

Council Minutes January 28, 2014

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 28th day of January, 2014 with the following members present:

Jim Griffin	Mayor
Michael Boyter	Council Members
Chris Brown	
Ray Champney	
Jim Davisson	
Patricia Nolan	
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
Cliff Blackwell	Administrative Services Director
Roger Gibson	Police Chief
Tom Hoover	Public Works Director
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden	Managing Director
Bill Syblon	Development Director

CONFERENCE ROOM WORK SESSION 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Griffin called the Work Session to order at 6:15 p.m.

- **Interviews for appointments to Bedford's Citizen Boards and Commissions.**

The Council conducted interviews to Bedford's Citizen Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Griffin adjourned the Work Session at 6:25 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To convene 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 regarding 533 Bedford Road.**
- b) Pursuant to Section 551.072, to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property – Lot 35R1, Block 13, Stonegate Addition.**

Council convened into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, consultation with City Attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation regarding 533 Bedford Road and Section 551.072, to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property – Lot 35R1, Block 13, Stonegate Addition at 6:45 p.m.

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Council reconvened from Executive Session at approximately 7:05 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 6:32 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION (Dr. Jerry Chism, Martin United Methodist Church)

Dr. Jerry Chism of Martin United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

OPEN FORUM

Michelle Jacobs, 253 N. Glendale Court, Bedford, Texas – Ms. Jacobs requested to speak on Item #14. She is in favor of the proposed TNR program. She stated that when she first starting living in Bedford in 2006, she came across some kittens that were living in a parking lot and being taken care of by a caregiver with Feral Friends. She adopted them even though they were feral and they are now part of her family. Two of the kittens had been taken previously to a veterinarian, who tipped their ears. She stated that if those two cats were to get out, the City's current policy is that they would be euthanized quickly because of the tipped ears. She stated that it was a very inhumane practice and puts a broad bandage on something that is nuanced.

Ed Sharp, 1502 Bedford Road #223, Bedford, Texas– Mr. Sharp requested to speak on Item #14. He stated that he has been a resident for 40 years and has been taking care of a feral cat colony for 15 years. It is located on business property in a large open area. The population of the colony has waxed and waned, when it got to about 12 to 14 cats and kittens, he began a process of spaying and neutering with the help of solicited donations. He stated that the business likes having the cats around as there are no mice and rats. He recommends and supports TNR. He sees no sense in euthanizing pets or cats that have already been spayed/neutered and vaccinated. When he found out about the current policy, his opinion of the City fell. He stated that it does not make sense for cost or humanitarian reasons, and that it is senseless to kill an animal that has already been taken care of. He would resent one or more cats disappearing from the colony because of an obsolete policy of euthanizing animals that have already been spayed/neutered and vaccinated. He requested Council to pass an ordinance supporting TNR.

Randy Gardner, 325 Lawana Drive, Bedford, Texas – Mr. Gardner requested to speak on Item #14. He stated that the problem with TNR is that it would force him to live with cats. He has a problem with two cats that are owned by people and that a month does not go by where he does not have to clean up his trash because of the cats. They get in his backyard and lay on his wife's plants. He stated it is hard to believe that the City would force him to live with them. He wants fairness and asked why not let dogs run loose. He stated that ownership responsibility is the real problem. He is disappointed in the Animal Shelter Advisory Board for cramming this down their throats. He likes to take care of doves but cannot leave them out on his porch to be picked on by cats and red tailed hawks. He stated that it would open up other consequences that have not been thought of.

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT

Council discussed placing the following items on consent: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Public Works Director Tom Hoover presented information on Item #5, which is to enter into a Buyboard contract to purchase chemicals used for the sterilization of the City's water wells. This item is in the budget for chemical purchases.

Mr. Hoover presented information on Item #6, which is to enter into a master agreement with the City of Grand Prairie. Staff would like to utilize Grand Prairie's striping contract, which has already been bid. They would also receive a fairly good price because Grand Prairie is a larger city with larger contract amounts, so the City would save through economies of scale. Other City departments would be able to utilize Grand Prairie contracts as well. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Hoover stated that the purpose of this item is to save money and that the City has other interlocal agreements with the same process to save money and time.

Mr. Hoover presented information on Item #7, which is regarding an easement the City would like to acquire. This item would allow staff to have the property appraised to determine the fair market value.

Mr. Hoover presented information on Item #8, which is to grant the Trinity River Authority a 900 square foot easement. They will be doing improvements on existing sewer lines and a metering station off of Pipeline Road.

Mayor Griffin discussed Item #9 and stated that the Council chose to appoint Teri Brown-Hudson to the Parks and Recreation Board and Jerry Bulleri to the Beautification Commission.

Motioned by Councilmember Champney, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to approve the following items on consent: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

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

COUNCIL RECOGNITION

1. Employee Service Recognition

The following employees received recognition for dedicated service and commitment to the City of Bedford:

- Jorge Sahagun, Fire Department - 5 years of service
- Shawn Adams, Police Department - 5 years of service
- Charles Tittle, Fire Department - 10 years of service
- Kelli Agan, Police Department - 20 years of service

2. Recognition of Police Officer Rick Huitt for a Bedford Employee Commitment Award (BECA).

Police Officer Rick Huitt was recognized with the Bedford Employee Commitment Award for aiding an elderly citizen during the recent ice storm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**3. Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:
a) January 14, 2014 regular meeting**

This item was approved by consent.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

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

a) Fredi Sanderson, 4140 Valley View Lane, Irving, Texas 75038 - Requested to speak to the Council regarding the benefits of Trap-Neuter-Release.

Fredi Sanderson, 4140 Valley View Lane, Irving Texas – Mr. Sanderson stated that he has been in the animal welfare field for 27 years. He has supervised animal control in several cities and has served on the board of the Texas Animal Control Association, as president of the Texas Animal Shelter Coalition, and on the Texas Federation of the Humane Society. He stated that in his career, he has killed thousands of cats because the model for animal control is to hold cats for three days, and then they are adopted, reclaimed or euthanized. He stated that one to two percent of cats get reclaimed from a shelter by their owners. In their industry, the biggest opposition to TNR has come from animal control. The Texas Animal Control Association came on board with TNR and the Humane Society of the United States has a position statement on feral cats. He never worked in a place that euthanized cats where the numbers were ever reduced, until TNR was practiced. They have successfully practiced TNR in Irving and in some years have release between 1,200 and 1,300 cats. The complaints regarding TNR have amounted to less than one percent of one percent. He stated that one can go into any feral cat room and find a friendly cat. He recommended practicing TNR as a model by picking an area or zip code. He stated that the ultimate goal of TNR is to reduce the number of feral cats and that there are a lot of studies which support that. The policy in Irving is if a cat with a notched ear has been picked up, it is put back in the community.

b) Cari Alexander, TCU Box 298400, Fort Worth, Texas 76129 - Requested to speak to the Council regarding the benefits of Trap-Neuter-Release.

Cari Alexander, TCU Box 298400, Fort Worth, Texas – Ms. Alexander spoke as director of Frogs and Cats Together regarding TCU's implementation of TNR, which she has been practicing for 15 years. She stated the two things she finds most inexcusable are animal abuse and waste of taxpayer dollars. She cited case studies from their program. There is a 20 acre site at TCU that has food, water, and shelter but was purged of the feral cats every two years at a cost of \$1,800. Since 2004, they have TNR'd 90 cats on campus and more in the surrounding neighborhoods. There is a campus-wide stable population of 16 fixed and vaccinated cats. Animal control has not killed a TCU cat in nine years. Using correct feeding practices, newcomers are observed, TNR'd, released, or fostered and adopted as appropriate. The past year, they TNR'd 13 cats and kittens and placed 11 of those into homes. She cited another example from 2004 where a colony started at nine cats and kittens and since has been reduced to one. She discussed cat haters, cat lovers who feed indiscriminately, average citizens who do not like the cats' behavior but do not want to see them killed, and those that love being involved with cats. In regards to where colonies would be set up, she stated that they are already here and that nobody wants colonies close to children or dogs. She stated that it is time for the City to be brave and that animal rescue is not for the faint-hearted. She discussed articles by known cat haters that ignore TNR successes for studies done in foreign and removed cultures. She stated that it is good to plan for and anticipate dangers but that it is folly to dismiss other solutions when the current method is horrible and does not work. She discussed rabies and vaccination. She stated that proper practice is crucial and that there is a need for people who habitually care for creatures and who make tough decisions for the good of the colony. She stated that the City of Fort Worth works with them and that Arlington recently started TNR and in six months, they almost qualify as a no-kill shelter. She said the population can be reduced and that people will feel they are contributing to a solution. Shelter cages would house adoptable cats and once the City shows intent to reduce euthanasia, it would be eligible for animal foundation grants. She stated that it is Council's responsibility to educate themselves and to not waste taxpayer money on methods that do not work.

c) Jessica Smith, 1856 Precinct Line Road, Suite 108, Hurst, Texas 76054 - Requested to speak to the Council regarding the sterilization of feral cats in the City of Bedford.

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Jessica Smith, 1856 Precinct Line Road, Suite 108, Hurst, Texas – Ms. Smith stated that she works with the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection and that they offer a low cost spay/neuter and vaccination program. They have worked with the cities of Fort Worth and Arlington with the feral cat program. Since 2002, they have sterilized over 173,000 animals in north Texas and vaccinated over 212,000 against rabies. In 2013 alone, they have sterilized 2,621 feral cats, 51 of which came from 12 Bedford residents. They have 109 registered feral cat caretakers. The cats have to be in a live trap and they would tip the ear at no extra cost. Caretakers can bring in four feral cats a day without an appointment. They must purchase a \$5.00 rabies vaccine. Feral sterilizations are \$20.00 with extra fees if they are in heat or pregnant. They also sponsor feral cat caretakers, which includes registering the colony and providing training, with the caretaker doing a census of the colony.

NEW BUSINESS

- 5. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve funding to purchase chemicals for the Stonegate Water Well and the Simpson Terrace Water Well from DCC Inc., through a Buyboard Contract for an amount not to exceed \$40,980.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 6. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Master Interlocal Cooperative Purchase Agreement with the City of Grand Prairie.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 7. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve funding for preliminary work toward the condemnation and acquisition of Lot 35R1, Block 13, Stonegate Addition in an amount not to exceed \$5,254.10.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 8. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Trinity River Authority of Texas Permanent Sanitary Sewer Easement, Exhibit "A" and a Temporary Construction Easement, Exhibit "B".**

This item was approved by consent.

- 9. Consider a resolution appointing members to Bedford's Citizen Boards and Commissions.**

This item was approved by consent with Teri Brown-Hudson being appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board and Jerry Bulleri to the Beautification Commission.

- 10. Consider a resolution ordering the General Election of the City of Bedford, Texas to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014 for the purpose of electing Place 4 and Place 6 to the Bedford City Council.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 11. Receive an Economic Development Update.**

Development Director Bill Syblon presented Council with an Economic Development Update. He stated that this presentation is given to various groups throughout the year including developers and rotary. Sales tax revenue for the previous fiscal year was up three percent. The latest report from the North Tarrant Express was that they are 79 percent complete. The total number of new single family permits was four. Staff has received a lot of questions regarding the development at Cheek Sparger and Central Drive, and he stated that it was going to be a new single family development, with 40 detached units at an average price of \$300,000. The total number of single family permits remains high. In regards to

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residential real estate, over the past year, the number of days houses spent on the market decreased by 20 percent. 105 commercial certificates of occupancy were issued, with 47 of them being new businesses. The retail vacancy rate is 11 percent and the average asking rate is at \$12.00. The vacancy rate for office space has remained steady between 17 and 18 percent.

Mr. Syblon stated that it was the year of the restaurant, which represented 400 new jobs and over \$4M in new property value in the City. Chili's opened in the former Bennigan's building. Cheddar's invested \$500,000 in their store, partnered with the City to take down the former CI Host building, and the owners predict it will be their number one store once the highway is complete. Mexican Inn left but came back and built a new 5,000 square foot building. Cisco Jack's is creative Tex-Mex from the owners of Boomer Jack's and occupies 6,300 square feet. Applebee's moved into the former Jason's Deli site. Shipley's Do-Nuts built a new store along Highway 157. Twisted Root invested over \$500,000 to convert a former 7-11 into a burger joint and it remains their highest producing store.

In regards to corporate activity, Mr. Syblon stated that High Power Aviation moved into a 16,000 square foot building and they do training for commercial air crews. SKU2U is a marketing company that has a building off of Reliance Parkway. TXI moved their corporate sales operations to Bedford and spent about \$1M to renovate the former library building.

Other projects include making it easier for food trucks to come into the City to operate; the Master Highway Corridor Overlay District, which took several months between the Planning and Zoning Commission, Council and staff that will raise standards and improve aesthetics along the corridor; and changes to the Sign Ordinance based on outcries from the business community affected by the highway expansion. The Central Bedford Development Zone is a master vision that incorporates City Hall and City-owned land, and offers a vision of what could be. Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission continue to work on that project including creating design standards.

Mr. Syblon presented information on what was coming for 2014, which represented \$40M in permit value and construction activity. The Clubhouse for Special Needs is moving from a lease space off of Brown Trail to a building on Harwood, giving them 4,000 extra square feet. They held a fund drive to purchase the building. Adam Smith's Texas Harley Davidson purchased eight acres behind their land and is building a 50,000 square foot, three-story building. Calvert Family Holdings will be occupying 40,000 square feet off of Brown Trail for an automobile financing headquarters. HEB ISD will have a new 150,000 square foot technology school, which will have 1,100 students a day. Texas Health Resources is expanding by adding 60,000 square feet and 18 rooms to their ICU. The HEB Cancer Center will be a 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility for cancer treatment. A new Tom Thumb Fuel Center will be going into the hard corner of Harwood Road and Highway 121. The Movie Tavern will be moving to the former Sack 'n Save space. He reminded everybody about the Shop Bedford First and Bedford4Business websites.

12. Presentation by Brian Davis, Utility Service Partners, requesting the City of Bedford's participation in the National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program.

Brian Davis with Utility Service Partners presented a request for the City of Bedford's participation in the National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program. He introduced Jim Hunt, who served as president of the NLC and on the Clarksburg, West Virginia City Council. Mr. Hunt stated that for the NLC to continue to be relevant to cities, they had to come up with programs to benefit cities and offer services to citizens without increased taxes. Mr. Davis stated that he has spoken at over 500 council meetings. The program is designed by the NLC to address the nationwide problem of the deteriorating infrastructure of lateral water and sewer lines, which is due to age and ground shift. The lines are subsurface and go unnoticed by the homeowner until a problem arises, and they are not usually covered by homeowner's insurance and the City cannot fix them. The program is designed to be an awareness campaign and an innovative option for the homeowner. Costs for repairs of these lines can be in the thousands of dollars. The program is designed to take care of the lines quickly and affordably. The homeowner would pay \$5.50 a month for water lines and \$7.00 a month for sewer lines. When a line breaks, they would come out and fix it as long as the break was less than \$4,000 per incident for water

lines from the meter to the house. For sewer lines, it would be from the house to where the City took responsibility, and an additional \$4,000 would kick in under the public right-of-way. They have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and have recently won the Torch Award. They are also a shared services partner with the North Central Texas Council of Governments. They have over 200 city partners and in a survey, 100 percent of those returned would recommend them to other cities. Every time a homeowner gets a line repaired, they receive a survey and 100 percent of those sent back said the City's image was enhanced by the program. They have around 30 cities participating in North Texas. The program will prevent a lot of call outs that City staff receives.

In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Davis stated that if the cost is more than \$4,000, the remainder is out-of-pocket to the homeowner, but that less than one percent of claims have been out-of-pocket; that homeowners can only enroll in cities that are participating; that they deny less than one percent of claims mainly due to delinquent accounts or because the repair is covered by homeowner's insurance; that cities that do not promote a program have less than one percent enrollment, while cities that do have 30 to 35 percent enrollment; that they bill the residents directly; that the City has the option to collect a royalty of \$0.50 per enrollment; that they want permission to send out a letter to every homeowner with the Bedford logo, which states it is from the City; and that City would be held harmless on liability.

13. Presentation of proposed Action Plan to earn the State of Texas Cultural District designation.

Cultural Commission Chairperson Alicia McGlinchey presented a proposed action plan to earn the State of Texas Cultural District designation. She stated that she will focus on the highlights of what the Commission has been doing and a summary of the action plan. The Commission had an underlying assumption that art makes a community better and that there is a growing number of studies that show a real economic benefit from investing in arts and culture. She displayed a quote from Gary Gibbs, the Director of the Texas Commission on the Arts, regarding the benefits of being designated a cultural district including being used as a marketing tool and being eligible for grants from the State. She discussed investment in the arts fueling economic growth and that in 2011, \$504B at the federal level, and in 2012 in Texas, \$4.6B in taxable sales, were attributable to arts and culture. Arts businesses employ people locally, purchase goods and services, promote the community as a tourist destination, and that patrons will pay for parking and transportation, and eat at local restaurants. The typical arts attendee spends approximately \$25.00 per person per event beyond the ticket price.

Ms. McGlinchey discussed the joint work session between the Commission and the City Council in February of 2013. Evidence was presented from a cultural assessment that showed that there was a community of artists, musical groups, and events in the City. There was discussion on collaboration and marketing what the City has, obtaining community buy-in to be an arts-friendly community, producing a strategic plan, tying the Cultural District to the CBDZ, and needing Council guidance and leadership.

Commission highlights from 2013 include hosting the first Arts Talk in June at the Old Bedford School, holding strategic planning sessions to hammer out strategic goals and action items, and hosting the second ArtsFest. Ms. McGlinchey displayed a map showing the Cultural District as designated by the Council, which covers roughly the area of the Boys Ranch, goes down Forest Ridge Drive, and then encompasses the Old Bedford School, and the old and new Library buildings. Organizations and facilities within that footprint include Onstage, the Trinity Arts Guild, the Old Bedford School, the Library, Arts Council Northeast, and the Senior Center.

Ms. McGlinchey presented an action plan to better position the City to exist as a cultural destination. Categories include: 1) the Council implementing changes to make the City arts friendly; 2) integrating planning documents for a consistent vision; 3) coordinating marketing and communication; and 4) dedicating and investing resources. Steps under the first category include a revision of Council goals and vision to formally embrace that this is the direction they want to go; evaluating City ordinances and policies to identify obstacles and create incentives; empowering staff at all levels to promote and attract more art; evaluating the City event calendar for balanced, year-round programming; and Economic Development identifying underutilized space. Steps under the second category include creating a long

term vision in particular with the highway reconstruction; the City providing a framework for new development; incorporating the goals of arts and culture in the CBDZ planning documents and design standards, as well as the Parks Master Plan; developing a conceptual plan for an outdoor performing arts pavilion; developing a linkage and walkability plan; and researching and identifying locations for a potential arts incubator. Steps under the third category include developing a centralized calendar; creating a logo branding the arts district; establishing standards for signage and banners; and forging regular opportunities for collaboration. Steps in the fourth category include the budget; staffing; a 501(c)3 and determining if the defunct Bedford Historical Foundation can be re-founded.

Ms. McGlinchey stated that the next opportunity to apply for a cultural district designation is in June of 2015. A letter of intent would be owed by January of 2015. Resources required include the Council, the Commission, existing staff, existing financial resources, additional funding for consultants and staff infrastructure. She stated that she looks forward to having a joint work session with Council to get in a better dialogue and hopefully adopt the action plan.

There was discussion on the Council adopting supporting the arts as their newest vision statement at their strategic planning session; looking at existing resources; repurposing and tying in those assets to other things happening in the City; enhancing the overall position and creating a unique point of differentiation; repositioning the City; the opportunities for grants and funding; creating a greater sense of community; investing in existing assets; and the residents not knowing what the City has to offer.

14. Receive a presentation on a Trap-Neuter-Release Program.

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Chairperson Rebecca Epps Purchase and Member Connie Ziegler-Stout presented a proposal for a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) Program. Ms. Ziegler-Stout stated that in a meeting last fall, a majority of the Board voted to endorse TNR in the City. It is a program that has been implemented throughout the country and it is becoming the norm and public expectation for animal control because it works. Dr. Epps Purchase stated that as a veterinarian, she is familiar with the human-animal bond, which extends to feeding outdoor and stray cats. She stated that 10 to 12 percent of the population feed cats that are not their own but do not take the responsibility to sterilize the cats. She stated there are different subsets of cats including feral cats, which are wild and cannot be touched, abandoned cats, and basic house cats. They are talking tonight about feral cats. They live in colonies and there have been several managed colonies in Bedford the last 10 to 12 years. In discussing reproduction, she stated that a female cat does not go out of heat until she is bred. The average litter size is six kittens and a female cat can have a minimum of two litters a year. She discussed an incident in Bedford with an apartment that had 33 cats.

Dr. Epps Purchase stated that when they saw the agenda, they saw a presentation by the Police Department and she discussed where it was not medically sound. The City currently does trap and euthanize. She stated that once the average citizen is educated, 81 percent stated that if they knew the feral cat was going to be euthanized, they would have allowed it to live out in society. She stated that complaints, many of which have to do with intact cat behavior, would be decreased by spaying/neutering. Trap and Euthanasia fails because it does not curtail population growth, but TNR does. Trapping and neutering cats stops the exponential growth and by returning them to their area, it stops the vacuum effect. Further, no cat would be spayed/neutered without receiving a rabies vaccine. Statistics show there have been no reports of rabies infected cats in Tarrant County since 2008. She asked why universities that turn out veterinarians have colonies on their campuses. She stated that the testing of cats for rabies prior to release has shown not to be reliable and asked if there is such a concern, why cats being adopted into homes are not being tested. She stated that colony managers feed and take care of their cats. She says Bedford statistics fit what they are seeing nationally. She discussed looking at hot bed areas from where cats/kittens are being brought into the Shelter. She questioned including PETA in the Police Department presentation, but stated that they were still for colony management. She stated that the current policy is costly to the taxpayers and that the goal of TNR is to stop the cats from coming into the Shelter. Feral cats tie up the back cat room needed for adoptable cats, are more likely to bite and scratch animal control officers, and overcrowded shelters lead to respiratory infections. In 2013, Shelter statistics show that 333 cats were euthanized in 2013 at a cost

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of \$58.54 each for a total of \$19,493.82. Last year's disposal costs at \$10.00 to \$15.00 per cat brings the total to approximately \$24,000.

Ms. Ziegler Stout discussed concerns about potential liability to the City if a TNR cat is released from the Shelter. She stated that it was extremely unlikely that a feral cat would approach someone. She has spoken with three lawyers who specialize in animals who all said the City would be protected under governmental immunity. She stated that there has not been one documented case of a TNR cat subjecting anybody to rabies. She stated that TNR would be protecting the community through rabies vaccination, preventing cat reproduction, resolving nuisance issues, and reducing staff injuries. Dr. Epps Purchase stated that the Board knows that some people have certain nuisance cats and discussed a "three strikes and you're out" policy. She asked that the City adopt a forward thinking mindset and consider a pilot project. In answer to questions from Council, she stated that there are between 10 and 15 colonies in the City and that many people are hesitant to register with the cities because they fear for the lives of their cats.

Council discussed digesting the information presented and looking at this issue as a Council. Dr. Epps Purchase stated that the Board did not see the information from the Police Department that was presented to Council and that she would be willing to write out a response to the information. There was discussion on examining all sides of the issue.

15. Discussion regarding Master Plan. **This item requested by Councilmember Nolan.

Councilmember Nolan requested this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. She stated that in going through the presentation for the Cultural Commission, it occurred to her that the City has a lot of plans such as for parks but that there is not one unified document. She would like the City to put such a document together for when developers come in to see if they want to do business with the City, and for people to know the City's vision. There was discussion on developing an overall strategic plan and Council's involvement. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Syblon stated that the key document that developers usually want to see is the Zoning Ordinance, what regulations there are for a particular piece of property, and sometimes the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. There was discussion on a master plan being a compilation of documents that currently exist. City Manager Beverly Griffith stated that putting copies of all the documents into a single binder would be simple and discussed defining the process if Council wants a master/comprehensive plan. In answer to further questions from Council, Mr. Syblon stated that he does not recall a developer needing a comprehensive plan to look at sites and that Economic Development puts together custom documents for what the prospect wants. Ms. Griffith stated that the various elements could be placed on the website and listed separately. There was further discussion on a work session to develop a strategic plan; having a Council-endorsed plan; the CBDZ; and making sure all the elements are in place.

16. Discussion regarding tower. **This item requested by Councilmember Nolan.

Councilmember Nolan requested this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. She stated that the previous August, staff was tasked to investigate putting lights on the tower. Two of the lights were out and the rest shine three feet above the logo. It was discussed that AT&T recognized the lack of proper lighting, that special lighting has been ordered, and that the lights should be replaced by the end of January.

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

✓ Animal Shelter Advisory Board - Councilmember Boyter

Councilmember Boyter reported that the Board had a discussion at their previous meeting about projects for 2014 and formulating a proposal to bring to Council.

✓ Beautification Commission - Councilmember Turner

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Councilmember Turner reported on upcoming events including Clean Up Bedford Day and Chunk Your Junk on March 29 at Meadowpark, the Crud Cruiser on April 26 and September 13, and the paper shred event in October.

✓ **Community Affairs Commission - Councilmember Boyter**

Councilmember Boyter was unable to attend the meeting but reported that Cynthia Williams was elected chairperson.

✓ **Cultural Commission - Councilmember Nolan**

Councilmember Nolan stated that the presentation tonight was a culmination of all the Commission has been working on.

✓ **Library Board - Councilmember Davisson**

Councilmember Davisson stated that there is an Eagle Scout project to deliver 2,000 bags to residents in the City to collect books, which will be picked up on Saturday.

✓ **Parks & Recreation Board - Councilmember Davisson**

Councilmember Davisson reported that the Board will meet the following month and congratulated the new member, Teri Brown-Hudson.

✓ **Senior Citizen Advisory Board - Councilmember Turner**

Councilmember Turner reported that the Board was unable to meet but are continuing to develop plans for the Center including adding breakfasts in the morning.

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

Councilmember Champney reported that the Board is continuing to discuss their banquet and a possible speaker.

18. Council member reports

Councilmember Nolan reported that the Library Foundation's Mardi Gras event has officially sold out. Tickets to the casino part only are still being sold and the event will have great celebrity waiters.

Mayor Griffin reported on the ribbon cutting for the HEB ISD Auxiliary Building scheduled for Saturday, February 1 at 10:00 a.m.

19. City Manager/Staff Reports

City Manager Beverly Griffith reported that the Wellness Committee will be hosting a community-wide blood drive on Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. People can go to the Carter Blood Care website to schedule an appointment.

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

Item #7 was approved during the Regular Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

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Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary