

Council Minutes April 26, 2016

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. and Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 26th day of April, 2016 with the following members present:

Jim Griffin
Ray Champney
Steve Farco
Roger Fisher
Dave Gebhart
Rusty Sartor
Roy W. Turner

Mayor
Council Members

constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Roger Gibson
Kelli Agan
Stan Lowry
Michael Wells
Don Henderson
Meg Jakubik
Natalie Foster
Jeff Gibson
Jill McAdams
Kenny Overstreet
Maria Redburn
Bill Syblon
Eric Valdez

City Manager
Assistant City Manager
City Attorney
City Secretary
Parks Superintendent
Strategic Services Manager
Public Information Officer
Police Chief
Human Resources Director
Public Works Director
Library Director
Development Director
Community Services Manager

COUNCIL CHAMBER WORK SESSION

Mayor Griffin called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

Council discussed placing the following items on consent: 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Public Works Director Kenney Overstreet presented information on Item #12, which is for the installation of two catch basins and piping at 1000 Simpson Terrace. He stated that the basins and piping would serve to pipe water to the drain in the water tower well and go into the drainage basins, which will flow through the existing 10" storm drain. This would prevent water flowing through the school yard, erosion and illicit drainage into the street. In response to questions from Council, Mr. Overstreet stated that temporary piping was in place throughout the project, which took a couple of years to complete; and that this project will be funded through bonds.

- **Presentation of Cultural Commission Annual Report and request funding for additional FY 15/16 programming.**

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Tom Jacobson, Chairperson of the Cultural Commission, stated that the Commission has been very busy; that they are fully formed and have two painters, a jewelry artist, a vocalist and a fundraiser; that in 2013-2014 they formulated their objectives into four tracts and decided that the most important was to implement changes to make Bedford an arts-friendly community; that they feel it is important to bring art and events to Bedford to successfully apply for a Cultural District designation; that the Strategic Plan has been formatted; that they are utilizing social media to communicate with the community and find artists; and that the support from the City and staff has been extremely helpful.

Mr. Jacobson stated that the 4th Annual ArtsFest was very successful and that moving the event from the fall to the spring has been helpful; that the ArtsFront Exhibit is an event they want to continue to do; that the problem with having Twilight Thursdays in the spring is cancelling because of rain; and that the Commission wants the Council to consider a "Summer Series," which will be an extension of Twilight Thursdays and another event that will help in forming a Cultural District.

Regarding the Commission's Strategic Plan Year 1 Objectives, Mr. Jacobson stated that they want to increase community awareness of the arts and use all of the cultural activities in Bedford; that music attracts people to art; that the Commission is still working on the nonprofit designation; that the support of staff is what makes the events successful and the Commission's Vision is to make Bedford an "Arts Destination;" and that they want to grow ArtsFest and to increase traffic at the StoreFront events. Mr. Jacobson further stated that they want to get more involvement from the HEB ISD and Tarrant County College; that they want to grow and expand ArtsFest and improve infrastructure through the Cultural District, including walkability and signage; and that a mobile stage will help attract larger groups once that is in place.

Mr. Jacobsen stated that the Commission has acquired Danny Wright, a world class pianist, to perform at the Old Bedford School on August 13. There will be a full return on their investment and expect to sell out. The Commission's request is for a summer music series, adding three additional concerts in the amount of \$25,000-\$30,000.

There was discussion regarding how helpful staff is in making events successful; concerns regarding Friday and Saturday night events taking revenue away from rentals at Old Bedford School; if money would be better used to promote the existing events and not spreading staff too thin; crowds not coming out; using Danny Wright as a test case; the Commission working with staff to ensure rentals are not affected; Danny Wright being from Fort Worth and having a following that will create the awareness; the visibility and the momentum that is wanted for all of the events in the City; local businesses being happy about the Cultural District; Bedford not competing with area events, but forming its own point of differentiation by building a sense of community; the proposed concerts not being free; staff overtime; Old Bedford School costs; whether the Cultural Commission members will assist during events; the expectation of the non-profit status of the Commission being completed this year; the portable stage being on a trailer, which opens with hydraulics, and can be set up in 30 minutes with two staff members, be used for all community events and includes basic sound equipment; a partnership with HEB ISD; and the Commission coming back to the Council with specific responses to questions raised.

Regarding the non-profit status of the Commission, it was stated by Council that the City could directly apply for the State designation and does not have to go through a non-profit organization and that the ArtsCouncil Northeast has agreed to support the City when a non-profit is needed for grant funding.

- **Presentation on recent Police Department activities.**

Police Chief Jeff Gibson presented a report on recent Police Department activities. Chief Gibson stated that the implementation of the Animal Control trailer has increased the adoption of animals; painted the image that the animals are cared for; that finding homes for them is important to the City; and that the trailer was very busy at events in 2015. The Code Compliance Division going under the umbrella of the Police Department increased the number of self-initiated calls for service, meaning the Code Compliance Officers are working and taking action to ensure that the City is clean and safe.

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Moving forward in 2016, the Police Department plans to implement an organizational restructure, vision and mission statements, and a 5-year strategic plan. Chief Gibson stated that the vision statement, Policing Through Progressive Professionalism, complements the City's mission statement and provides a clear detailed plan to the employees and the community on how they are going to work together as a partnership and be successful.

Regarding the Department's organizational structure, Chief Gibson stated that all changes had no fiscal impact and the allotted position were reorganized to maximize effectiveness across the board. An administrative secretary position was created in the Professional Standards Division to reach out to social networks for multiple reasons, including recruiting and providing information to the community on a constant basis. Two patrol lieutenants were reclassified as an administrative lieutenant and an operations lieutenant in order to provide a buffer between front line supervisors and a deputy chief, resulting in a better checks and balances system. The operations lieutenant is responsible for the Traffic and Canine Divisions, the new commercial vehicle enforcement officer and all equipment needs.

Chief Gibson stated that the Police Department has eight goals, with eight objectives and four focus areas within each goal. The plan shows the community where the Police Department is going and the plans to get there.

- The first goal is a reduction of crime with the objective being to deterring criminal behavior through the utilization of technology, such as pole cameras.
- The second goal is customer satisfaction, with the objective being customer service initiatives such as strengthening a transparency philosophy.
- The third goal is career enhancement, with the objective being employee success.
- The fourth goal is employee retention, with the objective being an employee service plan. The implementation of rotations reduces employee stagnation, promotes employee growth, and enhances the morale and self-worth of employees.
- The fifth goal is innovative and progressive equipment with the the objective being researching for the future. The new operations lieutenant is responsible for ensuring that the life expectancy of equipment is not approaching and is being replaced, thus reducing unexpected costs.
- The sixth goal is advanced training, with the objective being enhanced employee knowledge. This includes training all personnel to be Mental Health Peace Officers (MHPO) and requiring all sworn personnel to obtain Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERT) Certification.
- The seventh goal is alternative funding, with the objective being exploring options. Staff will look for ways to find funding through grants and partnerships with other departments.
- The eighth goal is accreditation standard, with the objective being recognition programs including exploring national accreditation standards through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

The Council thanked Chief Gibson and the Police Department for their efforts in keeping the community safe. There was discussion regarding the Repeat Victimization Unit (RVU), including the first step being intervention. Having staff that can intervene, follow-up and get individuals that are ill to in-patient care is critical to the success of the Unit. Law enforcement officers are not being taken off of the street and the Unit is specially designed to not affect staffing. There has been a decrease in the number of out-cries and improvement in getting the person to a medical facility before they can harm themselves.

Mayor Griffin adjourned the Work Session at 6:20 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a) Pursuant to Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 1D, Shops at Central Park.**
- b) Pursuant to Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Bedford Commons.**

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- c) Pursuant to Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to "Project Orchard."
- d) Pursuant to Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 1 Mobil Addition-Bedford.
- e) Pursuant to Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 1R1 Harwood Hills Village Addition. **This item requested by Councilmember Fisher.

Council convened into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 1D, Shops at Central Park; Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Bedford Commons; Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to "Project Orchard;" Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 1 Mobil Addition-Bedford; and Section 551.087, deliberation regarding economic development negotiations relative to Block 1, Lot 1R1 Harwood Hills Village Addition, at 6:23 p.m.

Council reconvened from Executive Session at 6:38 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

The Regular Session began at 6:46 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION (Very Reverend Ryan Reed, St. Vincent's Cathedral)

The Very Reverend Ryan Reed of St. Vincent's Cathedral gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flags of the United States and Texas were given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Public Information Officer Natalie Foster reported that Vocal Trash will be playing at Twilight Thursday on the lawn of the Old Bedford School. The free concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and there will be beer, wine and food available for purchase. The Drug Take Back Event is on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center. Officers will be accepting prescription drugs, animal medications and vitamin supplements but will not take any liquid medication, needles or surgical blades. The next business roundtable is scheduled for Thursday, May 12 at the Old Bedford School. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. with the meeting running from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mayor Griffin and staff will present on topics such as street repairs, the economic outlook, future projects and more. There will be a 30 minute optional question and answer session after the presentations.

Ms. Foster presented an update on the Boys Ranch construction. Due to the rain and wet conditions, the hydro mulching, light pole and monument singses were not installed the previous week. The lake is 100 percent full and there are still plans to have the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife stock the lake with forage fish the following month.

OPEN FORUM

Nobody chose to speak during Open Forum.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT

Motioned by Councilmember Champney, seconded by Councilmember Turner, to approve the following items by consent: 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

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

COUNCIL RECOGNITION

- 1. Proclamation declaring the month of May 2016 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in the City of Bedford.**

Mayor Griffin read a proclamation declaring the month of May 2016 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in the City of Bedford. Members of the Patriots Motorcycle Club were present to accept the proclamation.

- 2. Proclamation declaring May, June, July and August as Summer Reading Club Season.**

Mayor Griffin read a proclamation declaring May, June, July and August as Summer Reading Club Season.

- 3. Employee Service Recognition**

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

Curtis Crawford, Support Services - 5 years of service
Amanda Freeman, Police Department - 5 years of service
Tonya Smith, Police Departments - 20 years of service
Kirk Roberts, Police Departments - 30 years of service

- 4. Recognition of Customer Service Assistant Janet O'Dell for the employee Exemplary Service Award.**

Ms. O'Dell was unable to attend the meeting. She will be presented the award at a future Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 5. Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:
a) April 12, 2016 regular session**

This item was approved by consent.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Lantana Communications, Inc. to upgrade the existing Avaya IP Office Telephone System in the amount of \$81,070.94.**

No discussion or action took place on this item.

- 7. Consider a resolution directing Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC to file certain information with the City of Bedford; setting a procedural schedule for the gathering and**

review of necessary information in connection therewith; and setting dates for the filing of the City's analysis of the company's filing and the company's rebuttal to such analysis.

This item was approved by consent.

8. Consider a resolution adopting the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Community Services Manager Eric Valdez presented information regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He stated the process to develop the Plan took over a year and included public meetings, a parks and recreation survey, and meetings with other boards and commissions. The Plan as presented includes accomplishments, renovations, needs assessments and opportunities for improvements. The Plan is a tool to guide the future development of the parks and recreation system. It does not provide a definite timeline and it can be changed at any time. Once the approval process is completed, it can be filed with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife in order for the City to take advantage of grants opportunities.

John Fain, the consultant on the project, stated that the Plan has been updated and he suggested sending it to Parks and Wildlife for their endorsement in order for the City to apply for federal and state grants. The previous Plan was used to leverage funds to develop Phase 1 of the Boys Ranch. Accomplishments from the 2010 Plan include Phase 1 of the Boys Ranch renovation, the Bark Park, roof replacement at the Boys Ranch Activity Center, and playground renovations at the Monterrey and Brookhollow parks. With the updated Plan, the City is looking at new goals and objectives for the next six years. The City is broken down into north, south and east districts, as needs are different throughout the City and it gives the opportunity to add new goals to the Plan. The more goals the City achieves, the better its standing with Parks and Wildlife. New action items for the north district include additional multipurpose trails, sports fields, basketball courts, picnic facilities, pavilions, tennis courts, interpretive trails, and volleyball courts. Most of these items can be or are part of Phase 2 of the Boys Ranch renovation. Action items for the east district include trails, creek improvements, land acquisition, sports fields, playgrounds, and basketball courts. Action items for the south district include trails, playgrounds, land acquisition, volleyball courts, picnic facilities, basketball courts, and a "sprayground." All of these items came out of the public meetings, the survey, and input received by the Parks and Recreation Board from citizens.

Mr. Fain discussed acquisition priorities or opportunities. He stated that he is not suggesting buying the listed pieces of property; however, if the opportunity presents itself and funds are available, the City should look at possibly acquiring properties as they would be great additions to the park system. Acquisition opportunities include: expanding Meadow Park to the west; designating the Old Bedford School site as park land; designating the open space north of L. Don Dodson, between Parkwood Drive and E.M. Bilger Boulevard, as park land; acquiring open space east of Central Drive, between Harwood Road and Meadow Park Circle; designating City-owned land on Bedford Road, west of Stonegate Elementary School, as park land; expanding Monterrey Park south to Pipeline Road; acquiring creek floodplain west of Schumac Lane between Forest Ridge Drive and Circle Lane; acquiring the creek corridor south of Bedford Road between Highway 121 and Reliance Parkway; expanding Stormie Jones Park to the north; and including the Bedford Community Garden in the park inventory. In regards to designating the Old Bedford School as park land, he stated that when land is designated as such, it puts restrictions on the land itself in that it cannot be sold without an election. Mr. Fain discussed trail linkages by tying the trails together within the City, as well as those in neighboring cities, thereby creating a nice network of trails. In some cases, the trails would be on the street, in flood plains, or through parks. He cited two corrections that needed to be made to the Plan: on page 12, there was a math error in Table 1-5 the income level of \$15,000 to \$24,999, which should read as 8.2 percent instead of 38.3 percent; and deleting the eighth goal on page 15 regarding construction of a dog park to meet City-wide demand.

There was discussion on the work done by the Parks and Recreation Board; setting a standard on both the Boys Ranch and on how the City wants its parks to look; and quality over quantity, including concerns with pocket parks and taking care of what the City has currently. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Fain stated that the City sets the standard for the amount of park land it has, with the Plan having it at a certain number of acres per population, as well as suggesting there be a park within a half-mile radius of

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every home. In regards to the ability to get grants, Mr. Fain stated that the first thing Parks and Wildlife looks at is if the City has a master plan in place, followed by whether the City is meeting the goals it decided were most important, and the distribution of a variety of recreational opportunities. There was discussion on the importance of trail linkages, including endeavoring to link them up as soon as possible and installing proper signage and notifications; and that linked trails could be bike lanes or widened sidewalks, which are designated as a pedestrian trail system. There was further discussion on keeping the parks already in place in good condition in order to meet the demands of the citizens; pocket parks being havens for vandalism and illicit night time activities; using lane space on the City's roads for bicycle usage and there not current being a lot of space on the roads; that there were less than 300 respondents for the survey, whether it was statistically relevant, and if there is a real demand in the City for some of the items; and wetlands. Mr. Fain stated that the reason for the inclusion of pocket parks is that the City does not have large pieces of land left, and it has to look at smaller pieces in order to serve the residents; that if property is designated as wetlands by the State or Federal government, it becomes restrictive, but the term "wetland" in the Plan was meant in general terms and not as an Army Corps of Engineers controlled property; that there are usually not a lot of responses with these types of surveys but the Parks and Recreation Board also had public meetings and other public interface; and that that they did best they could do with information they had to prioritize goals. There was discussion on the Plan being a non-binding document that highlights to Parks and Wildlife the City's interest in different park related areas; and the property west of Stonegate Elementary being an opportune place for something like a pocket park. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Fain stated that the Plan would be reviewed by Parks and Wildlife and sent back with comments; that the Plan can be changed prior to approval, such as removing pocket parks; that each project is scored on a point-by-point basis, with the first thing being looked at is if the City is in compliance with current grants, followed by whether or not the City has a master plan on file, without which the City will not score enough points; that the Plan is a tool to guide development; and that it is important to identify the most important goals and action plan priorities for each district because the City would not score very high if it writes a grant and a proposal that does not address those goals and priorities; that the last grant the City received was structured around the Phase 1 of the Boys Ranch, which was high on the list in the old plan; that because a piece of property is designated as a park does not mean there cannot be a variety of improvements or uses on it, such as remaining undeveloped or having a recreation center; that when a piece of property is designated as park land, it cannot be sold or changed without an election; and that combining acquisition and development grants together generally scores higher. There was discussion on the Old Bedford School already being designated a historical site. Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson Jeannette Cook stated that the Plan is just a guide to hopefully receive funding from Parks and Wildlife and asked the Council move forward on approving the Plan.

Motioned by Councilmember Turner, seconded by Councilmember Sartor, to approve a resolution adopting the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, with the corrections as outlined previously.

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

9. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement for one year with the DFW Tejanos Organization for the purpose of conducting practices and games at the Stormie Jones soccer fields.

This item was approved by consent.

10. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement for one year with the Tri-Cities Baseball Association for the purposes of having league games and practice at Boys Ranch Park.

This item was approved by consent.

11. Consider a resolution in support of the application of Hurst Partners One, a Colorado General Partnership, to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a Municipal Setting Designation (MSD) for the property at 711 West Hurst Boulevard, Hurst, Texas.

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This item was approved by consent.

12. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Contracting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$22,700 for the installation of two catch basins and piping at 1000 Simpson Terrace.

This item was approved by consent.

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

✓ Animal Shelter Advisory Board - Councilmember Fisher

No report was given.

✓ Beautification Commission - Councilmember Turner

Councilmember Turner reported that the Crud Cruiser will be at Meadow Park on Saturday, April 30 and residents will have the opportunity to throw out such items as paint and varnish, as well as electronics, with the exception of televisions.

✓ Community Affairs Commission - Councilmember Farco

Councilmember Farco reported that the block party on April 15 in the Brookwood Hills addition was well attended and he thanked staff. It was a fun night with 6Stones and various vendors present, and was a great time to come out and support the community and staff. On May 12, the Commission will host a business roundtable starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Old Bedford School.

✓ Cultural Commission - Councilmember Champney

No report was given.

✓ Library Advisory Board - Councilmember Farco

Councilmember Farco reported that the Board will meet the following night. He stated the previous week, the Mayor was a presenter at the Texas Library Association meeting in Houston. He further stated that Library Director Maria Redburn wants to challenge the Council to sign up for the Summer Reading Club and log their minutes.

✓ Parks and Recreation Board - Councilmember Sartor

Councilmember Sartor reported that the Board will next meet on May 5.

✓ Teen Court Advisory Board - Councilmember Gebhart

Councilmember Gebhart reported that the next Board meeting will be in June. He stated that the Teen Court Gala will be on Thursday night and asked people to attend to support local teens in the HEB area. The cost is \$15.00 per person and it will be held at the Hurst Conference Center. Items including art, jewelry, and sports memorabilia will be up for auction starting at 5:30 p.m.

✓ Senior Citizen Liaison - Councilmember Turner

No report was given.

14. Council member Reports

Councilmember Fisher discussed an incident the previous week at the Boys Ranch Lake. Animal Control was alerted to a turtle that was struggling in the Lake and staff reacted because of the attention the Lake

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has drawn and the attention the Council has given it. Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen retrieved the turtle, which was unable to go underwater. Mr. Bellinghausen took the turtle to a local veterinarian who determined it was suffering due to bloat from eating corn and dog food, which are not at the park naturally. Councilmember Fisher stated that people are endangering wildlife by not leaving well enough alone. He encouraged everyone to let the wildlife be wild, and stated if an animal can be accommodated there, it will stay, and if not, it will go somewhere else. Otherwise, staff and resources are being tied up to save a turtle which has eaten too much dog food and corn.

15. City Manager/Staff Reports

City Manager Roger Gibson discussed meeting with Kenny Overstreet regarding removing the interim tag from his title of Public Works Director. He stated is has been a process that took several months, but Mr. Overstreet demonstrated to Council, staff and the employees within the Public Works division that he is not a manager as much as a leader. Between the cities of Arlington and Bedford, he has the years of experience and the technical knowledge, as well as common sense.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Griffin adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary