

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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Monday

January 14, 2008

FEATURES

TOWN HALL MEETING REGARDING THE GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE

This event was extremely well done by the City staff. They had set up 300 chairs in the BRAC and arranged for six speakers to make presentations.

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY FOR SPEAKING AT COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

Anyone wishing to speak as a "Person to Be Heard" at next week's City Council Meeting must submit a written request no later than noon Wednesday.

TOMORROW'S 4B STREET IMPROVEMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP. MEETING

Bedford's Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation will meet at the library at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 15 ...

PUBLIC HEARING TOMORROW – CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission will meet at the library at 7 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 15. The meeting will include a public hearing to receive input from Bedford residents ...

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING

The Library Advisory Board will meet at the library at 7 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 16 to welcome the new member, elect officers and appoint committees.

LIBRARY CATALOG UPDATE TOMORROW EVENING

Because Bedford Public Library will be upgrading its software tomorrow evening, Jan. 15, the library's online catalog will be unavailable from approximately 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING RE: CUMMINGS WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN

According to the City website, there will be a public meeting at the Old Bedford School at 6 p.m.

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FEATURES

TOWN HALL MEETING REGARDING THE GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE

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This event was extremely well done by the City staff. They had set up 300 chairs in the BRAC and arranged for six speakers to make presentations. There were an energy company representative, a gas inspector from the City of Fort Worth, a representative of a pipeline company, a landman who works with landowners to obtain mineral leases, an attorney who helps neighborhood associations obtain the best leases, and a representative from the Tarrant Appraisal District.

Throughout the meeting there were people standing along all of the walls. City staff estimates that there were over 500 people in the audience.

Each member of the panel made a five minute presentation. Following the presentations above, there were 54 speakers from the audience. Of those, there were approximately five who spoke in favor of drilling and the ordinance. The remainder of the speakers spoke against the ordinance or spoke in favor of the highest possible setbacks from residential property.

Given the large disparity between the "pro" and "con" speakers, it would be natural to wonder how those that did not speak felt. The Bedford Citizen observed that whenever a speaker spoke against passing the ordinance or in favor of larger setback numbers, there was widespread applause.

However, when those speakers who favored drilling finished, the applause was largely confined to the left rear quarter of the audience.

Near the end of the meeting, the point was made that, if the City does not permit drilling in Bedford, then the City can be sued for denying mineral owners access to their mineral rights. Therefore, the present ordinance, which prohibits drilling in Bedford, must be changed. The question now is, how must it be changed?

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY FOR SPEAKING AT COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

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Anyone wishing to speak as a "Person to Be Heard" at next week's City Council Meeting must submit a written request no later than noon Wednesday. The request must include the speaker's name, address and phone number as well as the topic of discussion. It may be emailed to the City Secretary at: sjennings@ci.bedford.tx.us

or mailed to:

Bedford City Hall
ATTN: City Secretary Shanae Jennings
2000 Forest Ridge Drive
Bedford, TX 76021.

TOMORROW'S 4B STREET IMPROVEMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP. MEETING

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Bedford's Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation will meet at the library at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 15, to consider and act upon appointment of

officers, to receive its financial status report and to receive a staff report and consider approval of a proposed FY07-08 Budget adjustment. The meeting is open to the public.

PUBLIC HEARING TOMORROW – CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

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The Charter Review Commission will meet at the library at 7 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 15. The meeting 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. The meeting is open to the public.

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.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING

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The Library Advisory Board will meet at the library at 7 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 16 to welcome the new member, elect officers and appoint committees. The group also will hear an update on Library 2.0 and BPL Services and on Architectural Services. The meeting is open to the public.

LIBRARY CATALOG UPDATE TOMORROW EVENING

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Because Bedford Public Library will be upgrading its software tomorrow evening, Jan. 15, the library's online catalog will be unavailable from approximately 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. In addition to enabling further customization of the library's catalog, the upgrade will add some new features.

PUBLIC MEETING RE: CUMMINGS WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN

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According to the City website, there will be a public meeting at the Old Bedford School at 6 p.m. Thursday Jan. 24 for discussion of the impact of the construction of the 30" water transmission main along Cummings Drive from Central Drive west to the Simpson Elevated Storage Tank. During the meeting, Public Works personnel will answer questions and address residents' concerns regarding the process.

The contractor anticipates work on the water main to begin immediately. The existing 16" water line has experienced many breaks over the years, and the flow capacity has been inadequate for the demands of the residents in the area. The new 30" water transmission line will increase flow capacity in the northwestern area of the City, but the effect on the water pressure in that area will have to be determined. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 817/952-2200.