

**Council Minutes May 26, 2015**

**STATE OF TEXAS           §**

**COUNTY OF TARRANT   §**

**CITY OF BEDFORD       §**

**The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Special Session at 6:00 p.m., Work Session at 6:15 p.m. and Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 26th day of May, 2015 with the following members present:**

Jim Griffin	Mayor
Michael Boyter	Council Members
Ray Champney	
Jim Davisson	
Steve Farco	
Roger Fisher	

constituting a quorum.

Councilmember Turner was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance:

Dave Gebhart	Councilmember-Elect
Rusty Sartor	Councilmember-Elect

Staff present included:

Roger Gibson	Interim City Manager
Stan Lowry	City Attorney
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Kelli Agan	Interim Assistant City Manager
Natalie Foster	Marketing Specialist
Les Hawkins	Interim Police Chief
Meg Jakubik	Assistant to the City Manager
Maria Redburn	Library Director
James Tindell	Fire Chief

**SPECIAL SESSION**

Mayor Griffin called the Special Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

- **Administer Statement of Elected Officer and Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor and Council Members Place 1 and Place 2 and presentation of the Certificates of Election.**

City Secretary Michael Wells administered the Statement of Elected Officials and Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor Jim Griffin, Council Member Rusty Sartor, Place 1, and Dave Gebhart, Place 2. Mayor Pro Tem Boyter presented the Certificate of Election to Mayor Griffin. Mayor Griffin presented the Certificate of Election to Council Members Sartor and Gebhart.

Mayor Griffin adjourned the Special Session at 6:06 p.m.

**COUNCIL CHAMBER WORK SESSION**

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

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

Council discussed placing the following items on consent: 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Assistant to the City Manager Meg Jakubik presented information regarding Item #3. This item is a recommendation from the Atmos City Steering Committee (ACSC), a group that allows for a collection of resources to be able to work with Atmos utilities as they do rate reviews. Atmos is entitled through the State legislature to do rate reviews through the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP), which bypasses the City's ratemaking authority. Atmos has agreed to work with the cities to allow them to review their rate requests. This item is a culmination of two years of rate reviews. In 2014, the City denied a requested rate increase, which Atmos appealed to the Railroad Commission. While awaiting the determination of the appeal, Atmos filed their 2015 rate increase request. The Steering Committee came to compromise with Atmos on the 2015 rate and to settle the appeal for the 2014 request. The ordinance addresses both and will lead to an increase to consumers that is lower than what Atmos would be entitled to under the GRIP filings. There is a 1.59 percent increase on the average residential customer bill and just under a one percent increase on commercial businesses. In answer to questions from Council, Ms. Jakubik stated that every city in the ACSC denied the Atmos rate increase request the previous year; that if the City did not approve this item, Atmos would be entitled to recoup \$16M more through the GRIP than through the rate review mechanism agreement, leading to even higher rates; that the increase would be \$1.14 on the average customer's bill; and that other ACSC cities are adopting this item around the same time as Bedford.

Fire Chief James Tindell presented information regarding Item #4, which is to replace two Fire Department Vehicles, specifically those for the Fire Marshal and the Deputy Chief of EMS/Emergency Management. The vehicles are 14 and 15 years old respectively and have reached their service life on the City's decision tree, with one being at 192 points. A budget amendment that included these two vehicles was approved by Council at their previous meeting.

Council was of the consensus to table Item #5.

Council discussed Item #9 and was of the consensus to hold a half-day work session on Saturday, June 20 to discuss goals and objectives, and current projects on which Council has been working with staff. There was discussion on having multiple work sessions.

- **Library Advisory Board Presentation.**

Deborah Allbach, Chairperson of the Library Advisory Board, presented information regarding the Board's accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2014. She discussed the Library's vision and mission statement, which were created by staff; the \$27,000 in donations the Library received and the programs that were funded by these donations; new programs that were added in response to requests by the community; new services to expand what is offered at the Library; one of the the Board's primary focus being to represent citizens as policies are reviewed and established; volunteers giving 3.5 staff positions worth of volunteer hours and the recipients of the adult and teen volunteers of the year; the results of the Library Satisfaction Survey, which has been conducted since 2009 to see how the Library meets the needs of the users; the positive impacts on users in being involved with the Library; the Library consistently receiving an "A" grade; Library users requesting better computer equipment and expansion of current resources; comments from the Survey; and the Library being awarded the Texas Municipal Library Director's Association Achievement in Excellence in Libraries Award. She hoped that Council takes as much pride in the Library as the Board members do. She recognized Board members in attendance including Marcia Griffith, Brenda Roche, Jim Davis, as well as Library Director Maria Redburn.

- **Presentation on the possible dismissal of Stage 1 Water Restrictions.**

Public Works Director Tom Hoover stated that back in February, there was a presentation that stated

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lake levels were at 62 percent and that the City was within weeks of going into Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan, which is once a week watering. However, the lakes used by the Tarrant Regional

Water District (TWD) are currently at 101 percent full. There is no longer a requirement for Stage 1 restrictions and he recommended pulling out of the City's Drought Contingency Plan. Residents would be allowed to water seven days a week but still cannot water between 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. In answer to questions from Council regarding the mixing of water from the Trinity River Authority and well water, including how long the process takes and having to dump water, Mr. Hoover stated that there were no concerns with that in Stage 1 as the water cycles well enough; and that in Stage 2 they would have to do some flushing due to requirements by the State to maintain certain chlorine residuals in the water mains and tanks, which can be dissipated by the summer heat. He stated that information regarding lifting the restrictions would be posted on the City's website and in a press release; and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality would have to be notified that the City is deviating away from its Drought Contingency Plan.

Mayor Griffin adjourned the Work Session at 6:36 p.m.

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

The Regular Session began at 6:43 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order.

### **INVOCATION (Chaplain Mark Massey)**

Chaplain Mark Massey first gave a devotional movement to affirm the new members of the Council, the Mayor and the existing Council Members, and presented each of them a challenge coin. He then gave the invocation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

Marketing Specialist Natalie Foster stated that as part of the Old Bedford School events leading up to the 100 Year celebration in September, there is going to be a "Walk Through Old Bedford" event at the School on June 7 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Guests can get a free passport, learn interesting facts at each station and earn new stamps in their passport. Children can also bring their favorite dolls or stuffed animals for a tea party reception. She stated that canned and boxed foods are still being accepted for the Mayor's Hunger Challenge and that there are drop-off locations at City Hall, the Boys Ranch and the Library, as well as at City events. She discussed a contest whereby residents can submit pictures of their dogs by July 15 to be featured in a 2016 calendar. There was Council discussion on the current standings for the Mayor's Hunger Challenge and whether there were any embarrassing wagers at stake.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Nobody chose to speak during Open Forum.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT**

Motioned by Councilmember Champney, seconded by Councilmember Farco, to approve the following items by consent: 2, 3 and 4 and to table Item #5.

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Motion approved 6-0-0. 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:

Monique Hall-Corley, Police Department - 15 years of service  
Debra Turek, Police Department - 15 years of service

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

#### **2. Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:**

- a) May 12, 2015 regular meeting
- b) May 12, 2015 emergency meeting
- c) May 19, 2015 special meeting

This item was approved by consent.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **3. Consider an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee ("ACSC") and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the company's 2014 and 2015 Rate Review Mechanism filings.**

This item was approved by consent.

#### **4. Consider a resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to purchase replacement vehicles for the Fire Deputy Chief/EMS and Fire Marshal. The total for both vehicles and equipment is \$68,342.54 through the State of Texas Buy Board Purchasing Program from Silsbee Ford.**

This item was approved by consent.

#### **5. Consider a resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into a contract with Harrison, Walker and Harper in the amount of \$43,000 to repair and seal the brick and mortar at Old Bedford School.**

This item was tabled by consent.

#### **6. Discussion on setting a date for a Council Work Session.**

This item was discussed in Work Session.

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

##### **✓ Animal Shelter Advisory Board - Councilmember Fisher**

Councilmember Fisher reported that the Board met the previous week and there were no multi-pet permits or exotic animal permits to discuss. Updated statistics are available at the Animal Shelter.

##### **✓ Beautification Commission - Councilmember Turner**

No report was given.

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### ✓ Cultural Commission - Councilmember Champney

Councilmember Champney reported that Commission Member Josh Santillan continues to repopulate the storefront galleries and the Commission continues to work on the 501(c)(3). The Commission chairperson will be giving a presentation at the next Council meeting. The final Twilight Thursday event is scheduled for the upcoming Thursday and some of those that were cancelled due to the weather may be rescheduled for the fall.

### ✓ Teen Court Advisory Board - Councilmember Farco

Councilmember Farco reported that Teen Court needs more adult volunteers to help out with the teens.

## 8. Council member Reports

Councilmember Fisher congratulated Council Members Sartor and Gebhart on their election. He looks forward to working with them to better the City. He stated that it is a very gratifying job when you allow it to be and that seeing your name on the ballot and that people trust you to do the job is a humbling experience.

Mayor Griffin stated that his recent trip to meet with businesses and developers resulted in two more shopping centers committing to putting art in their vacant storefronts.

Councilmember Farco stated that he wanted to echo what Councilmember Fisher stated regarding Council Members Sartor and Gebhart and that the City has one of the best staffs around and they do an amazing job with limited resources. He told them not to be afraid to ask questions and wished them good luck.

Mayor Griffin reported that the Community Affairs Commission will be holding a block party on Friday in the Rustic Woods subdivision from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He stated that the 6Stones Run For Hope had 2,600 participants.

## 9. City Manager/Staff Reports

Interim City Manager Roger Gibson reported that effective the previous Thursday, Technical Services Manager has been brought over to serve as Interim Assistant City Manager.

### **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 551.074, personnel matters - City Manager search**

Council convened into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074, personnel matters - City Manager search at 7:02 p.m.

Council reconvened from Executive Session at 7:17 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.

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

No action was necessary as a result of the Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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Mayor Griffin adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary