

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 4

June 13, 2007

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ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

The mission of this electronic newspaper (e-news) is to increase citizen awareness of current events and thereby increase their involvement in our government's decision-making process.

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Meeting Dates for City Council, Commission and Board meetings

- ◆ Bedford City Council – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly
- ◆ Beautification Commission – 3rd Mon., monthly
- ◆ Library Board – 3rd Wed., monthly
- ◆ Parks and Recreation – 1st Thurs. , monthly
- ◆ Planning and Zoning Commission – 2nd and 4th Thurs., monthly
- ◆ Teen Court Advisory Board – 1st Thurs., monthly
- ◆ Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3rd Mon., monthly

For meeting agendas,
check the glass-enclosed bulletin board on the outside wall at City Hall.

If you find this e-news helpful and informative, please help us grow by passing it along to others.

FEATURES

CORRECTION

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The June 6, 2007, issue of *The Bedford Citizen* stated that, "A VHS recording of the May 1 Council meeting is available for a three-day check out from the library." That statement is incorrect. Neither audio nor video recording of that meeting occurred.

JUNE 12 CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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Note: A more in-depth article about each item marked ** will appear in a future issue of *The Bedford Citizen*.

Work Session

The City Council received an update from the Trinity River Authority Tarrant County Water Supply Project which is planning to add a 60" water line to the existing 48" line. The new line will run from Lake Arlington, along Trinity Pkwy., up through Euless and generally up Murphy Dr. to the Murphy Pumping Station. From there, it will continue north to connect with the Colleyville system at Cheek-Sparger Rd. The contractor will be required to avoid causing congestion at busy intersections or near schools and churches and also to restore the roadways, curbs, etc., that are disturbed during the work.

Updating the Council regarding the red light camera program, Police Chief Flory explained that a private contractor has

been doing an analysis on the staff-suggested intersections. There is some pressure to get the contract for red light cameras done before Sept. 1 in order to avoid new State regulations.

Councilman Whistler had requested a report on the number of traffic citations during a specific 3-month period in Bedford as compared with similar stats for Euless and Hurst PDs because he had been concerned about stats reported in a *Star-Telegram* article. He said he initially attributed this to lower visibility of our PD but that after researching the issue and determining that, actually, our PD had issued more citations than either of the others, he was impressed by our PD's work. Mentioning a *Star-Telegram* article which reported that Bedford had an increase in robbery, rape and assault, Councilman Whistler asked about the ratio of crimes solved before and since the addition of a detective. Chief Flory explained that he was not prepared to give those numbers now but that the detective represented a 10% increase in the work force. Councilman Whistler asked that the Chief include a comparison of the ratios in the upcoming budget request and closed by praising the Bedford PD for their overall performance.

There was discussion regarding the Special Use Permit for parking recreational vehicles, trailers and boats on residential property. **

During discussion of the City's gas drilling ordinance. Councilman Whistler suggested a public hearing soon, during a Council meeting. Councilwoman Nail said that she

felt a Town Hall Presentation would be more appropriate. **

Briefly considering the need for an ordinance regulating residential windmills used to generate electricity, the Council decided to wait until someone makes a specific request and consider the issue at that time.

Discussion of the feasibility of installing a WiFi mesh network throughout the city followed. **

Regarding requirements for the installation of speed bumps, it was pointed out that the person requesting a speed bump must present to staff a petition listing signatures of nearby residents.



LIBRARY COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

The Bedford Public Library Advisory Board invites you to participate in a Community Focus Group for the library Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Help us identify the Bedford Public Library's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and obstacles to progress.

Information gathered will be used to develop library services for the citizens of Bedford.

Free activities for school-aged children will be available in the Bonnie Finn Room to allow parents to participate in the Community Focus Group.

Regular Session

Discussion of the Military Leave policy resulted in agreement on the final wording.

While reviewing the third draft of the library outsourcing RFP**, Council specifically discussed the following issues:

- ◆ Specific number of years for which the proposal should be presented
- ◆ Need and specific wording for a "termination without cause" clause
- ◆ Effect of extending timing for any part of the proposal beyond a year since make-up of the Council can change each year
- ◆ Whether to include review of the final version of the RFP on the June 26 Council agenda or delay until the July 10 meeting, when Councilman Turner will be present again
- ◆ Whether or not it was necessary for the Council to vote to approve distribution of the RFP.
- ◆ Mayor Story stated that the minutes would be checked to determine if approval is necessary.

No one from the community spoke during the first public hearing for the rezoning request of Todd Bradbury for Miracle Dent automotive repair.

An ordinance prohibiting certain classes of animals in the City under any conditions was altered to allow permitting of such animals for the purpose of a temporary educational exhibit or display.

Council persons Cason, Nail and Savage were appointed to the Bedford Industrial

Development Authority and Council persons Orea, Turner and Whistler were appointed to the Bedford Health Facilities Development Corporation. City Manager Beverly Queen was appointed agent to both.

Council discussed and approved a Competitive Sourcing policy for the City. Under this policy, the City staff will undertake competitive sourcing without direction or prior approval of the Council. (See the May 1 Council Meeting Highlights in the June 6, 2007, issue of *The Bedford Citizen* for more information.)

Discussion and possible action regarding procedures and rules for Bedford City Council members, as adopted by Resolution 01-02 and amended by Resolution 05-54 (07/12/05), was moved to the June 26, 2007, Council meeting.

Councilman Whistler had wanted to have *The Bedford Citizen* included on the City website until he realized that, at some point, it may become a commercial venture, so neither the e-news publication itself nor a link to it will be permitted on the City website. (Note: The original request did not come from anyone involved with *The Bedford Citizen*.) Councilman Savage pointed out that he believed it would be particularly inappropriate since the publication includes opinions but the website should not.

Open Forum

Keith Quigley encouraged pursuit of gas drilling, the city-wide WiFi network and other sources of revenue. He also argued against outsourcing the library. He urged

the Council to drop the effort to outsource the library.

Ralph Good spoke against issuing a Specific Use Permit to allow the two residentially zoned properties that currently are being used for storage of recreational vehicles and boats to continue doing so. He contended that doing so would violate the City's Code of Ethics. He also pointed out that each of those vehicles can contain a substantial amount of fuel, thereby representing a fire hazard.

Mark Hill presented photos taken recently in his neighborhood and expressed concern that the abundance of automobiles, recreational vehicles and boats parked beside homes and on the street was lowering the value of property in that neighborhood.

Library Board Member Karen Kersey reminded everyone about the upcoming Community Forum at the library.

dona weisman said that the RFP should indicate that volunteers must be subject to the same pre-"employment" requirements as paid staff. She asked the Council to delay distribution of the RFP until after the budget process is completed since the dates the Council had discussed earlier in the evening would enable potential contractors to access, via Open Records requests, Library budget figures that the Council is considering for City Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and, therefore, would give respondents the advantage of knowing what "cost" the City would be proposing. She pointed out that the motion the Council passed regarding the RFP said that Councilman Orea would coordinate

development of the RFP but did not approve the distribution of it. She said that, to date, the Council has not approved distribution of the RFP.

Executive Session followed the Regular Session.

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THURSDAY CLUB HOUSE

Cora Connection presents, West African Music

This weekly entertainment is free to all school aged children. Registration is not required for these free library programs.

Bedford Public Library
Thursday, June 14
1:30-2:30 p.m.

ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

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The mission of this electronic newspaper (e-news) is to increase citizen awareness of current events and thereby increase their involvement in our government's decision-making process. As a result, *The Bedford Citizen* will focus on providing Bedford's residents with the information they need in order to cast an informed vote. We also will include occasionally some helpful and entertaining information.

The Bedford Citizen is currently a volunteer effort which we expect to be circulated from friend to friend via email in its PDF format. If you find it helpful and informative, please feel free to pass it along to others.

During this introductory period, the subscriptions are free. This will allow us to gauge the demand and work out the bugs. Eventually, we plan to charge a fee for subscriptions. This will allow us to avoid the conflicts of interest that can arise from accepting paid advertising.

Initially, we plan to publish an issue every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, subject to volunteer availability and the amount of news to report.

To subscribe, please send us an email at Be.A.Citizen@earthlink.net Please include your name, address and email address.

The Bedford Citizen welcomes free of charge:

- ◆ News articles from any volunteer writers, provided we judge the articles are relevant to our readers and the facts can be substantiated

- ◆ Position papers from political incumbents and candidates provided these position papers clearly state that person's position and they do not attack any other party

Our policies are as follows:

- ◆ Paid advertising is not accepted.
- ◆ Except when identified as editorials, letters to the editor or opinion pieces, stories will contain only facts that can be verified. Writers should expect to be asked to provide documentation before articles are published.
- ◆ All submitted articles must deal with issues relevant to Bedford's residents and not exceed two pages, as published in this format.
- ◆ Only one letter to the editor or opinion piece will be accepted from a single household during any 30-day period.
- ◆ Public service announcements will be included as space allows.
- ◆ The staff of the Bedford Citizen will be the final judge.
- ◆ Submissions must be received at least 72 hours prior to publication.
- ◆ Submissions should be sent to Be.A.Citizen@earthlink.net and must include the author's name, address, email address and phone number.