

Charter Review Committee January 14, 2014

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Charter Review Committee of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in regular session at 5:00 pm at the Bedford Public Library, 2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX on the 14th day of January, 2014 with the following members present:

Roy Savage Chairperson
Tom Bresnahan
Jeff Corbet
Matt Eiserloh
Steve Farco
Bucky Geer
Steve Grubbs
Holley Hendrickson
Debbie McDaniels
Dorothy McWhorter
Mary Peters
Jim Story

Constituting a quorum.

Hank Henning, Hank Swanson and Beth Mullens were absent from the meeting.

In addition, the following city staff members were present:

Beverly Griffith City Manager
Michael Wells City Secretary
Stan Lowry City Attorney
Cathy Cunningham City Attorney

REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session began at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Chairman Savage called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 1. Consider approval of the following Charter Review Committee minutes:
a) December 3, 2013 regular meeting**

There was discussion on corrections to the minutes regarding the spelling of Commissioner Corbet's name and that he had requested information on the total debt for the City.

Motioned by Commissioner Geer, seconded by Commissioner Grubbs to approve the minutes as amended. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Public hearing to receive input from citizens regarding recommendations for changes in the Charter.

Chairman Savage opened the public hearing at 5:05 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Chairman Savage closed the public hearing at 5:05 p.m.

3. Discuss, recommend and take action regarding changes to Articles of the City of Bedford Charter.

Chairman Savage stated that the items tabled at the previous meeting need to be discussed.

In regards to the proposal made by Commissioner McWhorter at the previous meeting on Section 5.01, City Manager Beverly Griffith presented information regarding the current status of the City's debt, the annual retirement of each segment of the debt, and the City's unfunded debt. She stated that as of September 30, 2013, the outstanding principle is \$56M divided between property tax, water sewer fees, sales tax and drainage fees. The outstanding interest is \$12.8M for a grand total of \$68,886,468, with a payment this year of \$8.2M. In showing the annual funding requirements, she stated that the last payment of the current debt would be due in 2033. In regards to unfunded bonds as of September 30, 2013, the total is \$10,725,000. There are some bonds that have been authorized but the work for those projects has already been done and there is no need to issue the bonds. With those factored out, the total is \$5.7M. This total does not include the November bond election. There was discussion on the effect on bond ratings; having a percentage versus a per capita cap; flexibility; voters; and the indebtedness and operating budgets of other cities.

Motioned by Commissioner Grubbs, seconded by Commissioner Geer, to leave Section 5.01 as is. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Commissioner Corbet, seconded by Commissioner Grubbs, to approve the change to Section 7.10 as presented by the City Attorney. The City Attorney's change is as follows: to add at the end of the section the statement, "...or appointed by the city council as determined by city ordinance". Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner McWhorter presented a proposal for Section 3.02 which reads as follows: "Shall notify in writing all council members five days in advance of taking vacation time except in emergencies".

Motioned by Commissioner Corbet, seconded by Commissioner Geer, to leave Section 3.02 as is. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner McWhorter presented a proposal for Section 3.02, which reads as follows: "Shall submit all expense reports, travel vouchers, and requests for reimbursement to the city council or the ethics commission". Motioned by Commissioner McWhorter to accept this change as presented. Chairperson Savage declared the motion dead for a lack of a second.

There was discussion on the vote to keep Section 3.02 as is.

Commissioner McWhorter presented a proposal for Section 3.02, which reads as follows: "Shall provide within five working days all readily available information to any council member".

Motioned by Commissioner McWhorter, seconded by Commissioner Peters, to reopen Section 3.02. The motion did not pass by voice vote. Voting in favor of the motion: Commissioners McWhorter and

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Peters. Voting in opposition to the motion: Chairperson Savage and Commissioners Bresnahan, Corbet, Eiserloh, Farco, Geer, Grubbs, Hendrickson, McDaniels, and Story.

Motioned by Commissioner Grubbs, seconded by Commissioner Farco, to leave Sections 3.01, 3.03, 3.06 and 3.07 as is. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Commissioner Corbet, seconded by Commissioner Bresnahan, to leave Article 10 as is. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner McWhorter presented a proposal for Section 11 to add a 20 percent homestead exemption. There was discussion on moving this proposal to Section 6 and having staff come back with an assessment of its impact. Motioned by Commissioner McWhorter, seconded by Commissioner Peters, to table this proposal. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

There was discussion on printing the Committee's report in the Bedford Connection.

Commissioner Bresnahan left at 6:30 p.m.

There was discussion on changing Section 11.17 to allow for alternate publication of the Committee's report and being consistent with Sections 2.13, 4.04 and 4.05. The City Attorney will bring back language to that effect at the next meeting. Motioned by Commissioner Corbet, seconded by Commissioner Farco, to leave all Article 11 as is except for Section 11.17 until the following meeting. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motioned by Commissioner Corbet, seconded by Commissioner Grubbs, to leave Article 12 as is. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

There was discussion on Article 14 regarding recalls and not having a provision to recall an appointed Council member or the Municipal Court Judge; and the Council's oath of office. The City Attorney will come back at the next meeting regarding State law as it pertains to recalling a municipal court judge.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Savage adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Roy Savage, Chairman