

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 31

Friday

August 17, 2007

AUG. 14 CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This issue is devoted to highlights of last Tuesday night's City Council meeting. Items marked ** will be covered as articles in a future issue of The Bedford Citizen.

[APPROVAL PROCESS FOR LIBRARY RFP](#)

[PERSONS SCHED TO BE HEARD](#)

[PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING UNATTENDED KIOSKS](#)

[CONSIDER PROPOSED TAX RATE**](#)

[AUG 28 PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2007/2008 BUDGET](#)

[RECEIVE AD VALOREM TAX ROLL FROM TARRANT APPRAISAL DISTRICT**](#)

[RECEIVE ANTICIPATED COLLECTION RATE FROM TARRANT COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR**](#)

[CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION**](#)

[CHAPTER 118 AMENDED TO ADD ARTICLE VIII, MUNICIPAL SETTINGS DESIGNATION](#)

[REAUTHORIZATION OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS](#)

[REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS](#)

[MUNICIPAL SETTING DESIGNATION](#)

[CUMMINGS DR. WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS](#)

[EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND DENTAL**](#)

[EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM](#)

[NEW AMBULANCES](#)

[SERVICE CENTER ROOF](#)

[REMARKS MADE DURING THE JULY 24 COUNCIL MEETING](#)

[UPCOMING BEDFORD ACTIVITIES](#)

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. [Read more](#)

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AUG. 14 CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Every Council member was present for the Aug. 14 meeting.

APPROVAL PROCESS FOR LIBRARY RFP

[Back to the top](#)

Council discussed the evaluation process for the library proposals.

City Manager Queen will be in charge of evaluation with the help of appropriate City staff. Council members will submit their individual questions and opinions regarding the proposals to the City Manager.

CORRECTION:

In our article entitled *Evaluation Process for Library RFP Responses* published in the Aug. 15 issue, we wrote:

"Because the public is not allowed to view LSSI's response, evaluation can be done only during Council executive sessions since those sessions are not open to the public."

We have been advised that this is not true. This subject does not qualify for executive session, so the City Council cannot discuss this matter until the conditions are changed, either by LSSI or by the State's Attorney General.

PERSONS SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD

[Back to the top](#)

Tom Sullivan requested that the City Council take a look at the City of Irving's Criminal Alien Program, or CAP. Under this program, the Irving Police identify illegal aliens at intake and notify the U.S. Immigration Dept.

Raymond Peters talked about the decision facing the Council regarding who will operate the Bedford Public Library. He likened the decision to one made by the Ford Motor Company when they decided to market the Pinto even though they knew it was likely to explode during a collision. He also showed a photo of his wrecked Volkswagon, saying his life was saved because of Volkswagon's attention to safety. He was compared accepting LSSI's proposal to going with the Pinto despite the availability of a quality product. He expressed concern that LSSI's low-cost staff could not deliver the high-quality service that we receive from our current library professionals.

Diane Versocki** presented observations and statistics relative to the success of our library as currently supervised and operated. She presented several signed petitions representing others who share her feelings.

Joy Johnson** expressed concerns regarding possible land damage resulting from oil, gas and mineral drilling activities and economic ripple effects.

Dan Gilbert had asked to speak but was not present.

*In-depth coverage of each item marked ** will appear in a future issue of The Bedford Citizen.*

Ralph Good said that he has attended many budget work sessions and feels that the Fri., Aug. 10 session was among the best. "Our Council members and staff were respectable, knowledgeable and even friendly in many of their discussions and deliberations. Many of you even studied in depth the proposed budget," he said. He praised City Manager Queen for eliminating the old performance goals and standards, which he said had become a waste of paper. He noted she has already started a new program to make performance standards accurate and, ultimately, to increase productivity in every department. He urged the Council not to raise taxes this year and to pursue productivity increases. He expressed his hope that the, "Council insists that all departments include outsourcing opportunities as part of their study, review and implementation, if it comes to that."

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING UNATTENDED KIOSKS

[Back to the top](#)

Staff received a business request for approval of an unattended ice storage and dispensing facility to be built in Bedford. This ordinance defines "unattended commercial kiosk," adds a specific use permit for such a facility in service, light, heavy commercial and industrial zoned districts and outlines the minimum conditions for it. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the item July 12 by a vote of 6-0-0. No one spoke during the public hearing. The

amendment was approved unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSED TAX RATE**

AUG 28 PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2007/2008 BUDGET

[Back to the top](#)

The Council consented to approve Aug. 28 as the date for the public hearing on the 2007/2008 budget.

RECEIVE AD VALOREM TAX ROLL FROM TARRANT APPRAISAL DISTRICT**

RECEIVE ANTICIPATED COLLECTION RATE FROM TARRANT COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR**

CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION**

CHAPTER 118 AMENDED TO ADD ARTICLE VIII, MUNICIPAL SETTINGS DESIGNATION

[Back to the top](#)

Council unanimously passed an ordinance amending Chapter 118 Utilities of the City of Bedford Code of Ordinances, as amended, by the addition of "Article VIII, Municipal Settings Designation." This ordinance, which relates to the potability of groundwater and the requirements for removing contaminants from it, describes the procedures for seeking Council approval of a proposed MSD.

REAUTHORIZATION OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

[Back to the top](#)

Council unanimously reauthorized the establishment of the Beautification Commission, the Community Affairs Commission, the Library Board and the Parks and Recreation Board and rescinded Ordinance 04-2776, passed in 2004, which set a sunset provision relative to those four groups. (See *The Bedford Citizen* Issue 1 No. , Wed. Aug. 15, 2007.)

REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

[Back to the top](#)

Council unanimously voted to reappoint members of the Beautification Commission, the Community Affairs Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Board and voted 4-3 to remove three members from the Library Board. Council members Nail, Savage and Turner opposed the decision. (See *The Bedford Citizen* Issue 1 No. 30, Wed. Aug. 15, 2007.)

MUNICIPAL SETTING DESIGNATIONS

[Back to the top](#)

Council consented to resolutions supporting a Municipal Setting Designation applications to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for properties at 12401, 12485, and 12625 Calloway Cemetery Rd. (Fort Worth), at 4000 S. Hwy. 157 (Fort Worth) and at

12409 Calloway Cemetery Rd. (Fort Worth). Approved by consent.

CUMMINGS DR. WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS

[Back to the top](#)

Council unanimously resolved to accept bids and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Gin-Spen, Inc. for the Cummings Dr. Water Transmission Main Improvements in the amount of \$2,487,354.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND DENTAL**

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[Back to the top](#)

The Council consented to a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into contractual agreements for Employee Assistance Program benefits with MHNet. Approved on consent.

MOTOROLA AND NEXTEL

[Back to the top](#)

Council consented to authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City and Motorola, Inc., as well as one between the City and Nextel Partners Operating Corp. Approved by consent.

NEW AMBULANCES

[Back to the top](#)

Council consented to authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing for the purchase of two Type I Modular replacement ambulances for a total cost of \$296,000. This will replace a 1994 Type 1 Freightliner and a 1998 Type 1 Freightliner, two of the Fire Department's oldest ambulances. The vehicles have outdated technologies, failing suspension systems, inadequate environmental systems and prompt reliability and maintenance concerns.

reappointment of its Council liaison. Councilman Cason asked to drop the item since he felt that the issue had been covered earlier in the meeting.

SERVICE CENTER ROOF

[Back to the top](#)

Due to unanswered questions regarding how much of the roof deterioration was caused by age and how much by the recent hail storms, the Council tabled a resolution that would have authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with Castro Roofing of Texas L.P. to perform roofing repairs to the City's Service Center Building.

REMARKS MADE DURING THE JULY 24 COUNCIL MEETING

[Back to the top](#)

Councilman Cason had requested discussion and possible action regarding remarks made during the July 24 Council meeting. of July 24, 2007 concerning Library Advisory Board and the

UPCOMING BEDFORD ACTIVITIES

Monday, August 20 – Sunday, August 26

Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting

Open to Public, City Hall, 817/952-2125
Mon. Aug. 20, 6 p.m.

Beautification Commission Meeting

Library, Open to Public, 817/952-2300
Mon. Aug. 20, 7 p.m.

Deadline to Sign Up

for Aug. 28 City Council Agenda
Wed. Aug. 22, noon

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting

City Hall, Open to Public, 817/952-2125
Thurs. Aug. 23, 6:30 (Work Session) & 7
p.m. Regular Session

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Step One of Wardrobe Workout

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Thurs. Aug. 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

ZoomText for the Low Vision and Legally Blind

Library, FREE, 817.952.2370
Sun, Aug. 26, 1-3 p.m.

ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

[Back to the top](#)

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:

- ◆ *The Bedford Citizen* does not share or sell its mailing list information.
- ◆ 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.