

**Council Minutes February 22, 2019**

**STATE OF TEXAS §**

**COUNTY OF TARRANT §**

**CITY OF BEDFORD §**

**The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Work Session at 8:30 a.m. at the former library building, 1805 L. Don Dodson, on the 22nd day of February, 2019 with the following members present:**

Jim Griffin	Mayor
Michael Boyter	Council Members
Dan Cogan	
Roger Fisher	
Amy Sabol	
Rusty Sartor	
Roy W. Turner	

constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Brian Bosshardt	City Manager
Cliff Blackwell	Assistant City Manager
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Stephanie Ayers	Human Resources Director
Sean Fay	Fire Chief
Natalie Foster	Public Information Officer
Jeff Gibson	Police Chief
Wendy Hartnett	Interim Recreation Manager
Don Henderson	Parks Superintendent
Meg Jakubik	Strategic Services Manager
Maria Joyner	Finance Director
Kenny Overstreet	Public Works Director
Bill Syblon	Development Director

**CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mayor Griffin called the Work Session to order at 8:34 a.m.

**WORK SESSION**

- **Discussion on impact of proposed state legislation on the City's budget.**

City Manager Brian Bosshardt stated this item was to present an analysis on the impact of proposed state legislation on the City's budget using the forecasting model developed by staff. Assistant City Manager Cliff Blackwell presented information on the impact of proposed revenue caps on the budget over the next five years. He stated the proposed expenditures built into the model did not include employee raises, new programs, or the Enterprise Fleet Program. There was discussion regarding the assumptions built into the model, including taxable values, sales tax, the municipal cost index (MCI), wage and salary adjustments, the public safety step plan, and the contribution rate through the Texas Municipal Retirement System. There was further

## Council Minutes February 22, 2019

discussion on assumptions built into General Fund revenue projections, including property taxes set at the proposed rollback rates; sales tax; franchise taxes; mixed beverage taxes; fines and fees; recreation fees, including an increase with the completion of Phase Next of the Boys Ranch Park; licenses; intergovernmental fees; interest; and operating transfers. Mr. Blackwell discussed the decline in the tax rate based on projected increases in property values and a decrease in debt service. There was discussion on properties with the senior tax freeze; increased costs for services; increases in expenditures related to Phase Next of the Boys Ranch Park; the impact of the Enterprise Fleet Program; the City's reserve requirement; and potential future insurance increases. There was further discussion on the impact of different revenue cap percentages, automatic rollback elections, and personnel costs.

- **Discussion on Strategic Plan.**

Mr. Bosshardt asked Council if they were satisfied with the focus areas and goals laid out in the City's strategic plan. There was discussion on the prioritizing focus areas; the Economic Vitality focus area; reevaluating the City's approach to economic development; interrelatedness between the focus areas; defining economic development; increasing sales tax; neighborhood revitalization; redevelopment; incentivizing new residents; attracting younger residents; a proposed economic development task force; holding a Council work session on economic development; offering property tax breaks to residents to tear down old houses and build new ones; the neighborhood outreach position; updating the City's zoning and development codes, and comprehensive plan; a review of the City's Charter; and holding regular strategic planning sessions.

- **Discussion on Citizen Boards and Commissions.**

There was discussion on Council assigning tasks to the Boards and Commissions, their roles as advisory bodies to the Council, and what Council desires from them.

There was discussion on the purpose, role and goals of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Beautification Commission; the possibility of combining the two entities; removing language from the Code of Ordinances requiring the Parks and Recreation Board to approve events at the Boys Ranch Park; their funding sources; and better coordination and joint efforts between the two entities. There was discussion on projects for the Beautification Commission, including inventorying the City's major intersections to identify patterns, and working on uniformity of the City's entryways, signage and fencing along major roadways. There was discussion on projects for the Parks and Recreation Board, including working on uniformity of City entryways and park signage, and working on trail connectivity. There was discussion on reestablishing the water bill donations for parks. Council was of the consensus to not combine the Parks and Recreation Board and the Beautification Commission.

There was general discussion on the Teen Court Advisory Board, including its makeup, and its role in coordinating the Teen Court Gala and awarding scholarships. There was further discussion on the Teen Court program and the Board and Commission attendance policy.

Regarding the Community Affairs Commission, there was discussion on their communication with the Council; eliminating the Faith-based Outreach subcommittee; Council dedicating special assignments to the Commission; the Commission engaging in a communications function with residents and businesses; the communication plan being developed by staff; the City Expo; and the impact to staff for special events.

Regarding the Cultural Commission, there was discussion on giving money to the Commission, currently earmarked for a non-profit organization, for grants to arts organizations and/or public

## Council Minutes February 22, 2019

arts projects; the priorities of the Commission; and projects for the Commission, including working with neighborhoods on their identities and histories, and murals on traffic control boxes.

Regarding the Library Advisory Board, there was discussion on their work on the Library Satisfaction Survey and promoting the Library in elementary schools.

There was discussion on the role of the Council and staff liaisons, and the chairperson of the Boards and Commissions.

There was discussion on the Senior liaison, including defining its role, connecting to the senior population, and adding a Senior Center element to the Parks and Recreation Board. Council was of the consensus that the liaison should not be meeting with staff and that it not be included in future Council liaison assignments.

Council was of the consensus to not implement term limits for Boards and Commissions. There was further consensus for Council to hold a meeting with the chairs of the Boards and Commissions; to eliminate the language in the Code of Ordinances requiring approval by the Parks and Recreation Board to hold special events in the Boys Ranch Park; for the Parks and Recreation Board and the Beautification Commission to consider combining for the Chunk Your Junk and Clean Up Bedford days; and for the Community Affairs Commission to consider changes in the Code to eliminate the Faith-based Outreach subcommittee. There was further discussion on projects that staff, the Beautification Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board are currently working.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Griffin adjourned the work session at 12:14 p.m.

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Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary