

Council Minutes February 22, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 22nd day of February, 2022 with the following members present:

Michael Boyter
Amy Sabol
Cindy Almendarez
Dan Cogan
Ruth Culver
Rob Gagliardi
Rich Steves

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmembers

constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Jimmy Stathatos
Bryn Meredith
Michael Wells
Meg Jakubik
Krissi Oden
Cheryl Taylor
Bill Walker
Brandi West

City Manager
City Attorney
City Secretary
Strategic Services Manager
Cultural Arts Manager
Public Works Director
Fire Chief
Assistant to the City Manager

REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session began at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Boyter called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Sabol gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COUNCIL RECOGNITION

- **Employee Service Recognition**

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

Don Henderson, Parks Division - 40 years of service

- **Proclamation designating the City of Bedford as a Purple Heart City.**

Mayor Boyter read a proclamation designating the City of Bedford as a Purple Heart City. Commander Robert Vasquez, Past Department Commander Gus Wittschack, and other members of Chapter 1513 of The Military Order of the Purple Heart accepted the proclamation.

PRESENTATIONS

- **First Quarter Financial Report.**

Strategic Services Manager Meg Jakubik presented a financial report on the first quarter of the City's fiscal year. She presented information on the General Fund, including a comparison of actual, budgeted, and projected revenues and expenditures, which included strong sales tax collections and a one-time purchase for a property purchase. She discussed a change in accounting procedures that caused differences in the figures from years past. She presented a comparison of revenues and expenditures from Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 and discussed salary dollars for public safety that were budgeted using funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. She presented information on the Water and Sewer Fund, including three-year histories of revenue and expenditures, and stated there were no rate increases during the year. She presented information on other funds, including Tourism, which showed expenses for improvements to the Old Bedford School; Stormwater, stating the rate increase approved by Council went into effect in January; and the Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC)

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Jakubik confirmed that there are no hotels delinquent on their hotel/motel taxes. She stated that some of the expenditures in the Administrative Services Non-Departmental line item are for one-time early year payments, including insurance, legal services, as well as higher initial payments for the City's trunk radios. A large portion of the City Council expenditures is the payment to the Northeast Transportation Service. There was discussion on the 16.51 percent increase in sales tax revenue.

OPEN FORUM

Nobody signed up to speak during Open Forum.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT

City Manager Jimmy Stathatos presented an overview of the items on the consent agenda.

Motioned by Councilmember Gagliardi, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sabol, to approve the following items by consent: 1, 2, 3 and 4.

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

1. **Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:**
 - a) **January 27, 2022 town hall meeting**
 - b) **February 8, 2022 regular meeting**

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This item was approved by consent.

- 2. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase expendable medical supplies from the following medical supply companies, in an amount not to exceed \$80,000: Bound Tree Medical, Life Assist Medical, and ReCept Health Services Pharmacy.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 3. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to reschedule and cancel regular Council meetings in 2022.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 4. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Change Order No. 1 with Atkins Brothers Equipment Company, Inc. in the amount of \$157,245 for the Forest Ridge 12-Inch Water Line Project (SWIFT 20-11) for the replacement of the water line in Walter Street.**

This item was approved by consent.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

- 5. The following individual has requested to speak to the Council tonight under Persons to be Heard:**
 - a) Pam Cochrane, Arts DFW – requests to present Arts DFW grants to four Bedford organizations.**

Pam Cochrane, President, Arts DFW – Ms. Cochrane stated the purpose of Arts DFW is to raise money for the visual and performing arts. She introduced board members of the organization, including Mayor Pro Tem Amy Sabol, Cindy Shepard from the Hurst City Council, Laura Bladen, Tom Jacobsen, Barbara Waters, Yvonne Garcia, and Jolene Webster. She stated they managed to survive Covid-19 and had to be creative to start programs online. They managed to raise \$10,000 for their grant program, which was awarded to seven groups, four of which are in Bedford. She presented the awards as follows: ONSTAGE in Bedford, represented by Mike Winters; The Regal Chorale, represented by Mike Monier; Art This Week, represented by Richard Serrano; and the Trinity Arts Guild.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6. Consider a resolution adopting a City of Bedford Public Art Policy.**

Cultural Arts Manager Krissi Oden presented information regarding this item. She stated the City does not currently have a policy, which is important as a guide in creating a public arts program, and as the City has more art contests and acquires public art pieces. She discussed the policy's intent, purpose, and overarching goals, including to create places within spaces which become sites for contemplation, engagement, celebration, and awareness. She stated the policy further provides transparency to residents on what the City is doing with public art, and how art pieces are selected either through a contest or acquisition. She described the three types of art contests, including open invitational, limited invitational, and third-party partnerships, as well as the selection process by a subcommittee of the Cultural Commission and staff.

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In response to questions from Council, Ms. Oden stated that an agreement with an artist becomes null and void if there are significant changes between the submitted design and what was delivered. There would be detailed contracts with artists, as well as deposits and benchmark check-ins. There was discussion regarding intellectual property, including ensuring that the artists be made fully aware that they sign the agreement, they are licensing the art piece to the City. Ms. Oden discussed the vetting process for artists, including the submittal of resumes and examples of their works, as well as calling references. There was discussion on opening the selection process to all residents and the expertise and background in the arts of the people on the selection subcommittee. Ms. Oden stated a plan for the arts is in the process of being established. There was discussion regarding the crosswalks and signal boxes; a theme for the City, including motorcycles as a possibility; murals; cultural arts events; determining the City's main festival; establishing a strong Cultural Commission; opportunities to get feedback from the community, including specific surveys and questions included in the recent community survey; and the purpose of the policy.

Motioned by Mayor Pro Tem Sabol, seconded by Councilmember Cogan, to approve a resolution adopting a City of Bedford Public Art Policy

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

7. Mayor/Council Member Reports

Mayor Boyter reported on upcoming events, including Coffee with a Cop at McDonald's on February 23; the Outdoor Movie Date Night at the Old Bedford School on March 4; and a Spring Fling Family Dance on March 11 at the Old Bedford School.

8. City Manager/Staff Reports

City Manager Jimmy Stathatos thanked everybody who attended the townhall meeting on the Performing Arts Center. He stated staff continues to gather feedback to present to the City Council to determine the next steps for the project. Staff is working on a frequently asked questions webpage from the YMCA townhall meeting. He reported that a murder mystery dinner will be held the upcoming weekend.

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

Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Boyter adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Michael Boyter, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary