

**Council Minutes May 11, 2021**

**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. and Regular Session immediately following the Special Session in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 11th day of May, 2021 with the following members present:**

Michael Boyter	Mayor
Dan Cogan	Councilmembers
Ruth Culver	
Rob Gagliardi	
Amy Sabol	
Rusty Sartor	

constituting a quorum.

Also present: Councilmember-Elect Cindy Almendarez

Staff present included:

Jimmy Stathatos	City Manager
Cliff Blackwell	Assistant City Manager
Bryn Meredith	City Attorney
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Meg Jakubik	Strategic Services Manager
Joey Lankford	Interim Fire Chief
Kenny Overstreet	Public Works Director
Andrea Roy	Development Director
Jeff Williams	Police Chief
Mark Williams	Deputy Fire Chief - EMS

**SPECIAL SESSION**

Mayor Boyter called the Special Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

- **Consider a resolution to receive and accept as true and correct the canvassed voting results for the General Election held on May 1, 2021 for the election of the Mayor and Council Members Place 1 and Place 2, as presented by the City Secretary.**

City Secretary Michael Wells presented information regarding this item.

Motioned by Councilmember Culver, seconded by Councilmember Cogan, to approve a resolution to receive and accept as true and correct the canvassed voting results for the General Election held on May 1, 2021 for the election of the Mayor and Council Members Place 1 and Place 2, as presented by the City Secretary.

Motion approved 6-0-0. Mayor Boyter declared the motion carried.

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- **Remarks from outgoing Councilmember Rusty Sartor.**

Councilmember Sartor discussed lessons he learned from his parents and thanked them for their love and support, as well as the lessons he learned in school and the impact teachers had on him. His only agenda on the City Council was to make a difference and leave Bedford better than when he arrived. He stated that he, along with other members of Council, were wrongly accused of having their pockets lined. He discussed watching people he respected become full of anger and hate and using the political arena to push their agenda as well as members of Council publicly disrespecting others because of a difference of opinion. He stated he was named in the paper about being recalled because he might not vote in a way consistent with the writer's belief. He stated he never compromised his morals, beliefs, or integrity; voted what he felt was best for the City; and that he stands by his record. He encouraged residents to get involved and discussed the relationships, experiences, and rewards he had from serving on Council.

Mr. Sartor advised City Manager Jimmy Stathatos to lead, explain to Council and staff when they do not understand, to never be afraid to offer a different opinion, and to do what is right. He recognized and thanked staff for making a difference, including Assistant City Manager Cliff Blackwell, Special Events Manager Wendy Harnett, Strategic Services Manager Meg Jakubik, Library Director Maria Redburn, City Secretary Michael Wells, Assistant City Secretary Amanda Jacobs, Parks Superintendent Don Henderson, Facilities Manager Chuck Carlisle, Finance Director Maria Joyner, Executive Assistant Jennifer Bellinghausen, and the Police and Fire Departments. He recognized and thanked citizens, including Dorothy McWhorter, Holly Hendrickson, Debbie McDaniels, Chris Brown, and the members of the Parks and Recreation Board. He recognized and thanked current and former Council Members, including Roy Turner, Jim Griffin, Steve Farco, Dave Gebhart, Roger Fisher, Ray Champney, and Michael Boyter.

Councilmember Sartor discussed the City's accomplishments during his tenure, including being awarded funding from the state to rebuild the City's water infrastructure; increased pay for first responders; upgrades for playground equipment at the parks; a musical pocket park at the Old Bedford School; a future basketball court at Stormie Jones Park; Generations Park; new vehicles and equipment for public safety; cancer screening for firefighters; the Heart Safe Community Award; and upgrades to the vehicle fleet. He discussed serving as president of the Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation, including his call for increased meetings, and the development of a strategic plan to address all major thoroughfares and prioritizing communication to residents.

Councilmember Sartor congratulated Mayor Boyter and Councilmembers Almendarez and Cogan. He advised them to never let anybody tell them how to vote or who they can or cannot visit; to never share Executive Session information with others; to never meet in quorum outside of called meetings; and to do their homework and listen to others, including with those with whom they do not agree. He thanked and praised his wife LeAnn for her love and support and stated it was his honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Bedford.

Roger Fisher, 2413 Woodson Drive, Bedford – Mr. Fisher signed up to speak under Open Forum. He congratulated Mayor Boyter and Councilmembers Almendarez and Cogan and thanked Council for reopening the government. He wanted to recognize Councilmember Sartor on his tenure, and discussed his character, determination, pride, and friendship. He felt some of the behavior on Council the previous year was abhorrent and that Councilmember Sartor was oftentimes alone, which spoke to his character. He was proud of Councilmember Sartor's service and his friendship and stated that he and many others would follow Councilmember Sartor

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wherever he went. He stated Councilmember Sartor was a true leader, his service was to be commended, and thanked him for his representation.

Mayor Boyter discussed the sacrifice it takes to be on Council and its effect on friendships and relationships, and that doing the right things for the City may offend some people. He stated Councilmember Sartor stayed true to himself during his tenure and that he considers him a friend. He further stated they both want better for Bedford and thanked Councilmember Sartor. Councilmember Culver stated Councilmember Sartor left Bedford a better place and that any differences of opinion were never personal. She discussed the commitment to running for and serving on Council, and thanked Councilmember Sartor for his service. Councilmember Gagliardi stated he appreciated Councilmember Sartor's service. Councilmember Sabol stated that Councilmember Sartor showed a great commitment to the City during his tenure and thanked him for his service. Councilmember Cogan thanked Councilmember Sartor for his service and for supporting the first responders.

### **INAUGURATION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- **Administer Statement of Elected Officer and Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor and Council Members Place 1 and Place 2 and presentation of the Certificates of Election.**

City Secretary Michael Wells administered the Statement of Elected Officials and Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor Michael Boyter and Council Member Cindy Almendarez, Place 1 and Dan Cogan, Place 2. Mayor Pro Tem Sabol presented the Certificate of Election to Mayor Boyter. Mayor Boyter presented the Certificates of Election to Councilmembers Almendarez and Cogan.

### **REGULAR SESSION**

The Regular Session began at 6:40 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mayor Boyter called the meeting to order.

### **INVOCATION**

Assistant City Manager Cliff Blackwell gave the invocation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **OPEN FORUM**

Roger Fisher spoke during the Special Session.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT**

City Manager Jimmy Stathatos presented an overview of the items on the consent agenda.

Motioned by Councilmember Culver, seconded by Councilmember Sabol, to approve the following items by consent: 1 and 2.

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Motion approved 6-0-0. Mayor Boyter declared the motion carried.

1. **Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:**
  - a) **April 27, 2021 regular meeting**

This item was approved by consent.

2. **Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into the first amendment to the economic development program agreement between the City of Bedford, Texas, and Steve Padia dba Suns Field Development.**

This item was approved by consent.

### **COUNCIL RECOGNITION**

3. **Proclamation recognizing the week of May 16-22, 2021 as Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of Bedford.**

Mayor Boyter read a proclamation recognizing the week of May 16-22, 2021 as Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of Bedford. Interim Fire Chief Joey Lankford and Deputy Fire Chief – EMS Mark Williams accepted the proclamation.

4. **Proclamation recognizing the week of May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week in the City of Bedford.**

Mayor Boyter read a proclamation recognizing the week of May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week in the City of Bedford. Public Works Director Kenny Overstreet accepted the proclamation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

5. **Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with I.S. Construction Group, LLC. in an amount not to exceed \$184,562, utilizing the Texas Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), for the addition of two bathrooms at the Old Bedford School.**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

6. **Consider a resolution of the City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, ordering a special election to be held on Saturday, August 7, 2021 for the purpose of electing a person to City Council, Place 4, with a term to expire May 2023; authorizing a contract for election services with Tarrant County; and establishing the dates and times for early voting for such election.**

City Secretary Michael Wells presented information regarding this item, which is to order the Special Election to fill the vacancy in Place 4 on the City Council for August 7, 2021. He stated the filing period is May 12 through June 7, 2021. Early voting begins July 21 and ends on April 27, 2021. The early voting location is the Bedford Public Library and staff recommended that the Election Day location also be the Library. The estimated cost to contract with Tarrant County is \$18,000, though this cost would be offset by estimated savings from the May 1, 2021 General Election.

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Motioned by Councilmember Gagliardi, seconded by Councilmember Cogan, to approve a resolution of the City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, ordering a special election to be held on Saturday, August 7, 2021 for the purpose of electing a person to City Council, Place 4, with a term to expire May 2023; authorizing a contract for election services with Tarrant County; and establishing the dates and times for early voting for such election.

Motion approved 6-0-0. Mayor Boyter declared the motion carried.

### **7. Mayor/Council Member Reports**

Mayor Boyter reported that Tarrant County has elected to partner with the City on the Bedford Commons project.

### **8. City Manager/Staff Reports**

#### **a) Second Quarter Financial Report.**

Strategic Services Manager Meg Jakubik gave a financial report on the second quarter of the City's fiscal year. She stated that the City was able to utilize Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding during the first quarter, including offloading personnel costs from the General Fund. She presented information on the General Fund, including a comparison of actual and budgeted revenue and expenditures, and a comparison of revenues and expenditures from Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021. She presented information on the Water and Sewer Fund, including three-year histories of revenue and expenditures. She presented information on other funds, including Tourism, Stormwater, and the Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC).

There was discussion on the impact of the closure of the former Boys Ranch Park; expenses from the Tourism Fund, including salaries and office supplies; and the reason for a decline in Police Department expenditures, including the impact of vacancies and CARES Act funding.

#### **b) Report on Council summer meeting schedule**

City Manager Jimmy Stathatos reported that a strategic planning session has been scheduled for June 1, 2021 and the budget work session has been scheduled for August 12, 2021.

Mr. Stathatos further reported that Bill Walker, currently the Fire Chief in Santa Monica, California, accepted the offer to be Bedford's new Fire Chief and will be starting June 14, 2021.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **a) Pursuant to Section 551.072, to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property – possible acquisition of real property for redevelopment purposes.**

Council convened into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072, to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property - possible acquisition of real property for redevelopment purposes, at 7:11 p.m.

Council reconvened from Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. Any necessary action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session will be during the Regular Session.

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**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 Boyter adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Michael Boyter, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary