97% built out, there was the challenge of locating land for the garden. Finally, limited resources forced them to partner with others to bring it to reality. The partnership is with 6Stones Mission Network. It is located at 209 Industrial Boulevard across from Trinity High School. It is on property owned by the First Baptist Church of Euless, who graciously provided this land to the Commission at no cost to the project or taxpayers. The Church has also agreed to initially pay for the water for the garden. The garden is comprised of a consortium of businesses, residents and community leaders. The Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association has labeled the garden as a certified teaching project, which is the only one in northeast Tarrant County. Texas Agrilife has also adopted the project. The garden will be managed by an oversight board comprised of members of the Commission, the Council, 6Stones, Master Gardeners of Tarrant County, HEBISD and selected local business leaders. The board will be responsible for the continuing development, promotion and sustainable long-term goals of the project. The board has established subcommittees responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the garden and assisting gardeners with their needs and educational opportunities. 6Stones has accepted the liabilities associated with, as well as the administrative responsibilities for, the project. In return, the gardeners are being asked to donate 50% of their harvest to the New Hope Center. Master Gardener Annette Lee has taken a leadership role in the creative design, development and construction of the Garden. The garden consists of 77 beds ranging in size from 4X8 foot to 4X16 foot. Residents or local organizations can rent beds for \$20.00, \$30.00 and \$40.00

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respectively, plus a one-time \$10.00 background check. Master gardeners will be available to assist people on what and when to plant. The beds have been laid out with a border of concrete blocks and specially mixed organic soil will be in each bed. Each gardener will be responsible for the routine upkeep and watering of their beds. All necessary tools will be on-hand in an on-site tool shed.

Mr. Boyter listed what it has taken to put the project together: 100 tons of premixed organic soil has been delivered to the site; 145 tons of mulch has been donated by neighbors and landscaping companies; 85,000 pounds of concrete blocks were donated by a local brick company; 48 irrigation heads and 500 feet of irrigation PVC was donated by a local irrigation contractor; 7 truckloads of sand has been donated; 15 fruit trees were donated by TXU; and over 2,000 volunteer hours have been utilized. All of this is at no cost to the City. In accordance with a special use permit, a local architect has completed plans for a pavilion and tool shed which will be 24X85 foot. The estimated cost is in the \$60,000 range and he hopes that construction will be completed within the next three months. No City manpower or equipment was utilized to move dirt or will be used for the long term sustainability of the garden. No direct taxpayer dollars have been used to get the project off of the ground.

The Commission voted unanimously to allocate \$10,000 from its disposable funding towards the purchase of tools and the tool shed. These funds have been provided by local businesses and do not involve the use of tax dollars. He asks for the Council's support in promoting their community garden. Any interested resident can go to the City's website for instructions to adopt a plot. A spring planning event will be conducted sometime in March. Once the pavilion is completed, everybody will be invited to a grand opening.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT

Motioned by Councilman Champney, seconded by Councilman Turner, to approve the following items by consent: 4, 9, 12, 13 with changing the cost to \$18,880 as now stipulated and 14.

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

COUNCIL RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of Tutor Electric for the IEC Award of Excellence in Electrical Commercial Construction.

Tutor Electric was recognized for receiving the Independent Electrical Contractor Award of Excellence in Electrical Commercial Construction for their work on the new Bedford Public Library. Bobby Brinkmann and Bobby and Diana Tutor from Tutor Electric were present.

2. Invitation to attend the Sixth Annual Seuss Festival on March 4, 2012.

The Cat in the Hat invited all Bedford residents to attend the Sixth Annual Seuss Festival on March 4, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library to celebrate Dr. Suess' 108th birthday. There will be a birthday cake celebration, lemonade, a Suessical costume contest, balloons, guest celebrity readers, photo booths, and singers from L.D. Bell High School. This event is co-sponsored by the Bedford Library Friends and the Bedford Public Library.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

3. The following individuals have requested to speak to the Council tonight under Persons to be Heard:

- a) Matthew Tolar, 708 Spring Forest Drive, Bedford TX 76021 – Requested to speak to the Council regarding the policy for towing uninsured vehicles.**

Mr. Tolar withdrew his request to speak prior to the meeting.

- b) Roger Smeltzer, 2909 Miles Way, Bedford TX 76021 – Requested to speak to the**

Council regarding portable signs.

Roger Smeltzer, 2909 Miles Way – Mr. Smeltzer stated that the issue with portable signs affects businesses more than is perceived. He does not mind getting rid of neon colors and going to black and white; however, banning the signs hurts new businesses trying to brand themselves and limits the ability of businesses to market themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 4. Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:**
a) **January 24, 2012 regular meeting**

This item was approved by consent.

OLD BUSINESS

- 5. Discussion and possible action to appoint a delegate from the City Council to attend the ICSC Convention May 20-23. ***Item requested by Mayor Story (Tabled at the January 24, 2012 Council meeting)**

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item #16. Mayor Story stated that since the previous meeting, he has had spoken to Mary Frazier with the HEB Chamber of Commerce. She offered that, as far as the Economic Development Foundation is concerned, it would be better if he remained the Bedford representative, as he is the current chair of the Foundation, until his term ends in May.. He said it was an option to allow him to stay on as chairman until May and then a new Council member could be elected to the Foundation. Also, if Council would like, he could still attend the ICSC Conference in May.

Council was of the consensus for Mayor Story to remain on the Foundation until May.

Motioned by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Champney, that the Council select Mayor Story to be the Council representative to the ICSC convention this May.

Motion passed 4-3-0. Mayor Story declared he motion carried.

Voting in favor of the motion: Mayor Story, Councilman Savage, Councilman Champney, and Councilman Turner.

Voting in opposition to the motion: Councilman Fisher, Councilman Griffin and Councilman Brown.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6. Public hearing and consider an ordinance to rezone a portion of property known as Lot 1B, Block 14, Bedford Meadows Addition, Suite F from Heavy Commercial to Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Tattoo and Body Piercing Shop. The property is generally located west of Central Drive and north of Bedford Road. (Z-213)**

Development Director Bill Syblon presented information regarding this ordinance. This application is to permit body piercing and tattooing at an existing business. The applicant would utilize 1,100 square feet of the 3,600 square foot building for tattooing and body piercing. The Development Review Committee identified several items that needed clarification, including the site plan and floor plan being to scale and showing the proper dimensions. These items were reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and they still required further clarification. Planning and Zoning recommended denial of this request at their January 10 meeting by a unanimous vote. For Council to approve this item, it would require a super majority vote. Mr. Syblon stated that the applicant has submitted revised materials that show the site and floor plans dimensioned accurately.

Mayor Story opened the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

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James Helgason of the Benanti Law Firm and Adam Rivera, the applicant, representing The Dragon's Breath – Mr. Helgason stated that they were told what was originally submitted was sufficient for the Planning and Zoning Commission. It was made clear that it was just a formality and that the denial by the Planning and Zoning Commission came as a complete surprise. They hired the architectural firm of Michael J. Wright and Associates, who redid the site plan and floor plan for Council's consideration. They have also gathered an informal petition of citizens in Tarrant and Dallas counties in support of approving this SUP. He stated that The Dragon's Breath has been performing tattooing and body piercing at that location for about ten years. It came to their attention that a previous manager had done some remodeling that was not approved; however, the location has a new manager that wants to work with the City to bring in tax revenue. If this application is rejected, they plan on resubmitting the application.

Susan Miller, 2025 Oakmeadow – Ms. Miller spoke in opposition to allowing tattooing at the location. When she bought her house, The Dragon's Breath was already there. There is also a pawn shop at the other end of the strip mall. She appreciated their petition but wants to see if her neighbors are on there and she is determined to get signatures of people who live around the area. She stated that it was a safe, family neighborhood and she is again opposed to allowing tattooing.

Patrick Stevens, 3001 Woodbridge Drive- Mr. Stevens stated that it seems like people with tattoos are being profiled as bad individuals. Tattooing does not attract a motley crew or bad people. He stated that there seems to be ulterior motives with the Police Department and The Dragon's Breath and that there is a personal vendetta from the City due to preconceived notions of the type of people the establishment will draw. He believes the City should take care of people and their needs instead of locking up people with tattoos. He stated that this meeting is just procedure because the Council's minds are already made up and would the next step be to completely shut down The Dragon's Breath?

James Helgason – Mr. Helgason stated that Mr. Stevens' comments were not the position of the applicant and that they do not believe there are ulterior motives.

Mayor Story closed the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

Motioned by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Griffin, to deny an ordinance to rezone a portion of property known as Lot 1B, Block 14, Bedford Meadows Addition, Suite F from Heavy Commercial to Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Tattoo and Body Piercing Shop.

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

7. Public hearing and consider an ordinance to rezone a portion of property known as Tract 3A, Block 15, Stonegate Addition from Light Commercial to Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Rental Services with Outside Storage. The property is generally located south of State Highway 183 and east of Brown Trail. (Z-214)

Development Director Bill Syblon presented information regarding this ordinance. This SUP is to allow U-Haul to operate out of an existing business. It would coexist with a retail use and no modifications to the outside of the building are being proposed. Since this SUP changes the zoning from light commercial to heavy commercial, all previous SUPs will expire. There were no outstanding issues relative to the Zoning Ordinance. This item was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their January 24, 2012 meeting by a vote of 5-2-0 with the stipulation that the applicant meet the landscaping requirements in the site plan and ordinance.

Charles Simons, 1001 Mineral Wells Street – Mr. Simons is the applicant. In response to questions from Council, Mr. Simons stated that there would not be any repairs at the location; they would just be renting trucks and trailers. He stated that there would not be a separate office and that they would be using the same phone and computer as the bridal shop. There would not be any signage as the trucks themselves serve as advertisements. Charles Bowen, the area field manager for U-Haul, stated that any repairs to the vehicles would be minor. The administration of renting vehicles would work off a website so they

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could use the same computer as the bridal shop. The applicant would be an agent for U-haul. In regards to the number of vehicles on the property, if it gets to the point that they reach capacity, he will be called to remove some vehicles.

Dan Boutwell, City Planner, stated that there were no stipulations from the Planning and Zoning Commission as to the maximum number of trucks/trailers that could be parked on site. They are required to have 16 retail parking spaces and they have a total of 68 spaces. The City's requirements are that the applicant not use any of the retail parking spaces to park trucks/trailers and that no trucks/trailers could extend into the fire lane. Currently, the site plan does not limit the total number of trucks/trailers the applicant can have on site nor is there designation where the truck/trailers can be parked.

Mayor Story opened the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak under tonight's public hearing.

Mayor Story closed the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.

Council requested from staff that a recommendation be made on the number of truck/trailers that should be parked on site. Further, they requested that the site plan specify the number of trucks/trailers allowed to be parked on site and clearly designate where the trucks/trailers are to be parked. Finally, Council requested clarification on the site plan regarding landscaping.

Motioned by Councilman Champney, seconded by Councilman Fisher, to table an ordinance to the next Council meeting to rezone a portion of property known as Tract 3A, Block 15, Stonegate Addition from Light Commercial to Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Rental Services with Outside Storage in order to get a more detailed site plan to address concerns that Council has.

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

8. Public hearing and consider an ordinance to rezone a portion of property known as Lot 2A, Block 1, Harwood Retail Joint Venture Addition, Ste. 110 from Light Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Outside Seating to Light Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Outside Seating/Indoor Amusement Center. The property is generally located east of State Highway 121 and north of Harwood Road. (Z-215)

Development Director Bill Syblon presented information regarding this ordinance. Papa G's would like to expand their outdoor seating area along the south and west side of the shopping center. To clarify the amusement center portion of the SUP, Mr. Syblon stated it was to operate three or more coin operated machines. Some parking spaces will have to be removed, but the overall parking ratio still meets the zoning ordinance. At the time of the review by the Planning and Zoning Commission, a stipulation was added that any covered patio area would need to be sprinkled unless other remedies were worked out with the Fire Marshal.

Sam Dalton, 2900 Highway 121, Suite 110 - Mr. Dalton is the applicant. He stated that the amusement center would include pool tables, air hockey, and arcade type games. There is no sprinkler currently in the building; it would be cost prohibitive to sprinkle the outside seating; therefore, at this time, he wants it to be uncovered.

City Attorney Stan Lowry explained to Council that what is being approved is what the applicant will be allowed to construct. Council discussed tabling the item in order for the applicant to bring back revised exhibits that include showing the outside seating area to be uncovered, more architectural detail regarding the materials to be used for the outside seating, what the enclosed bar would look like and that there would be no permanent neon signage.

Mayor Story opened the public hearing at 8:34 p.m.

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Nobody chose to speak during tonight's public hearing.

Mayor Story closed the public hearing at 8:35 p.m.

Motioned by Councilman Griffin, seconded by Councilman Savage, to table an ordinance to rezone a portion of property known as Lot 2A, Block 1, Harwood Retail Joint Venture Addition, Ste. 110 from Light Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Outside Seating to Light Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Outside Seating/Indoor Amusement Center.

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

9. Consider an ordinance amending the budget of the City of Bedford, Texas, for the fiscal period of October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012; and declaring an effective date.

This item was approved by consent.

10. Consider an ordinance amending Article IV. "Boards, Commissions and Committees," Division 4. "Community Affairs Commission," Sections 2-226. "Creation," 2-228. "Terms Staggered," 2-229. "Powers and Duties," and 2-231. "Mission" of the City of Bedford Code of Ordinances; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.

Deputy City Manager David Miller stated that the Community Affairs Commission (CAC) had discussions on expanding their membership, which requires Council approval. CAC Chairperson Mark Massey stated that in his first year on the Commission, the idea was fostered that the CAC could assist the City in communicating and fostering cooperation with the community to include homeowners associations, residents and businesses. The CAC has gained some momentum with the Shop Bedford First program, which now has 222 businesses signed up and there are coupons in the Bedford Connection. He stated that in talking with volunteer groups that he is a member of, they do not know what the CAC is and the CAC does not know what these groups are. In business and residential outreach meetings, they advertise these volunteer groups to help with their attendance and increase the City's volunteer labor force. He sees some splintering in communication in that one group is doing one thing while another one is doing something else; he would like to bring these groups together, at least in regards to communication, to work more closely together under the CAC umbrella. He has asked people to take leadership roles, as far as communications, in things that the City is doing such as FourthFest. He has talked to the presidents of each of these volunteer groups and they liked the idea and are willing to serve. This was approved unanimously at the last CAC meeting. He also proposed to change the CAC's Power and Duties by adding a line that they are to support City-sponsored community programs and festivals. Finally, he proposed to change the Mission of the CAC by changing it from "To Serve" to "To foster a community environment among" as well as including City-sponsored programs.

Council discussed the potential problem of achieving quorums with the increase in members. They also discussed that these volunteer groups are not Council appointed Board or Commission members. There was discussion regarding a Council work session to discuss these ideas and making recommendations to the CAC or having a joint work session with the CAC.

No action was taken on this item.

11. Consider an ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the City of Bedford Code of Ordinances, "Advertising;" Article III-Signs, Section 6-67 "Definitions," Section 6-69 "General Regulations," Section 6-70 "Special Sign Types," Section 6-71 "Permanent Signs," Section 6-72 "Temporary Signs," Section 6-74 "Prohibited Signs;" providing for an Exhibit "A" being the City of Bedford Sign Regulations; providing a savings clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

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Development Director Bill Syblon presented information regarding this ordinance. This item is a follow-up to a couple of Council's Work Sessions, the most recent being January 24, to discuss particular changes to the Sign Ordinance.

Council discussed passing the changes they are in agreement on tonight and addressing the other changes, including Portable Signs, Commercial Complex For Sale/Lease Signs, and window paintings or markings, six months from now to see if enforcement of current ordinances has any effect. Council was in agreement with the changes to the following: Freeway Pole Signs, Freeway Pylon Signs, Murals, Political Signs, US/Texas/Patriotic Flags, New Commercial Building Signs on 183/121/157, "Still in Business" Signs, and the definition of "Parcel."

City Manager Beverly Griffith stated that it would be better to bring back a clean ordinance based on Council's input at the next Council meeting. No action was taken on this item.

12. Consider a resolution of the City Council of the City Of Bedford, Texas approving an Economic Development Program Agreement, pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code and the City's Economic Development Incentive Policy and Program, with Pentecostal Church of God ("PCG").

This item was approved by consent.

13. Consider a resolution authorizing the purchase of a replacement code enforcement truck in the amount of \$19,365 through the State of Texas Buy Board Purchasing Program.

This item was approved by consent with a reduction in the amount authorized to \$18,880.

14. Consider a resolution of the City Council of Bedford, Texas, authorizing the submission of the grant application for a mobile observation tower through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

This item was approved by consent.

15. Consider a resolution creating the Central Bedford Development Plan Stakeholder Committee; establishing the purpose; appointing members to the stakeholder committee; establishing meeting times; and establishing an end date.

City Manager Beverly Griffith presented information regarding this resolution. This Committee will serve as a focus group to work with Kimley-Horn on developing a Central Bedford Development Plan. The work will take approximately four months and this portion of the project should be completed by June. The Committee is comprised of 15 members as follows: Seven Council members; two members of the Planning and Zoning Commission – Jim Davisson and Bill Reese; one member of the Cultural Commission – Alicia McGlinchey; one member of the Chamber of Commerce – Geoff Graham; one member from Fort Worth Credit Union – Mark Rhodes; one member from State National – Trace Ledbetter; one member from Dunhill Partners – Tim Denker; and one citizen-at-large – Bill Ridgway. With the exception of Bill Reese, who staff is trying to contact, all members have stated their availability and willingness to serve. There is a sunset provision on the Committee of September 30, 2012 or when their work is complete, whichever is earlier.

Motioned by Councilman Fisher, seconded by Councilman Griffin, to approve a resolution creating the Central Bedford Development Plan Stakeholder Committee; establishing the purpose; appointing members to the stakeholder committee; establishing meeting times; and establishing an end date.

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

16. Discussion and possible action regarding the Economic Development Foundation Board appointment. *Item requested by Councilman Champney**

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This item was discussed in conjunction with Item #5.

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

✓ **Animal Control Board- Councilman Griffin**

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

✓ **Beautification Commission- Councilman Turner**

Councilman Turner stated that an extensive report from the Commission was given tonight by the Chairperson. He urged citizens to visit their community garden.

✓ **Community Affairs Commission- Councilman Fisher**

Councilman Fisher stated that the Energy Smart Fair is April 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Library. There will be both indoor and outdoor exhibits and demonstrations with booths and speakers. It is free to the public. 13 vendors have given verbal commitments and three of four speaking positions have been filled.

✓ **Cultural Commission- Councilman Champney**

Councilman Champney reported that the Commission had a meeting the previous night. They are moving along very well from the stand point of gathering information. They have set additional meeting and stakeholder dates. They will be assigning a vice chairperson at their next meeting. They are right on track in the planning process and should have a plan in place by early to mid-summer.

✓ **Library Board- Councilman Brown**

Councilman Brown stated that the Board will meet tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at the Library.

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

Councilman Griffin reported that the Board continues to work on the proposal for a dog park to bring to Council, which will include the size, scope and cost.

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

Councilman Savage reported that Jake Dennis passed away the previous week. The total attendance for the Senior Center in 2011 was 30,384 or a monthly attendance of 2,532. 35 volunteers donated 4,375 hours during the year. These volunteers were honored at the Volunteer Banquet held on February 10. AARP continues to offer 55-Alive driving courses every month. The Center hosted a craft sale in October with 36 vendors. The annual Thanksgiving luncheon was very good and the entertainment was provided by the Bedford Ramblers. He thanked the senior staff, the Mayor and Council for helping to serve the seniors. The Center will host income tax assistance again this year though there are many local places available, including the Library and the Eules Senior Center. Monthly attendance at the Center was as follows: October – 1,054 Bedford residents and 1,294 others; November – 963 Bedford residents and 1,135 others; and December – 894 Bedford residents and 944 others.

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

Councilman Griffin reported that the Board is working towards revising some of their articles of incorporation and expanding their membership. They have started putting in motion events that will lead

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up to the Teen Court Banquet, including putting together committees. The dates chosen so far for the Banquet are April 19 or April 26.

18. Council member reports

Councilman Griffin reminded everybody that the Library Mardi Gras Gala will be held this Saturday, February 18 starting at 7:00 p.m.

✓ **Mayor Story**

a) Information concerning the Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids charity.

Mayor Story attended the HEB Sports Hall of Fame Banquet and one of the honorees was Brad Blausner, a graduate of LD Bell High School. Mr. Blausner was a contractor who went to Iraq and saw people carrying children with leg problems. He found out that 15% of children in Iraq are crippled. He set up a non-profit to provide wheelchairs for these children and was one of the CNN heroes this past year. His organization has a website at wheelchairsforiraqikids.com and they are looking for donations and help. He has set up a factory in Iraq that builds wheelchairs and has a company in North Dakota that builds wheelchairs for \$300.

b) Report on the Tarrant County Mayors Council meeting of February 6, 2012.

Mayor Story reported that one of the speakers at the meeting was Reid Rector, the Director of Faith In Action, which is a county-wide network of 100 churches that works a lot like 6Stones. The Workforce Development Board announced that AMR is going to have 4,500 layoffs locally, including maintenance workers at Alliance Airport. Federal money has come in for job retraining and a job fair will be held on April 27 in Arlington. Patricia Ward urged that CDBG contracts get done in a timely manner. Finally, election rules are supposed to be coming out this week.

19. City Manager report

City Manager Beverly Griffith stated that next Monday is Presidents' Day, but City offices will be open. She also wished everybody a Happy Valentine's Day.

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

Action as a result of the Executive Session was taken during the approval of items by consent.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Story adjourned the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Jim Story, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary