



# CITY OF BEDFORD

2000 Forest Ridge Drive - Bedford, TX 76021  
(817)952-2100 [www.bedfordtx.gov](http://www.bedfordtx.gov)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – WELCOME TO THE NEW CITY MANAGER TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

On behalf of the Bedford City Council, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome Jimmy Stathatos to Bedford. The City Council has selected Jimmy to become our next City Manager after a long and exhausting search. As we conducted our search, we were blessed to have so many qualified and deserving candidates who applied for this position. The Council was diligent and deliberate in setting the criteria for, and expectations of, our next City Manager. Despite pandemics, and economic downturns, and Stay in Place orders, we continued to pursue candidates that met our high expectations. From these pursuits, Jimmy Stathatos emerged.

Jimmy Stathatos has served as Flower Mound Town Manager for over seven and a half years. He previously served as City Manager for Roanoke for approximately 15 years. He has over 25 years of experience in the public sector. Jimmy is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University as well as a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Texas. He is married to Michelle and has three sons (19, 21, and 25 years old) and two bonus daughters (17 and 19 years old). **He comes to us as the most experienced City Manager in our history.**

As many of you know, I grew up in Hurst Euleless Bedford. When I was growing up, Bedford was the “shining city upon the hill.” Bedford had the best houses, streets, businesses, and restaurants. Bedford was looked upon differently, **it stood out.** For the kids that I grew up with, Bedford was a goal. We talked about someday growing up and being successful and buying a house in Bedford. Those were different times and yes life was that simple to those of us who didn't have the means that others had. But through the years, time and progress has passed Bedford by. For whatever reason, Bedford appeared to stand still while our neighboring cities created thriving economies and built new facilities to improve the quality of life for their residents.

By selecting Jimmy to be our next leader, let it be known to everyone that this City Council chooses to focus on the future and to learn from the lessons of the past. Bedford remains a great place to live and work and raise a family. But, we are capable of so much more. For the longest time, Bedford drew City Manager candidates from pools of individuals choosing to move up through the ranks. For many, Bedford was a stop in the journey. Often, we promoted people from within. **Not this time.** The City Council actively recruited and pursued Jimmy Stathatos. Jimmy possesses the stellar qualities and moral compass that our organization needs. His credentials speak for itself and his reputation amongst his peers is first rate. He has “been there and done that.”

Bedford is at a crossroad. Bedford is nearly 98% built out. We will never have the luxury of getting a shopping mall or an airport to boost our revenues. We must do more with what we have. Driving down our streets, it is easy to see the challenge that lies before us. We have streets that need to be addressed, we have vacant shopping centers, we have an aging city infrastructure that continues to challenge us, we have dated facilities for our residents, and we have increasing needs by our residents for service. Yet through it all, our residents continue to make Bedford a great place live. It is fair for all of us to expect more from our government and from our City. I want all residents to expect first class service from its City. And, I want our City to deliver it. Jimmy comes into this role knowing the challenges, knowing the task before him, and knowing the expectations of Council. Jimmy knows this and accepts the challenge. We will not have to wait for our new City Manager to get comfortable in his new job and to learn how to do it. Jimmy can hit the ground running because of his experience and because of his knowledge. We have never had a more experienced City Manager in our history. He is going to make us a better organization, day one.

In choosing Jimmy Stathatos, let it be known that the Bedford City Council has chosen to take a bold and dramatic step to move our City forward. We must go forward as one organization with one purpose. Any “us vs. them” motivations in our organization must end. Our organization must understand that it is dependent upon all of us (both staff and



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Council) to create an Organization of Excellence centered upon the singular mission of providing the highest possible standard of service to our residents for their investment. They expect nothing less. We must choose to no longer kick the can down the road on the difficult decisions that lie in front of us. This Council has made it our mission to tackle the hard issues and we have made great progress thus far. But we have more work to do. It is time to aggressively address our streets. It is time to refocus and reinvent how we conduct economic development. We must make the most out of the voter approved Phase Next project. We must get our last great development opportunity, Bedford Commons, right. We need to pivot our focus to revitalizing our revenue base as well as our neighborhoods. And we must be more inclusive as an organization and find ways to communicate with our stakeholders (you the residents) better. We can no longer afford to make bad decisions. We must get all of these decisions right.

Thank you again to staff for all that you do to keep our streets safe, to keep the water turned on, to give us wonderful parks, to work on our streets, and to keep our library open. Thank you to our senior staff for stepping up while the Council searched for and selected our new City Manager. A special thanks to Cliff Blackwell for serving as the Interim City Manager during the most tumultuous period in our City's history. And lastly, thank you to the residents for continuing to make Bedford a great place to live and work and for challenging us to be better stewards of your tax dollars.

Jimmy Stathatos will become the Bedford City Manager effective September 14, 2020. When he does, please join me in welcoming him to the Bedford family and for accepting our challenge to move Bedford forward. The City Council and I expect great things and look forward to his leadership.

To read the press release, please visit <https://bedfordtx.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?CID=7>