

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet Thursday Jan. 10 at City Hall, with a 6 p.m. work session in the Conference Room so that Commissioners and a 7 p.m. regular session in the Council Chambers.

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The Bedford Public Library has many of the standard tax forms available free of charge and can produce copies of other tax forms for 10¢ per page.

[AN AFTERNOON OF ROMANCE](#) Page 4

Join the Friends of the Bedford Public Library for *An Afternoon of Romance* at Barnes & Noble of North Richland Hills Sat. Feb. 2 from 1-4 p.m.

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FEATURES

PUBLIC HEARING AT TOMORROW'S CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING

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The Charter Review Commission will meet in regular session tomorrow, Jan. 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the library. The meeting, which is open to the public, will include a public hearing to receive input from Bedford residents regarding recommendations for changes in the City Charter as well as discussion, recommendations and actions regarding changes to Articles of the City Charter.

Following a complete review of the Charter, the Committee's proposed changes will be submitted to the residents as ballot items in the May election.

TOMORROW'S CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPICS AT A GLANCE

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Work Session 6:45 p.m. (Open to Public)

Executive Session before 7:00 p.m., if time permits (CLOSED to Public)

- ◆ Consultation with City Attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation for Central Well and Millican Well Service
- ◆ Deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property

Regular Session 7 p.m. (Open to Public)

- ◆ Person to be heard: Bedford Resident Bob Cochrane, regarding more than 2½ minutes of comments on drilling in Bedford
- ◆ Resolution to be considered: Authorizing the purchase of a Digital Camera Meeting Acquisition System for the Council Chambers from Rushworks (\$26,060)
- ◆ Presentation of the results of the employee climate survey that was given to employees in Sept. and Oct. 2007
- ◆ Follow-up on issues raised at previous Council Meetings under Persons to Be Heard: Waiver of street escrow fees on Woodpark Lane as requested by Paul Moss at the Dec. 18, 2007 Council Meeting
- ◆ Council member reports on City business
- ◆ City Manager's report
- ◆ Open Forum
Note: The public is invited to address the Council on any topic at this time. However, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council cannot discuss issues raised or make any decisions at this time. Issues raised may be referred to City staff for research and possible future action.

TOWN HALL MEETING REGARDING GAS DRILLING

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Bedford residents are invited to participate in a Town Hall Meeting at the Boys Ranch Activity Center. At the meeting, scheduled for Wednesday Jan. 9 at 7 p.m., individuals may address the Council with questions or comments regarding gas drilling within the City. The following documents are available at the web addresses indicated:

- ◆ The current proposed ordinance for the City of Bedford:
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/News/news_pdf/bedfordgas_fifthdraft.pdf
- ◆ [Maps of vacant properties](#) in Bedford with four acres or more:
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/News/news_pdf/gasdrilling/gas_well_sites.pdf
- ◆ [A comparison chart](#) of other City Gas Well Drilling Ordinances:
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/News/news_pdf/comparisons.pdf
- ◆ Additional information:
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/News/gasdrilling_resources.htm

WHAT IS IN THE GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE?

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As the Town Hall meeting regarding the proposed gas drilling ordinance approaches, it seems appropriate to review several important points.

Paragraph 6.02 C. 26. on page 13 states that the permit application shall include a

"Map showing the location and route of any pipeline within the boundaries of the City of Bedford that will be used by the Operator during the gas drilling and production process as well as the transportation of the gas."

This requirement is extremely valuable to the residents of Bedford. According to the information we have, without this requirement the energy companies are free to use eminent domain to run their pipelines anywhere they like. For this reason, it is far better to require them to disclose their plans in advance. The energy companies have expressed their opposition to this requirement on the grounds that this would tip their hands to those who own the property they would need acquire for the pipelines.

On page 38, the current draft establishes the setback from a residential structure at 500 feet. There are some on the Council who have expressed a desire to lower this number to as low as 300 feet. If the majority of those present at the Town Hall meeting express a desire to lower this number, that may happen.

However you feel about these issues, please look over the ordinance at the link above, attend the Town Hall meeting and express your preference.

GUIDELINES FOR DRILLING ORDINANCE TOWN HALL MEETING

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The Council discussed Guidelines and Ground rules for the upcoming Town Hall meeting on Jan. 9, 2008.

Following a thorough discussion the Council agreed on the following:

- ◆ Each speaker will be granted only one two and a half minute speech.
- ◆ A timekeeper will hold up a yellow card to indicate 30 seconds remaining.
- ◆ Can submit written questions at the meeting or through the web site in advance and as follow-up to the meeting.
- ◆ A Frequently Asked Questions document will be developed.
- ◆ The meeting will open at 7:00 p.m. and will end at 9:30 p.m. That is, there will be a firm cut-off.
- ◆ There will be a panel of "experts" at this meeting that will make brief presentations.
- ◆ A legal representative will be present.
- ◆ Maps will be available on the web site and on boards at the meeting.

THURSDAY'S P&Z MEETING

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The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet Thursday Jan. 10 at City Hall, with a 6 p.m. work session in the Conference Room so that Commissioners and a 7 p.m. regular session in the Council Chambers. Both meetings are open to the public.

The work session will consist of an Economic Development Update and a review of the item on the regular session agenda.

Final plat case F-040, request of Randy Bunger for Central Baptist Church from Tract 6C, Abstract 1080, James Matson Survey to Lot 1, Block 1, Central Baptist Church Addition, is the only topic to be addressed at the regular session. The property is located, generally, East of Central Drive and North of Pipeline Road.

INCOME TAX FORMS

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The Bedford Public Library has many of the standard tax forms available free of charge and can produce copies of other tax forms for 10¢ per page. Although library staff cannot offer tax advice, many IRS publications are available at the library. Some must be used only at the library, and others may be borrowed by Bedford library card holders.

AN AFTERNOON OF ROMANCE

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Join the Friends of the Bedford Public Library for *An Afternoon of Romance* at Barnes & Noble of North Richland Hills Sat. Feb. 2 from 1-4 p.m. You'll have the opportunity to meet and get autographs from successful romance authors Candace Havens (*Like A Charm*), Cindy Dees (*The Medusa Seduction*), Judy Christenberry (*A Randall Hero*) and Karen Kelley (*Cosmic Sex*). The event will include a Romance Author Panel Discussion, a reception, book signing and drawings for romantic prizes. If you will pick up a special voucher at the library, or download it from www.bedfordlibrary.org, and then present it before you make a purchase at Barnes and

Noble/NRH that day, 10% of the net sale will be donated to the Friends of the Bedford Public Library. (Note: Some restrictions apply; see voucher for details.) That bookstore is located at 8525 Airport Freeway in North Richland Hills.

For more information about the event, contact either BPL Community Services Supervisor Jeanne Green at 817/952-2370 or jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us or Barnes and Noble/NRH at 817/281-7042.