

Council Minutes September 6, 2022

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. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 6th day of September, 2022 with the following members present:

Michael Boyter
Amy Sabol
Dan Cogan
Steve Farco
Rob Gagliardi
Rich Steves

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmembers

constituting a quorum.

Also present: Councilmember-elect Nichelle D. Dawkins

Staff present included:

Jimmy Stathatos
Caryn Riggs
Andrea Roy
Stephanie Ayers
Meg Jakubik
Bobby LaPenna
Maria Redburn
Cheryl Taylor

City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Human Resources Director
Strategic Services Manager
Deputy Police Chief
Library Director
Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boyter called the Special Session to order at 6:01 p.m.

INAUGURATION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

- **Administer Statement of Elected Officer and Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member Place 1 and presentation of the Certificate of Election.**

City Secretary Michael Wells administered the Statement of Elected Official and Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member Nichelle D. Dawkins, Place 1. Mayor Boyter presented the Certificate of Election to Councilmember Dawkins.

SPECIAL SESSION

1. **Public hearing on the annual budget for the City of Bedford, Texas for the fiscal period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; levying taxes for 2021 tax year.**

Council Minutes September 6, 2022

Assistant City Manager Caryn Riggs presented information on the annual budget. She discussed the City's budget policy cycle and the City's tax rate history, stating the tax rate in the proposed budget of \$0.495726 per \$100 valuation is the lowest since 2017. She further discussed trends in General Fund revenue and expenditures and a five-year forecast, including the City's fund balance. She discussed the City's sales tax history as well as calculations built into the budget and stated the City has collected approximately \$11,300,000 in sales tax so far this year, compared to approximately \$9,800,000 at the same time the previous year.

Ms. Riggs presented information on revenues by fund, expenditures by department and classification of all funds, and revenues and expenditures in the General Fund. She stated General Fund revenues did not change from what was presented at the budget work session but that an expenditure for a part-time Police Department position was added based on a request from Council. There was discussion on another request from Council to spend approximately \$85,000 to lower the membership dues for residents to The Center at Generations Park by \$5.00. Ms. Riggs confirmed that the fund balance would remain above the 20 percent requirement with the additional expenditure.

Ms. Riggs presented information on the Debt Service Fund, including the debt service schedule and annual funding requirements, which shows a significant decrease in Fiscal Year 2025/2026, allowing capacity for future capital projects. She presented information on the Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation fund, including expenditures for one-time capital items from fund balance totaling approximately \$1,300,000. She stated that the fund balance still remains above the required percentage with those expenditures. Ms. Riggs presented information regarding the Tourism Fund, which includes revenue from the hotel/motel occupancy tax of approximately \$1,100,000. She stated expenditures include a cultural arts assistant position.

Ms. Riggs presented information on the Water and Sewer Fund, including the recommendation for increased rates based primarily on the passthrough from the Trinity River Authority (TRA). The base rate for water would increase from \$20.23 per month to \$20.70 per month, with the senior base rate increasing from \$18.39 per month to \$18.81 per month. The volumetric rate for both would increase from \$4.44 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.87 per 1,000 gallons. There was discussion on the reasons for the increases from the TRA, including supply costs and capital projects. Ms. Riggs presented information regarding the Stormwater Fund, which includes expenditures from fund balance for capital projects, including a system-wide drainage study and a culvert improvement to Sulfur Branch. She stated there are no recommended changes to the Stormwater rate.

There was discussion on the membership rates for The Center; budgeting for an update to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan; a proposed citizen's academy, including potential costs and staffing capacity; a request for proposal for an architect to examine the Animal Shelter and former jail facility; the elimination of 25 full-time and 15 part-time equivalent positions over the previous two years; and unfilled and frozen full-time equivalent positions.

Mr. Stathatos stated the proposed tax rate would be a reduction of 10.5 percent over the current rate and is lower than the tax rate prior to voter approval of the debt for Generations Park. He stated the tax rate would be lowered while also providing the same level of services.

Ms. Riggs presented information on the tax rate calculations and stated the Voter-Approval Rate, which is the same as the proposed rate of \$0.495726 per \$100 valuation, came in lower than the No-New-Revenue Rate. A breakdown of the proposed rate shows a five percent decrease in the maintenance and operations component and a 22.3 percent decrease in the debt component.

Council Minutes September 6, 2022

The average home value in Bedford increased from \$240,000 to \$265,000. At the proposed tax rate, the average homeowner would see an approximate \$12.00 decrease on their tax bill, while residents 65 years of age or older coming on the roll this year would see a slight increase as compared to the previous year. In response to a question from Council, Ms. Riggs stated there are 4,569 homes with the over-65 tax freeze versus just over 4,400 the previous year. She presented a breakdown of the monthly cost allocation for City services.

Mayor Boyter opened the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Mayor Boyter closed the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

2. Public hearing to consider the proposed 2022 tax rate.

Mayor Boyter opened the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Mayor Boyter closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Boyter adjourned the Special Session at 6:27 p.m.

Michael Boyter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary