

**Council Minutes June 20, 2019**

**STATE OF TEXAS §**

**COUNTY OF TARRANT §**

**CITY OF BEDFORD §**

**The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Special Session at 2:30 p.m. at the former library building, 1805 L. Don Dodson, on the 20th day of June, 2019 with the following members present:**

Jim Griffin	Mayor
Dan Cogan	Councilmembers
Ruth Culver	
Roger Fisher	
Amy Sabol	
Rusty Sartor	

constituting a quorum.

Councilmember Boyter arrived at 2:48 p.m.

Staff present included:

Brian Bosshardt	City Manager
Cliff Blackwell	Assistant City Manager
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Natalie Foster	Public Information Officer
Meg Jakubik	Strategic Services Manager

**CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mayor Griffin called the Special Session to order at 2:32 p.m.

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**• Discussion and possible action with respect to Phase Next and the arts.**

Mayor Griffin stated the primary goal of the meeting is for Council to determine what should be done with the existing arts and entertainment on the Boys Ranch property. City Manager Brian Bosshardt stated if Council can come to a decision on how they want to proceed with Arts Council Northeast and ONSTAGE, it would help in moving forward with the park. He asked the design team to not spend any more money until a decision is reached and its impact on the project site is determined. There was a consensus among Council that the decision point for the meeting was to address ONSTAGE and Arts Council Northeast as it relates to the park development.

Mr. Bosshardt stated options for ONSTAGE and Arts Council Northeast are to keep the existing buildings in the park to operate as is; design space in the new recreation center; build a new stand-alone building; or renovate an existing building. There was discussion on the existing buildings, including costs to keep and maintain them; tying in the Boys Ranch Park, Bedford Commons and the Old Bedford School (OBS); putting arts in the Park to set it apart from other locations; putting the arts at the OBS; designating the land at OBS as a park; including a

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year-round multi-use performance space at the new recreation center; arts in the community; a joint arts venue with the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District; the space requirements for ONSTAGE; accommodations for ONSTAGE and Arts Council Northeast; expanding one of the current buildings to house both organizations; determining what to do with the OBS; giving the OBS to a board or non-profit, with the City guaranteeing them a loan to do renovations and additions to make it a theater; past Council discussion and presentations on the Phase Next project and the community's impression about the inclusiveness of the arts in the park; and the plan for the \$10,000,000 set aside from the bond money. A majority of Council opposed keeping the existing the buildings.

There was discussion on the arts and entertainment feasibility study; disruptions to Arts Council Northeast and ONSTAGE and whether plans were made by those organizations; the original three phase development plan for the Park; the potential costs associated with the four options being presented; the displacement of Arts Council Northeast and ONSTAGE; the City assisting Arts Council Northeast and ONSTAGE in finding new locations; programming at Arts Council Northeast building; the leases for ONSTAGE and Arts Council Northeast; oversight of the programming at a performance space; accommodations for Senior Center programming; renovating the OBS property for a multi-use space for the visual and performing arts; and the City sharing in revenues from the arts organizations. A majority of Council opposed the idea discussed earlier of giving the OBS to a board or non-profit. There was discussion regarding setting a dollar amount for the City's contribution towards the renovation of the OBS with the arts organizations coming up with the remaining funding; potential grant funding for the renovations; third party management of an arts facility; and the costs for new construction at the OBS for a multi-use facility for performing arts at the OBS. A majority of Council agreed to pursue a plan to create a multi-use arts facility on the OBS property and to set a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,500,000 for design and construction of the facility. Council was of the consensus to include Arts Council Northeast programming in the OBS facility. There was discussion on seeing a plan for an arts facility at the new recreation center, and the potential costs for a multi-use arts facility at the new recreation center versus the OBS.

There was discussion on the phasing of the Phase Next project, including the impact on ONSTAGE, Arts Council Northeast, City programming and employees; putting a plan in place for those entities being displaced; costs; and timeframes for construction. A majority of Council was for doing the construction in one phase. Council was of the consensus for staff to engage ONSTAGE and Arts Council Northeast in discussions about their space requirements and needs. There was discussion on granting money to the non-profits to help them relocate within the City, the use of City staff in helping ONSTAGE and Arts Council Northeast find space, and the impact of the arts in a community. There was further discussion on the final budget for the Phase Next construction. A majority of Council agreed to set the Phase Next budget at \$64,500,000.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Griffin adjourned the work session at 4:57 p.m.

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Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary