

Council Minutes April 28, 2015

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Work Session at 5:00 p.m. and Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, on the 28th day of April, 2015 with the following members present:

Jim Griffin	Mayor
Michael Boyter	Council Members
Ray Champney	
Jim Davisson	
Steve Farco	
Roger Fisher	
Roy W. Turner	

constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Roger Gibson	Interim City Manager
Stan Lowry	City Attorney
Michael Wells	City Secretary
Cliff Blackwell	Administrative Services Director
Gary Clopton	Information Technology Manager
Natalie Foster	Marketing Specialist
Don Henderson	Parks Superintendent
Tom Hoover	Public Works Director
Meg Jakubik	Assistant to the City Manager
Maria Redburn	Library Director
Emilio Sanchez	Planning Manager
Bill Syblon	Development Director
James Tindell	Fire Chief
Eric Valdez	Recreation Manager

COUNCIL CHAMBER WORK SESSION

Mayor Griffin called the Work Session to order at 5:03 p.m.

- **Review and discuss items on the regular agenda and consider placing items for approval by consent.**

Council discussed placing the following items on consent: 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Administrative Services Director Cliff Blackwell presented information regarding Item #10. Utility Data Systems (UDS) software is currently used for Municipal Court operations. UDS recently informed staff that Microsoft would no longer support the current hardware. In the last budget process, staff asked for an increase to the line item for the Court Technology Fund to replace the hardware, as well as upgrade the software. The Information Technology (IT) Department contacted Dell and the cost for the hardware is less than \$9,900 when using State pricing. Once the hardware is ordered and installed, staff will be able to migrate over to the new software. The line item in the Court Technology Fund was \$50,475 and the overall cost of the project is less than \$45,000. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Blackwell stated that there would not be any issues converting over to the new server and that most of the work

Council Minutes April 28, 2015

would be done offline. In answer to questions from Council, IT Manager Gary Clopton stated that the Microsoft operating system has several years left in its life expectancy before it is retired; that the current system will be sunset in June; and that it would take four weeks for the server to be shipped with implementation starting the beginning of June.

Mr. Blackwell presented information regarding Item #11. The Texas Department of Public Safety receives Homeland Security grant funds and lends them out to sub-recipients, including the City of Bedford. This item is to put the City into compliance with the Federal Government's debarment policy. When staff uses Homeland Security grant funds, they are required to go to a Federally-mandated website to see if businesses are excluded from receiving grant funds. If so, the City would not be able to do business with them.

Public Works Director Tom Hoover presented information regarding Item #12. There was discussion in December regarding adding in-house capabilities for engineering services. This would allow staff to design and prepare documents at a considerable savings. Council was presented cost projections over the next five years, which shows most of the savings occurring in the second and third years. The number of projects slows down in the fifth year, but by that time, more projects would be added to the list, including drainage projects. Staff should hear from the State by May 6 regarding funding for which the City applied. Over the next five years, the anticipated savings is approximately \$400,000, which is on top of paying for the cost of the personnel. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Hoover stated that the lower amount of costs savings in the first year is due to it being late in the budget year and the start-up costs to create a work environment for an engineering division; that there will be one engineer and one designer; that the cost projections include software, office furniture and computers; that they project training every year; and that the two positions are enough for what staff has sought out to do.

In answer to questions regarding Item #14, Recreation Manager Eric Valdez stated that the DFW Tejanos Soccer Organization will continue to pay for the maintenance costs for the field. In answer to questions from Council regarding Item #13, Mr. Valdez stated that the only change to the contract was the deletion of Meadow Park as a resource and changing the language so that the Boys Ranch Park was not exclusive.

There was discussion on Item #15, including that a special meeting could be called if needed.

- **Beautification Commission review.**

Marty Geer, Chairperson of the Beautification Commission, stated she has been on the Commission for three years and was asked this year to be Chairperson. Due to being shorthanded, a lot of campaigning was done and they now have some great volunteers. One of their biggest events was the Clean Up Bedford and Chunk Your Junk Days. This event was moved because of ArtsFest, and with the Crud Cruiser the following week, the Commission worked back-to-back Saturdays. She commended all the Commission members and helpers, and they had very successful events both days. For Chunk Your Junk, there were 189 cars in line, which were the most they ever had, and they filled up 14 large dumpsters. For Clean Up Bedford, they had 134 volunteers that they could count, including families and children, Girl Scouts, as well as members of St. Michael's and the LDS church. The City was divided into 30 routes, most of which were within two miles. Forty-three prizes were awarded and 50 businesses donated items, supplies, and coupons. There was a lot of support from vendors including Shipley's and Starbucks. There was discussion regarding next year including getting the word out earlier, writing letters to businesses and putting information on the City website and in the HEB paper, including what materials people can bring. She thanked the members of the Commission including Richard Dobrovoly, who is retiring, as well as her husband Bucky Geer, Bonnie Cooper, Dewey Tennant, Patty Sinclair, Kathy and Sam Fairchild, C.W. Koellman, and Erin Blackman. She thanked Parks Superintendent Don Henderson and his staff for their work as well as Events and Cultural Coordinator Jeff Florey for help with different organizations and sponsors. She thanked Councilmember Turner for being their Council liaison. She stated that at the Crud Cruiser event, they had 158 cars and the truck was full by 9:45 a.m. She discussed the need for a bigger area and nicer space for these events, and communicating to the public. There was Council discussion on the Commission's activities and the

growth of their events. Ms. Geer discussed Patty Sinclair being such an asset including that she has done these events for many years and being a master in designing the routes. Councilmember Boyter asked that everybody keep former Commission member Deborah Chaney in their thoughts as her husband is battling health issues.

- **Discussion regarding items to include in a budget amendment.**

Assistant to the City Manager Meg Jakubik stated it was an unusual year for budget in that provisions were made to plan for the future, but there was allowance for an amount of money for Council to allocate to one-time items without impacting future operations. Council had been of the consensus to wait until after the audit to see where the fund balance ended. With the budgeted revenue surplus and fund balance in excess of the City's 20 percent reserve requirement, there is just over \$410,000 that could be allocated for needs through a budget amendment. Since the budget work session, there have been unbudgeted expenses for the executive search through Strategic Government Resources, consulting, and licenses related to the IT Department, totaling \$111,000. This leaves approximately \$300,000 for Council to allocate at their pleasure. Whatever Council decides they want would be included in a budget amendment at the next Council meeting. Further, there is an excess fund balance in the Tourism Fund. At the budget work session, there was discussion on funding half of the window replacement at the Old Bedford School (OBS); however, there is enough money in the Fund to complete the window replacement. Also, included in the budget amendment would be changes to the Water Fund for the engineering services consented to earlier.

In answer to questions from Council, Parks Superintendent Don Henderson stated that it is the intent of the Padillas to perform repairs to the Meadow Park lighting at a later phase in their project. In regards to the Brook Hollow Park pavilion, Mr. Henderson stated that it is now just a concrete pad; that the City has never charged for or rented out the pavilion; that there is a possibility of installing new playground equipment with a sunshade; that the pavilion has moved down the priority rankings of the Parks and Recreation Board and their priority is now playgrounds; that playgrounds with sunshades are the new standard; that the \$60,000 figure is just for the playground unit itself; that the plan is to replace existing equipment where there is already borders and fall material, and the driving criteria is to fit the new equipment into the existing space; that there are variations of prices at the different parks; that the Board's top priority is the playground at Stormie Jones Park; and that there are no efficiencies realized by installing equipment at the same time as opposed to individually. There was discussion on building playgrounds with shade structures; amenities at Brook Hollow Park; and staff looking at all areas that need to be upgraded from a park standpoint and coming back with a proposal.

In answer to questions from Council regarding Fire vehicles, Fire Chief James Tindell stated that staff is utilizing 15-year old vehicles that have exceeded the City's decision tree; that one vehicle has had \$3,800 in maintenance expenses; that the Fire Marshal vehicle is the most utilized staff vehicle in the Department; that the costs are lower than presented the previous year for one vehicle because it will not have accessories for a canine; and that they will spend more money in the long run using second-hand vehicles due to their utilization. There was discussion on purchasing one vehicle and delaying on the other one until the next budget year. In regards to the ambulance remount, Chief Tindell stated that there is one currently being remounted and staff will be asking for one in the next budget year; and that the Department is behind on their replacement schedule.

There was discussion on removing the Brook Hollow Park pavilion from the list of possible projects, which was the consensus of the Council; if there are playgrounds with a smaller footprint and fitting in two playground facilities; putting the medic remount in next year's budget including doing a transfer into the Vehicle Maintenance Fund; and including both Fire vehicles. Council was of the consensus to include the \$111,000 in unbudgeted expenses. There was discussion on how many parks need new playground equipment, the total cost, and budgeting to accommodate more equipment. Mr. Henderson stated that all the existing playground equipment were completed in 1996; that there are six to seven units across the system; that it is hard to get pieces to refurbish the existing equipment; and that adding

Council Minutes April 28, 2015

shade structures increases the costs. There was discussion on spending \$111,000 on the unbudgeted expenses, paying for both Fire vehicles, dedicating \$120,000 for playground equipment, including shade structures, and delaying on the medic remount, for a total of \$306,200. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Henderson stated that it is not a good idea to replace all of the playground equipment at once; that staff will be asking for a parks maintenance fund so that every three to four years, they can address park concerns instead of asking for money out of the General Fund; that they will look at replacing one or two playground units at a time; and that the parts cannot be used on other equipment. In answer to questions from Council, Ms. Jakubik stated that expenses for the current fiscal year were purposefully below revenue in anticipation of a significant revenue loss in the amount of \$290,000 from a contract expiration in Fiscal Year 15-16; that they did not want to put ongoing operational expenses in the budget that would exasperate that revenue loss; that using it for one-time capital purchases preserves the flexibility in future budget years; that the current fund balance exceeds the reserve requirement by \$306,913; and that after the \$306,200 total discussed earlier, \$103,000 would be left.

Council was of the consensus to move forward with \$111,000 in staff-identified budget items, \$120,000 for park improvements with the intent to have two playgrounds with shade structures, and \$75,200 to fund both Fire vehicles as part of the budget amendment.

There was discussion on replacing all of the windows at the OBS and installing a monument sign at Fire Station 3; the budget allocations in the Water Fund; and being able to get playground equipment with sunshades for \$120,000.

Mayor Griffin adjourned the Work Session at 6:13 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To convene in the conference room, if time permits, in compliance with Section 551.001 et. Seq. Texas Government Code, to discuss the following:

- a) Pursuant to Section 551.074, personnel matters - City Manager search.

Executive Session was not held.

REGULAR SESSION 6:30 P.M.

The Regular Session began at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION (Senior Pastor Nosa Onaiwu, Arise and Shine International Ministries)

Senior Pastor Nosa Onaiwu of Arise and Shine International Ministries gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Marketing Specialist Natalie Foster stated that there will be a Residential Roundtable on Thursday, May 14 at the Library from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. City staff and officials will update residents on the recycle cart program, the Bedford Commons, the Boys Ranch construction and more. The "Live 80" band will be at Twilight Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at the OBS, which is a free event featuring live music, a food truck and art vendors. There will be a booth for the 100 Year Anniversary of the OBS, where they will collect 100 canned goods for 6Stones.

Ms. Foster discussed the Mayors' Hunger Challenge. Mayor Griffin accepted a challenge from HEB ISD Superintendent Steve Chapman to see who in the HEB area can raise the most canned and boxed food items for 6Stones. Mayor Griffin in turn challenged Mayor Richard Ward of Hurst and Mayor Linda Martin of Euless. The City is asking all residents and businesses to help win this challenge and to be part of the solution to the nationwide problem of hunger. There will be drop-off locations at City Hall, the Boys Ranch, and the Library, as well as at different City events. Mayor Griffin stated that 13,000 children in the area go hungry and the City wants to help them over the summertime period, and that nobody can beat Bedford in terms of businesses and residents in contributing.

OPEN FORUM

Nobody chose to speak during Open Forum.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ITEMS BY CONSENT

Motioned by Councilmember Champney, seconded by Councilmember Davisson, to approve the following items by consent: 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Motion approved 7-0-0. Mayor Griffin declared the motion carried.

COUNCIL RECOGNITION

1. Employee Service Recognition.

There was no employee service recognition at the meeting.

2. Proclamation recognizing the Sketch-A-School Art Contest Winners.

Mayor Griffin read a proclamation recognizing the Sketch-A-School Art Contest Winners. The following students were recognized: Felicity Baize, River Trails Elementary – First Place; Ashlyn Miller, Bedford Heights Elementary – Second Place; Jo Barona, Bedford Heights Elementary – Third Place; Josh Bonilla, Stonegate Elementary – Fourth Place; Landon LeJuane, Shady Oaks Elementary – Most Creative; and Kaylan Kennedy, Stonegate Elementary – Honorable Mention.

3. Proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month in the City of Bedford.

Mayor Griffin read a proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month in the City of Bedford. Tessie Holloway, President and CEO of Lupus Foundation of America, Lone Star Chapter, was present to accept the proclamation.

4. Proclamation declaring Saturday, May 2, 2015 as Free Comic Book Day in the City of Bedford.

Mayor Griffin read a proclamation declaring Saturday, May 2, 2015 as Free Comic Book Day in the City of Bedford. Wayne McNeil accepted the proclamation on behalf of Generation X Comics.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. Consider approval of the following City Council minutes:

- a) April 14, 2015 regular meeting
- b) April 15, 2015 special meeting

This item was approved by consent.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6. Public hearing and consider an ordinance to amend Ordinance Number 10-2978 of the Bedford Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2010) for a parcel from Green Space to Commercial. The parcel is known as Lot 1, Block 1, Tri-Cities Addition. The parcel is located north of Bedford Road and south of Airport Freeway. (A-041)**

Planning Manager Emilio Sanchez asked Council to open the public hearing but table any deliberations on this item until the June 9 Council Meeting in order to bring the site plan that goes along with this request.

Mayor Griffin opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Motioned by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Davisson to keep the public hearing open until June 9.

Motion approved 7-0-0. Mayor Griffin declared the motion carried.

- 7. Public hearing and consider an ordinance to rezone Lot A, Block 17-R, Stonegate Addition, located at 1428 Brown Trail, Bedford, Texas from (L) Light Commercial to (H) Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Automobile Parking Lot, specific to Section 3.2.C(5)c, Automobile Parking Lot and Areas, allowing for Grubbs Auto Properties to park excess vehicle inventory. The property is generally located south of Old Kirk Road and east of Brown Trail. (Z-266)**

Mr. Sanchez presented information regarding this item, which is a request for Grubbs Auto Properties to operate an excess inventory lot, which requires a Specific Use Permit (SUP). The property is currently zoned L and is required to change to H with a SUP. The Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval of this item at their April 9 meeting. Development Director Bill Syblon stated that staff received a last minute request from the applicant. The proposal describes a solid masonry wall around the entire perimeter of the site and the applicant is asking to change the materials on the Brown Trail side of the site. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Syblon stated that there is nothing adjacent to the Brown Trail side and that Council has the discretion to allow for this change as it does not affect the dynamic of the site. Mr. Sanchez stated that the property is zoned L-Light Commercial and does not require masonry on the Brown Trail side as the adjacent property there is commercial.

Mehdi Darwula, General Manager, and Bruce Winkenweder, Controller, of Grubbs Auto Properties, 310 Airport Freeway, Bedford, displayed renditions of how the property will look. There will be a seven-foot masonry wall and an electronic gate at the entrance, and they are requesting to have a wrought iron fence along the Brown Trail side. It was brought to their attention at the Commission meeting that the property might have a fortress type of appearance, and using a wrought iron fence and good landscaping may dissipate that appearance. In answer to questions from Council, Mr. Darwula stated that the wrought iron fence would be six feet in height from the ground and be painted white; that there would be approximately 20 to 30 feet of wrought iron fence; that on the backside of the property, as shown on the rendition, would be a wooden fence, which was approved by the Commission; that there would only be masonry on the side of the property facing residents; that they agreed to a seven-foot masonry wall based on citizen comments at the Commission meeting; that the residents have not seen or approved of the wrought iron fence; that there are plans for landscaping along the wall; and that they are proposing a wrought iron fence from the electronic gate down the remainder of Old Kirk Road and Brown Trail. In regards to lighting, Mr. Darwula stated that the lights will be on a timer and a dimmer; that they will be dimmed along the perimeter of the property as not to shine too much on the residential side; and that they are controlled via Wi-Fi. There was discussion on stone columns with the wrought iron fence; the wrought iron fence not being discussed with the residents; tabling the item; and that the wrought iron fence would be installed next to commercial properties. In answer to questions from

Council Minutes April 28, 2015

Council, Mr. Darwula stated that cost is a factor in asking for the wrought iron fence; that after the Highway 183 construction, they have had a burst in growth beyond their lot requirements; that they are unable to take care of their customers the way they should; that it would require two months of construction before the first car could be put on the new lot; that summer would be when they would have the most need for the lot; and that the manufacturer's requirements do not take into account not having room to store cars. He stated that if a wrought iron fence was not on the table, they would take the masonry wall. Mr. Sanchez recommended Council approve what the Commission approved and then an amendment to the SUP, including the wrought iron fence, could be brought back to the Commission and Council. He further stated that the Commission added a stipulation that the SUP runs with Grubbs Nissan staying in Bedford. There was discussion on having more trees incorporated into the plan; having public input; that there is no requirement in the Zoning Ordinance to have fencing along Brown Trail or Old Kirk Road; and savings with the wrought iron fence that could then be incorporated into increased landscaping.

Mayor Griffin opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Mayor Griffin closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Motioned by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Champney, to approve an ordinance to rezone Lot A, Block 17-R, Stonegate Addition, located at 1428 Brown Trail, Bedford, Texas from (L) Light Commercial to (H) Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Automobile Parking Lot, specific to Section 3.2.C(5)c, Automobile Parking Lot and Areas, allowing for Grubbs Auto Properties to park excess vehicle inventory. The property is generally located south of Old Kirk Road and east of Brown Trail (Z-266) with the stipulations that the specific use is tied to Grubbs Nissan in Bedford, that trees are planted along the residential areas to the project, and the lighting is dimmable and/or accommodating to the adjacent neighbors.

Motion approved 7-0-0. Mayor Griffin declared the motion carried.

8. Public hearing and consider an ordinance to rezone Lot 1, Block 1, Harwood Village North Addition, located at 605 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas from (H) Heavy Commercial District to (H) Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Church, specific to Section 3.2.C(2)a, allowing for Cornerstone Church to open a 8,640 square foot church within the retail center. The property is generally located north of Harwood Road and west of Spring Valley Drive. (Z-270)

Mr. Sanchez presented information regarding this item. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved this item at their April 9 meeting and there was no opposition to the item at that meeting.

Mayor Griffin opened the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Mayor Griffin closed the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Motioned by Councilmember Davisson, seconded by Councilmember Champney, to approve an ordinance to rezone Lot 1, Block 1, Harwood Village North Addition, located at 605 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas from (H) Heavy Commercial District to (H) Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Church, specific to Section 3.2.C(2)a, allowing for Cornerstone Church to open a 8,640 square foot church within the retail center. The property is generally located north of Harwood Road and west of Spring Valley Drive. (Z-270)

Motion approved 7-0-0. Mayor Griffin declared the motion carried.

- 9. Public hearing and consider an ordinance to rezone Section 5, Block 9, Bellvue Addition No. 3, located at 401 E. Pipeline Road, Bedford, Texas, from (H) Heavy Commercial to (H) Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Gasoline Service Station with Convenience Store, specific to Section 3.2.C(8)g.iii, Gasoline Service Station with Convenience Store, allowing for Quick Track to add fuel islands. The property is generally located north of Pipeline Road and east of Elizabeth Drive. (Z-272)**

Mr. Sanchez presented information regarding this item. Quick Track is requesting a SUP to install fuel pumps and a fuel island to an existing convenience store. This item was unanimously approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their April 9 meeting.

Mayor Griffin opened the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

Nobody chose to speak during the public hearing.

Mayor Griffin closed the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

In answer to questions from Council regarding what is going to be on the canopy, Jeff Singleton, representing the applicant, stated that the canopy will either have Quick Track on it or adopt the logo of a brand; that he does not know at this time if it is going to be branded; and that the standard colors for Quick Track are red, white and blue. There was discussion on adding stipulations for the color of the canopy in the SUP.

Motioned by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Davisson, to approve an ordinance to rezone Section 5, Block 9, Bellvue Addition No. 3, located at 401 E. Pipeline Road, Bedford, Texas, from (H) Heavy Commercial to (H) Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Gasoline Service Station with Convenience Store, specific to Section 3.2.C(8)g.iii, Gasoline Service Station with Convenience Store, allowing for Quick Track to add fuel islands. The property is generally located north of Pipeline Road and east of Elizabeth Drive with the exception that the colors on the canopy are limited to the Quick Track colors of red, white and blue or that of a national fuel retailer.

Motion approved 7-0-0. Mayor Griffin declared the motion carried.

Mr. Singleton stated that the applicant and many of his workers are first generation immigrants from Nepal and that they have been going through a difficult time with the recent earthquake. He stated that if anybody wants to donate money, he knows where they can do so.

- 10. Consider a resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to purchase an upgrade in Municipal Court software from its current version to the Microsoft SQL version in the amount of \$34,475 through Utility Data Systems, Inc.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 11. Consider a resolution accepting the revised and updated City of Bedford Purchasing Policy and Procedures.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 12. Consider a resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to create two positions in the Engineering Division.**

This item was approved by consent.

- 13. Consider a resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into a lease agreement for one year with the Tri-Cities Baseball Association for the purposes of having league games and practice at Boys Ranch Park.**

Council Minutes April 28, 2015

This item was approved by consent.

14. Consider a resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into a lease agreement for one year with the DFW Tejanos Organization for the purpose of conducting practices and games at the Stormie Jones soccer fields.

This item was approved by consent.

15. Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to cancel the July 14, July 28, November 24 and December 22 regular Council meetings.

This item was approved by consent.

16. End of Term Remarks and Thank You ***Item requested by Councilmember Boyter

Councilmember Boyter requested this item be put on the agenda. He expressed gratitude to having the opportunity to serve his city. He feels pride in the great things happening in the community and City, and is proud to call Bedford home. He is a product of HEB having been born and raised in there. His mother, who came from Japan and did not know how to speak English, drive or how to get a job, was forced to raise him alone; however, she persevered and her story is uniquely American. He discussed the suffering she went through to provide him a better life, how the community helped them through those times, and him being the first Japanese-American to be elected to public office in Tarrant County. Their friends and neighbors never allowed them to go hungry and always leant a hand. So many in the community taught him English and how to read and write. He had a wonderful education in HEB ISD and thanked his teachers for their help during those formative years. He thanked everybody in the community for making him the person he is today and for helping him and his mother through those difficult times.

Councilmember Boyter stated that when he thinks of Bedford, he thinks of the Police officers, 911 operators, Firefighters, the staff at the Parks Departments, Public Works and the Library, City events, and those in the audience and those watching on TV, and thanked them for making the City a wonderful place to live. He stated that he is proud of being a member of Council that lowered property tax rates; gave employees much needed raises; found money to replace aging vehicles and 1970s computer technology; embarked on an aggressive Capital Improvement Program to replace aging infrastructure; improved water pressure by replacing the Simpson Terrace pump station; drilled new water wells; worked economic development agreements to attract new businesses and encourage growth; fought through the Highway 183 expansion only to see record sales tax, revenues and property values; made hard choices to change the culture at City Hall; and focused on establishing a strong foundation for an economically stable future. He asked the new Council to stay focused on providing better services to all residents; finding creative ways to fill empty shopping centers; making the City a destination and telling its story; and focusing on new opportunities to revitalize neighborhoods and sections of the City. He asked that the Council not lose site of the area's changing demographics and the potential for economic blight to get a foothold. He stated he has faith in Mayor Griffin's leadership and that the City will soon have the right people in place to embark on its next journey. He stated that it has been a privilege to serve with honorable men and is proud to call them friends. He asked the next Council to stand up for the City's rights to determine its own destiny; to be open-minded and listen to everybody, and that at the end of the day, people want Bedford to be better; and to be aware that there are people in the community who are suffering and do not know where to turn for help, and to help unite these people with available resources. He advised the new Council that just because they have the money does not mean the have to spend it. He thanked the 384 City employees and 48,592 residents, and all of his friends and acquaintances. He finally thanked his wife Sheila who did not sign up for the job but agonized over every moment the past three years.

17. Report on most recent meeting of the following Boards and Commissions:

✓ **Animal Shelter Advisory Board - Councilmember Fisher**

Councilmember Fisher reported that the Board will meet in the Council Chambers on May 13 at 2:00 p.m.

✓ **Beautification Commission - Councilmember Turner**

Councilmember Turner stated that Chairperson Geer of the Commission gave a nice description of their activities including the successful Clean Up Bedford and Chunk Your Junk Days.

✓ **Community Affairs Commission - Councilmember Boyter**

Councilmember Boyter recognized Commission members in attendance including Roy Savage, Sal Caruso, Steve Grubbs, Dave Gebhart and Gary Morlock. He stated that the Commission continues to do wonderful things and to reach out to community. He discussed the upcoming May 14 Residential Outreach meeting.

✓ **Cultural Commission - Councilmember Champney**

Councilmember Champney reported that the Commission had an ArtsTalk meeting, which had a great turnout. There was a guest speaker from the Levitt Pavilion in Arlington who gave an overview what that type of venue can do for economic development in surrounding areas. It attracts 127,000 people a year in an area the size of a city block. He believes the City is on the right track with Twilight Thursdays and other activities, and in building awareness and density.

✓ **Library Board - Councilmember Davisson**

Councilmember Davisson reported that Library Manager Maria Redburn discussed the Library Satisfaction Survey taken by citizens and others who utilize the Library. The survey indicated that people are incredibly happy with the Library. He discussed the number of programs available at the Library.

✓ **Parks & Recreation Board - Councilmember Davisson**

No report was given.

✓ **Teen Court Advisory Board - Councilmember Farco**

Councilmember Farco reported that he attended the Teen Court Awards Banquet on April 16. Teen Court Coordinator Mindy Eichorst did a great job and it was a wonderful event to honor the graduating seniors and their families.

18. Council member Reports

Councilmember Champney discussed the CPR program and that six houses were worked on in Bedford by volunteers who did a fantastic job. The program is truly a benefit to the elderly, disabled or those that just need some help.

19. City Manager/Staff Reports

Interim City Manager Roger Gibson thanked Ms. Redburn and her staff for the Library's promotion of the Distracted Driving Ordinance the previous Saturday. It will be promoted again at the Police Department Open House on May 16. The Public Works Department made 27 signs for entrances to the City to promote the ordinance.

Council Minutes April 28, 2015

Mr. Gibson thanked Councilmember Fisher and Mayor Griffin for input on the e-commerce safe zone. Technical Services Manager Kelli Agan ran with the idea and it has received tremendous positive input from the public.

20. Take any action necessary as a result of the Executive Session.

Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Griffin adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Jim Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Wells, City Secretary