

**Council Minutes September 2, 2014**

**STATE OF TEXAS           §**

**COUNTY OF TARRANT   §**

**CITY OF BEDFORD       §**

**The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Special Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 2nd day of September, 2014 with the following members present:**

Jim Griffin	Mayor
Michael Boyter	Council Members
Ray Champney	
Jim Davisson	
Roger Fisher	
Roy W. Turner	

constituting a quorum.

Councilmember Farco was absent from the meeting.

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
Bill Cooper	Deputy Director of Information Services
Roger Gibson	Police Chief
Tom Hoover	Public Works Director
Meg Jakubik	Assistant to the City Manager
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden	Managing Director
Maria Redburn	Library Director
Bill Syblon	Development Director
James Tindell	Fire Chief

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

The Special Session began at 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order. He stated that Councilmember Farco was unable to attend the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Second public hearing to consider the proposed 2014 tax rate.**

Assistant to the City Manager Meg Jakubik stated that the current tax rate is \$0.4948303 per \$100 valuation. This year's effective tax rate is \$0.479538 per \$100 valuation due to an increase in property values. The rollback rate is \$0.529670 per \$100 valuation. The maximum rate that Council will consider is the current tax rate. She displayed a historical comparison of the tax rate between 2009 and 2014 showing that it increased by a total of 6.7 percent, with an average increase of 1.75 percent per year. A

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comparison of tax revenue over the same period shows an increase from \$13.5M to \$15.1M, for an overall increase of 11.16 percent and an average increase of 2.5 percent per year. A comparison of the Municipal Cost Index (MCI) over the same period shows an increase of 1.4 percent this year and an average yearly increase of nearly two percent. A comparison of the tax rate from the FY 13-14 to FY 14-15 shows that though the rate itself is the same, the composition of the rate is different. There is a 6.9 percent increase in the Debt portion due to the sale of debt for the Boys Ranch Park and capital items approved by Council, and a 4.4 percent decrease in the Maintenance and Operations portion. She stated that the Council will vote on the tax rate next Tuesday during their regularly scheduled meeting. In answer to questions from Council, Ms. Jakubik stated that the average yearly increase in the tax rate is 1.75 percent and the average yearly increase in the MCI is 1.93 percent and, therefore, the change in the tax rate has been below the change in the MCI.

Mayor Griffin opened the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Mayor Griffin closed the public hearing at 6:37 p.m.

There was discussion on the decrease in the Maintenance and Operations portion of the tax rate; the increase in the Debt portion of the tax rate with the major contributor being that citizens voted to do Phase 1 of the Boys Ranch; the bonds for the Boys Ranch being included in the tax rate; and that the line was held on the tax rate. Councilmember Turner requested it be on the record that statements had been made during the first public hearing referring to a 30 percent tax increase from 2009 to 2014 and that tonight's presentation showed nothing near that amount with a total increase of 6.7 percent. There was further discussion on the budget and tax rate being addressed and voted on at the September 9 Council meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Griffin adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

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Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary