

Council Minutes June 27, 2023

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 27th day of June, 2023 with the following members present:

Amy Sabol	Mayor Pro Tem
Nichelle D. Dawkins	Councilmembers
Steve Farco	
Rich Steves	

constituting a quorum.

Mayor Boyter and Councilmembers Cogan and Gagliardi were absent from the meeting.

Andrea Roy	Assistant City Manager
Bryn Meredith	City Attorney
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Mark Long	Parks and Recreation Director
Krissi Oden	Cultural Arts Manager
Cheryl Taylor	Public Works Director
Blake Williams	Purchasing Manager
Jeff Williams	Police Chief

REGULAR SESSION

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

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sabol called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Pastor Jim Pack with City Life DFW gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COUNCIL RECOGNITION

- **Proclamation recognizing the month of July 2023 as National Parks and Recreation Month in the City of Bedford.**

Mayor Pro Tem Sabol read a proclamation recognizing the month of July 2023 as National Parks

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and Recreation Month in the City of Bedford. Parks and Recreation Director Mark Long, Parks Superintendent Don Henderson, Recreation Manager Hunter Hardeman, Parks Supervisor Jeff Scott, Special Events Assistant Courtney Beach, Recreation and Senior Programs Supervisor Janell Denton, and Parks Administrative Assistant Noemarie Wittmayer accepted the proclamation.

- **Presentation recognizing the winners of the Traffic Signal Box Contest and the Painted Crosswalk Contest.**

Cultural Arts Manager Krissi Oden presented the following with awards for the Traffic Signal Box Contest: Lynda Krupa, Aarya Acharya, Audie Pope, Doris Harber, Jennifer Ambs, Lori Packlick, and Aarsy Regmi.

Ms. Oden presented Ace Utter with the award as the winner of the Painted Crosswalk Contest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nobody signed up to speak during Public Comments.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT

Assistant City Manager Andrea Roy presented an overview of items on the consent agenda.

Motioned by Councilmember Farco, seconded by Councilmember Dawkins, to approve the following items by consent; 1 and 2.

Motion approved 4-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Sabol declared the motion carried.

1. **Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:**
 - a) **June 13, 2023 regular meeting**

This item was approved by consent.

2. **Consider a resolution of the City of Bedford, Texas approving the American Rescue Plan Act Appropriation Plan; and recognizing expenditures within the Fiscal Year 2023 Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Budget with WW Fire and Security for the installation of an access card reader for gate access at the Public Works Services Center, and with Calian Corp for the purchase and installation of new security cameras at the Public Works Service Center, in the total amount of \$56,415.38.**

This item was approved by consent.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

3. **The following individual has requested to speak to the Council tonight under Persons to be Heard:**
 - a) **Lang Elliot with Family Community Case Management – Request to speak about his organization.**

Lang Elliot, CEO of Family Community Case Management, 221 Bedford Road, Suite 300, Bedford – Mr. Elliot explained his organization is a non-profit that helps the community with individual and

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group therapy as well as targeted case management, peer support, and life coaching. He discussed mental health being a recurring issue of many mass shootings. He wanted the opportunity to speak so the community can know about the services they offer. He explained the case manager advocates for families and can help connect people to therapeutic and other services. He stated one of their goals is to reduce mental health aspects that are creating problems in the community. Mr. Elliot discussed the effects of the COVID pandemic on children and families being divided due to economics and not feeling surrounded by love and care, which he hopes to compensate for by providing a support system. The organization is currently seeking to set up houses for victims of domestic violence and are currently helping 70 individuals, 60 percent of whom are residents of the Hurst-Eules-Bedford area. Mr. Elliot asked Council if they could continue to strengthen the partnership with agencies such as the Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Canary Construction, LLC in an estimated amount of \$5,121,185 for the SWIFT 21-12 West Pipeline Road Water and Sanitary Sewer Replacement between Arwine Cemetery Road and Raider Drive project.

Public Works Director Cheryl Taylor presented information regarding this item. She stated Bedford owns and maintains water and sanitary sewer lines within the City of Eules' right-of-way that have been in service since the 1960's and need to be renewed in preparation for Eules's Pipeline Road street reconstruction project. This utility renewal project was originally awarded in 2021 with construction to begin after the first of the year in early 2022. The initial Notice to Proceed was issued in January and had to be retracted while franchise utilities relocated their facilities within the corridor. It was determined to be in the City's and contractor's best interest to rebid the project due to drastic price escalation for gas and construction materials as well as supply chain issues.

Ms. Taylor stated the new bids were opened in June, with four responses ranging from approximately \$5,100,000 to \$6,000,000. Halff Associates, the design engineer for the project, reviewed the bid tabulations and an evaluation committee ranked the submittals to determine the best value for the City. The water line replacement would be paid from the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas 2015 Certificates of Obligation Bonds, while the sanitary sewer line improvements would be paid from the 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2012A Certificates of Obligations and the Utility Repair Fund. Halff Associates provided a recommendation letter to award the construction project to Canary Construction, LLC after contacting references where they have worked on projects similar in size and scope. The contract time is for 270 days, with construction anticipated to start in September and be completed in the summer of 2024.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Taylor stated Canary Construction has not previously done work in Bedford but has done so in surrounding areas. She discussed the phasing of the project and the coordination with the City of Eules' reconstruction work on Pipeline Road.

Motioned by Councilmember Dawkins, seconded by Councilmember Steves, to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Canary Construction, LLC in an estimated amount of \$5,121,185 for the SWIFT 21-12 West Pipeline Road Water and Sanitary Sewer Replacement between Arwine Cemetery Road and Raider Drive project.

Motion approved 4-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Sabol declared the motion carried.

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5. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to award a contract for Traffic Signal Upgrades and Modifications at Harwood Road at Central Drive to Texas Traffic, LLC in an estimated amount of \$150,298.

Ms. Taylor presented information regarding this item. She stated the traffic signal at the intersection of Harwood Road and Central Drive has historically had wiring issues, and the mast arms and poles have rotated due to straight line winds from previous storms. The item is to rewire the entire intersection and secure the pole foundations to restrict movement in high winds as well as to replace signal heads, cabinets, pedestrian assemblies, buttons, signs, and the existing vehicle detection equipment to match what is currently being installed at all other intersections. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin at the end of July with completion within approximately 30 days. Funding for the project would come from the 2021 Thoroughfare Bond.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Taylor discussed the signal detection upgrades previously approved by Council.

Motioned by Councilmember Farco, seconded by Councilmember Steves, to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to award a contract for Traffic Signal Upgrades and Modifications at Harwood Road at Central Drive to Texas Traffic, LLC in an estimated amount of \$150,298.

Motion approved 4-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Sabol declared the motion carried.

6. Consider a resolution of the City of Bedford, Texas authorizing the City Manager or his designee to negotiate and execute an amendment to the professional services agreement with SAFEBuilt Texas, LLC in an estimated amount of \$200,000 for the provision of full-service plan review and inspection services.

Assistant City Manager Andrea Roy presented information regarding this item. She stated the City entered into a contract with SAFEBuilt the previous fall as a pay-as-you-go service to help with overflow items and more complex plan reviews. With staff attrition and reorganization, staff would like to increase their services to include expanded plan review and inspections. She estimated the actual costs would be less than \$200,000 but wanted to make sure there was flexibility. Ms. Roy explained SAFEBuilt is one of the top companies that provide these services to municipalities and staff has been pleased with their abilities. She stated staff is cognizant of the perception of outsourcing such services, and that contractors and residents would still interface directly with staff as much as possible. She discussed staff's relationship with SAFEBuilt as well as the advantage of utilizing a company with multiple building officials for more complex cases.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Roy discussed the services that SAFEBuilt would provide, including reviewing plans and performing inspections to ensure they comply with building codes. She stated SAFEBuilt employees that show up for inspections would have Bedford identification with them and confirmed that they would be familiar with and follow the City's codes and regulations, as well as those of the state. Ms. Roy confirmed this item is an amendment to their current agreement and that staff is not currently looking at additional services. Regarding any complaints about SAFEBuilt, Ms. Roy stated there were issues regarding the timing of plan reviews which have since been resolved and that they may be seen as stricter than staff was previously. There was discussion on the reasoning behind the contract, including efficiency, staff shortages, and cost effectiveness. In response to further questions from Council regarding potential conflicts of interest, Ms. Roy explained that SAFEBuilt works strictly with municipalities.

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Motioned by Councilmember Dawkins, seconded by Councilmember Farco, to approve a resolution of the City of Bedford, Texas authorizing the City Manager or his designee to negotiate and execute an amendment to the professional services agreement with SAFEBuilt Texas, LLC in an estimated amount of \$200,000 for the provision of full-service plan review and inspection services.

Motion approved 4-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Sabol declared the motion carried.

7. Mayor/Council Member Reports

No reports were given.

8. City Manager/Staff Reports **a) Strategic Plan Update**

Assistant City Manager Andrea Roy presented an update on the Strategic Plan. In the focus area of revitalization, completed initiatives include developing a strategic street improvement plan, while updating subdivision regulations and the Zoning Ordinance are in progress and developing a strategic redevelopment plan, with a special focus on south Bedford, is in the initial stages. In the focus area of economic vitality, completed initiatives include evaluating a possible homestead exemption or tax decrease, with the Bedford Commons project in progress and developing economic development zones being in the initial stages. In the focus area of transformation, completed initiatives include updating the Master Parks, Trails, and Bike Plan, creating a signature community event, and evaluating all options to provide a senior center. The construction of performing arts center is in progress and creating a heritage park plaza at Generations Park is in the initial stages.

In the focus area of organizational excellence, completed initiatives include updating the City Council Mission Statement and Rules of Order and Procedure, creating a public arts policy and program, finalizing the operational plan for The Center, using American Rescue Plan Act funds to evaluate the Law Enforcement Center and fire stations to determine needed improvements, improving code enforcement, evaluating boards and commissions, evaluating a multi-family inspection program, and conducting a conversation/analysis about new boards and commissions. Initiatives that are in progress include conducting a review of the Comprehensive Master Plan, performing an asset audit, evaluating the Animal Shelter and determining the best solution, evaluating the need for a new city hall and a funding mechanism that would not require new debt, exploring the possibility of constructing a fire station and training facility, and evaluating alternative locations and/or possible construction of a new/enhanced Central Fire Station. A final initiative to create a capital asset strategic plan is in the initial stages. In the focus area of communicating and engaging with citizens, completed initiatives include conducting a citizen survey, creating a Bedford citizen's academy, discussing a charter review commission, and improving the audio/visual performance in the Council Chambers. A final initiative, considering calling a charter election, is completed but may be revisited.

There was discussion on holding another strategic planning session, having further discussion on calling a charter election and creating more boards and commissions, including a senior advisory board, and the City's facilities and the asset audit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pursuant to Section 551.071. Consultation with City Attorney relative to the real property located at 3009 Glenwood Court, also described as Lot 3, Block 2 of the**

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CANTERBURY ADDITION, in the City of Bedford.

Council convened into Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071. Consultation with City Attorney relative to the real property located at 3009 Glenwood Court, also described as Lot 3, Block 2 of the CANTERBURY ADDITION, in the City of Bedford, at 7:16 p.m.

Council reconvened from Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Sabol adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Michael Boyter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary