

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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This has been a tumultuous year as the City has anguished over the decision to outsource the Bedford Public Library. It has been a year-long storm in which both sides fought hard for what they believed in.

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We have two changes to report: we have recently opened our new web site and beginning Sept.1, we have a new publication schedule.

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A calendar of upcoming events.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT *The Bedford Citizen*,
PLEASE GO TO: WWW.BEDFORDCITIZEN.COM

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FEATURES

THE STORM PASSES

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This has been a tumultuous year as the City has anguished over the decision to outsource the Bedford Public Library. It has been a year-long storm in which both sides fought hard for what they believed in.

Councilman Cason explained his position, "When I was elected, the majority of the vote was cast for me and my platform was clear. The people that voted for me voted for me because of what I said. I told them this is what I would do. This is what I would try and accomplish and that's what I am bound to do." He went on, "What I fear is a constant drum beat of 'higher taxes, higher taxes' ."

During Persons to be Heard, Mr. Jon Westrom presented 1455 new petition signatures against outsourcing the library bringing the total to 1688.

Councilman Turner said, "The citizens have supported this wholly knowing full well the cost differential and they are expressing their desire that they are willing to pay the cost differential to keep local control of their library, so it's not a blind support. They know what they are saying."

Mayor Story talked the Council through his evaluation of LSSI's proposal. He concluded that the nine lowest paid LSSI employees would be paid \$20,000 per year and that this would lead to high turnover and a loss of quality. He also reported on a staff study of three book titles that revealed

the library staff could purchase those books on the average \$0.86 cheaper than LSSI. Mayor Story also expressed his concern over the risk. Specifically, he said that the costs to re-start local control of the library if LSSI did not work out would be so high that the potential savings did not justify the risk.

The motion to accept the LSSI proposal failed four to three with Councilmen Cason, Orea, and Whistler voting in favor and Mayor Story and councilmembers Savage, Nail, and Turner voting against.

CHANGES AT THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

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Our new web site can be found at: www.BedfordCitizen.com. On this site under Back Issues, you will be able to read any issue that is more than two weeks old. You will also be able to subscribe, comment, submit letters to the editor and submit articles. The site also explains our policies.

Beginning on Sept. 1, we will begin publishing on Monday and Thursday. We feel this will give our volunteer writers a bit more time to better develop their stories and allow us to bring you a better product.

This issue is shorter than usual due to volunteer time limitations. Our Friday issue will cover the highlights of last night's Council meeting.

UPCOMING BEDFORD ACTIVITIES

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Library Advisory Board Meeting

Library, Open to Public, 817/952-2332
Wed. Aug. 29, 7 p.m.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

Labor Day
Mon. Sep. 3

Public Hearing on Tax Increase

City Hall, Open to Public, 817/952-2101
Tues. Sept. 4, 7 p.m.

Deadline to Sign Up

for Sep. 11 City Council Agenda
Wed. Sep. 5, noon

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

City Hall, Open to public, 817/952-2300
Thurs. Sep. 6, 7 p.m.

Second Saturday Stitchers

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Sat. Sep. 8, 10 a.m. - noon

Unless otherwise noted, find more information at these sites:

Bedford Public Library activities
<http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=BEDFORD>

Boys Ranch Activities Center activities
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/parks_recreation/recreation.htm

Old Bedford School activities
<http://www.oldbedfordschool.com/index.htm>

Senior Center activities
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/general_government/sc_calendar.htm