

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

**The Ethics Commission of the City of Bedford, Texas, met at 6:00 p.m. on February 6, 2019, in the Bonnie Finn Room at the Bedford Public Library, 2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, Texas 76021 with the following members present constituting a quorum:**

Sal Caruso	Community Affairs
Todd Carlson	Planning & Zoning
Thomas Jacobsen	Cultural Commission
Tena Pitts	Resident
Marty Geer	Beautification
Randy Newby	Parks and Rec Board

ABSENT	
Margaret Carroll	Library

Constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Clifford Blackwell	Assistant City Manager
Maria Joyner	Director of Finance
Jennifer Bellinghausen	Executive Assistant

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:10 P.M.

All members and staff in attendance introduced themselves and their related titles.

### **SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

#### **ADMINISTER STATEMENT OF ELECTED OFFICER AND OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS.**

Jennifer Bellinghausen administered the Statement of Elected Officer and Oath of Office to new members of the Commission. The oaths were administered to the new members as a group.

The following new members were sworn in:

Marty Geer	Beautification
Sal Caruso	Community Affairs
Randy Newby	Parks and Rec Board
Todd Carlson	Planning & Zoning
Tena Pitts	Resident

### Appointment Of Officers

Motioned by Randy Newby, and seconded by Sal Caruso, to nominated Marty Geer to serve as the Commission's chairperson. The Commission agreed and the motion was approved.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Commissioners approved the minutes from the April 8, 2015 meeting

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Review ethics ordinance and City travel policy.**

Clifford Blackwell led the discussion on the Bedford Ethics Ordinance.

Maria Joyner discussed with the Commission the current travel policy. Miss Joyner stated that the City Council follows the same travel policy as employees. She outlined the parameters of the per diem, which is \$50 per day. Miss Joyner stated that the travel policy allows for a cost of living adjustment for certain cities like San Francisco where the cost significantly exceeds \$50 per day.

Miss Joyner walked the Commission through the travel budget for fiscal year 2015 – 2018. She stated that the total budget for City Council over the four years was \$22,125 compared to actual expenditures of \$9,333. Therefore, City Council came in \$12,792 under budget.

Sal Caruso asked a question about an expenditure from FY 2015 for Steve Farco. He asked if Mr. Farco was a Councilmember during the time of this expenditure. Mr. Blackwell stated yes Mr. Farco was a Councilmember during the time of the expenditure.

Miss Joyner pointed out the travel expenditure of \$150.15 for TML Training for Newly Elected Officials for Dan Cogan in Waco, Texas. Additionally, the next example is for \$319.70 that covers Dan Cogan's hotel stay at the Hilton for the same training.

The second section of the backup is for the registration expenditures associated with the travel. The last example is for \$370.00 for the Mayor attending the TML Conference.

Miss Joyner stated that the accessible information from FY 2018 was provided to the Commission. However, the archived information from the early years will be pulled to be presented during the next meeting.

Todd Carlson stated that overall the travel looked normal and reasonable. Mr. Carlson also stated that his concern was that City Council did not spend more of the budget to better progress the City.

Miss Joyner stated that the City has not had any formal ethics complaints over the last ten years.

The Commissioners agreed to approve the travel expense reports for the period of October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2018, with the exception of FY 2015 until the items could be reviewed during the next meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 P.M.