

Council Minutes March 3, 2014

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Work Session at 5:00 p.m. in the TXI Conference Room, 1805 L. Don Dodson, on the 3rd day of March, 2014 with the following members present:

Jim Griffin
Ray Champney
Jim Davisson
Patricia Nolan
Roy W. Turner

Mayor
Council Members

constituting a quorum.

Council Members Brown and Boyter were absent from the meeting.

Staff present included:

Beverly Griffith
David Miller
Michael Wells
Cliff Blackwell
Roger Gibson
Eric Griffin
Cathy Haskell
Don Henderson
Tom Hoover
Meg Jakubik
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden
Maria Redburn
Jacquelyn Reyff
Bill Syblon
Eric Valdez

City Manager
Deputy City Manager
City Secretary
Administrative Services Director
Police Chief
Deputy Police Chief
Senior Center Manager
Parks Superintendent
Public Works Director
Asst. to the City Manager
Managing Director
Library Manager
Planning Manager
Development Director
Recreation Manager

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

The Mayor called the Work Session to order at 5:03 p.m.

WORK SESSION 5:00 p.m.

- **Discussion on Board and Commission goals and direction.**

Mayor Griffin stated that the goal of the meeting is to discuss the Boards and Commissions giving them a unified direction based on Council's vision. He asked that the Council liaisons discuss what each Board or Commission is doing.

Teen Court Advisory Board

Councilmember Champney discussed the purpose of the Board as described in their bylaws. He stated that at the meetings he sits, listens, and responds to questions. He gives support for their needs that are relevant to Bedford and brings those to Council for discussion. The Board works very well and is beneficial to the three cities and he did not see any need for deviation from their purpose. There was discussion on the Teen Court banquet, if there are enough funds for the scholarships, the bylaws, and the fine structure.

Beautification Commission

Councilmember Turner discussed the purpose of the Commission, which is dedicated to the beautification of the City from an aesthetic, resident, and visitor point-of-view. The staff liaison, Don Henderson, works closely with Chairperson Faye Murphy. They are one of the most active in terms of hands-on activities, specifically at the Boys Ranch. One of the projects they are looking at are design improvements along Harwood Road. They are funded by a \$10,000 contribution from the City's waste contract. They use that money each year and receive a lot of funding from donations from businesses. They run special projects throughout the year including Clean Up Bedford Day, Chunk Your Junk Day, and the Crud Cruiser. They work closely with Teen Court on beautification projects. They look for Council guidance in regards to Council projects. In regards to Clean Up Bedford Day, there was discussion on doing something south of the freeway; whether the Commission would entertain having two days; issues with finding volunteers to cover the whole area; using the \$400 donated the previous year for "pickup sticks;" encouraging Boards and Commissions to show up as groups; that they have been finding less help from companies this year; and working with homeowners associations. There was consensus to find a secondary date for Clean Up Bedford Day and to have a sign-up sheet at the March 29 event. There was discussion on getting more cooperation between Boards and Commissions and the red plastic flowers at the entrance to the Boys Ranch. There was discussion on the business awards, including that the process has been modified, that they will discuss four or five nominations at their next meeting, and that they do not recognize residents at this time. There was discussion on getting more containers for Chunk Your Junk Day.

Cultural Commission

Councilmember Nolan stated that the Commission just had their joint work session with Council and there is an emphasis on trying to make the cultural district more visible. She did not realize the amount of artists in the City and the Arts Talk held at the Old Bedford School was enlightening. She stated that to really move forward on this issue, the City has to go big and she hopes that the Council will go forward on a comprehensive master plan. There was discussion on Twilight Thursdays, including having food trucks and art at the events. Managing Director Mirenda McQuagge-Walden stated that she has met with Mark Chandler with the School District and that they are trying very hard for to have a performance component and art exhibited at the April 3 event. There will be beer, wine and dedicated food at the first Twilight Thursday and there have been talks with Red Hot & Blue for an end of the season event. There was discussion on having a pet happy hour and art booths at Twilight Thursdays, having school orchestras come out to play, and coming up with plans.

Library Advisory Board

Councilmember Davisson stated that Library Manager Maria Redburn brings proposals for changes to the Board on how things are run at the Library. These proposals have been vetted by staff and legal counsel. The Board is made up of people who are very dedicated to the Library and Ms. Redburn is the driving force. He will be asking for an item on the next agenda regarding erecting a fence around the globe in the Library lobby. There was discussion on adding more tables for the Mardi Gras event.

Senior Citizen Advisory Board

Councilmember Turner stated that the function of the Board is to organize leadership in senior citizens to offer special services and recreation to seniors. It is run by a Board that meets quarterly and is composed of senior citizens who are active in the Center. Activities include dances and pottery. His main function as the liaison is to respond to problems they are having, including issues with the pottery kiln the previous year. The most popular event of the Board is the annual holiday luncheon and they have recently started doing breakfasts. He stated that they would love to have a new center as there is limited space. There was discussion on whether the current Senior Center lent itself to expansion.

Parks and Recreation Board

Councilmember Davisson stated that the Board has set goals for the coming year, including the second phase of the dog park and working on the update to the Parks Master Plan. They are working with Animal Control and the Beautification Commission to help with their projects, including beautifying Carousel Park when it reopens. They are a very passionate group and they have certain parks they check out before every meeting. In regards to the dog park, there was discussion on having trees, new grass and shelters; the City's tree farm; the donation of trees; what would be done if the School District takes the property; the walking trails and the District being willing to co-op on something going through the area; that physical structures could not be built under the power lines and that Oncor owns a portion of the property; and incorporating a cultural component in the Parks Master Plan.

Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Mayor Griffin discussed setting some direction on what the Board wants to work towards, including a renewed emphasis on assistance and help to the Shelter, the list of volunteers and rescue organizations, promoting the pet fairs, and supporting the staff. There was discussion on finding more and better ways to get pets adopted from the Shelter; the lack of people being able to take the animals; other cities using volunteer groups in their endeavors; a volunteer liaison position; forming a "Friends of the Shelter" group; the Shelter facility; joining activities with the Cities of Hurst and Euless; enhancing animal control to serve the citizens of Bedford and to better care for animals; the new software having pictures of animals; tying into networks of rescue groups; and joint pet adoptions.

There was discussion on having information on the duties of Boards and Commissions available to applicants at the time of Council interviews; and Council taking Board and Commission recommendations into consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Griffin adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary