

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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Monday

August 13, 2007

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This is a brief summary of the items that will be discussed at tomorrow night's City Council meeting.

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The *Cambridge Dictionary Online* defines liaison as, "someone who helps groups to communicate effectively with each other."

Some of the current and past Library Advisory Board members wonder if Councilman Orean, the current City Council Liaison to the Board, understands his duty as liaison.

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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FREE CLASS AT THE OLD BEDFORD SCHOOL

The Bedford Parks and Recreation Department and sponsor Scrapbook Warehouse have teamed up to offer a free scrapbooking class at the Old Bedford School on two Thursday evenings. The classes will be offered from 6-9 p.m. Aug. 16 and Sep. 20. Pre-registration is required

The hands-on class will explain such scrapbooking basics as where to start and which tools, supplies and techniques will save you time and money. Participants will produce a completed scrapbook page and be prepared to develop additional pages independently.

Participants should bring simple basic supplies, such as adhesive, cutting tools and pens. Pre-registration by phone (817/952-2323) or in person at the Boys Ranch Activity Center.

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

FEATURES

TOMORROW'S CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPICS AT A GLANCE

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Work Session 6:30 p.m. (Open to the public)

- ◆ Evaluation process for the library proposals (*This item requested by Mayor Story*)

Regular Session 7 p.m. (Open to the public)

- ◆ Tom Sullivan: Criminal Alien Program, or CAP, that has been initiated by the City of Irving
- ◆ Raymond Peters: Quality reduction if the Library is outsourced
- ◆ Diane Versocki: Ongoing outsourcing saga - observations, statistics and additional petition signatures
- ◆ Joy Johnson: Land damage resulting from oil, gas and mineral drilling activities and economic ripple effects
- ◆ Dan Gilbert: Excessive car and motorcycle noise on Shady Lane and Forest Ridge
- ◆ Ralph Good: 2007/2008 Budget
- ◆ **PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposed ordinance to address unattended commercial kiosks
- ◆ Proposed tax rate and related public hearings dates

- ◆ Set public hearing on proposed FY 2007/2008 budget as Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Receive the 2007 Ad Valorem Tax Roll from the Tarrant Appraisal District
- ◆ Receive the Certified anticipated collection rate from the Tarrant County Tax Assessor Collector for the City of Bedford
- ◆ Certificates of obligation and related resolution
- ◆ Possible amendment of "Municipal Settings Designation" to City Code
- ◆ Possible ordinance reauthorizing the establishment of Boards and Commissions, including the Beautification Commission, Community Affairs Commission, Library Advisory Board, and Parks and Recreation Board
- ◆ Possible resolutions:
 - Appointing board and commission members to the Beautification Commission, Community Affairs Commission, Library Advisory Board, and Parks and Recreation Board
 - Supporting a Municipal Setting Designation application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for property on Calloway Cemetery Rd. and on S. Hwy. 157, all in Fort Worth
 - Accepting bids and authorizing a contract with Gin-Spen, Inc., for

the Cummings Dr. Water
Transmission Main
Improvements

- Authorizing contractual agreements for with Cigna and with MHNNet for employee benefits, an agreement between the City of Bedford and Motorola, Inc. and also into agreements between the City of Bedford and, individually, with Nextel Partners Operating Corp., with Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing (purchase of two Type I Modular replacement ambulances) and with Castro Roofing of Texas L.P. (roof repairs to the Service Center)
- ◆ Possible action regarding remarks made at the July 24 City Council meeting concerning Library Advisory Board and Council liaison reappointment (*This item requested by Councilman Cason*)

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.

A FRESH OPPORTUNITY

By Stu Updike

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The *Cambridge Dictionary Online* defines liaison as, "someone who helps groups to communicate effectively with each other."

Some of the current and past Library Advisory Board members wonder if Councilman Orean, the current City Council Liaison to the Board, understands his duty as liaison.

It began following a Jan. 8, 2007 *Dallas Morning News* article which quoted Councilman Orean as saying that the operations at the Bedford Public Library are "grossly inefficient."

Since then, at least one letter and two email messages have been sent to Mayor Story requesting a different liaison. In one of those communications, the writer cited a specific example of what she believed was inappropriate behavior for a liaison:

"I also feel he comes to our library board meetings and uses some of our discussions in an unfavorable way, such as when he reports to the council only one side of a position. Example is when Maria gave 5 unfavorable reports and studies on outsourcing and 1 favorable one in the beginning of the study, and he selected only the favorable one to present to the council."

The Liaison position has not been discussed at any Board meeting during Councilman Orean's current term, and it is clear that some Board members are supportive of the Councilman.

During the July 24 City Council Meeting, Mayor Story opened the item calling for discussion of liaisons to boards, commissions and committees with the comment that, "Some cities don't have council liaisons to boards and commissions, and the reason they don't is their philosophy is, 'We want them to be an independent committee/board to research conclusions, come to us, give us what they think is the right way to go.' " He said the other cities don't want the boards or commissions to be "unduly influenced" or to be sitting there trying to figure out what the City Council wants them to do.

When the mayor recommended that the Council develop a Liaisons' Policy during the coming month for inclusion in the *Council Member Procedures and Rules*, the Council agreed by consensus.

Below is a transcript of some of the discussion that followed.

Councilman Turner: "As best I understand, the purpose of the Council Liaison to any board and commission is mutually beneficial. It should be beneficial to the Council. It should be beneficial to the board and commission. Why should we force an issue on the board who obviously is requesting a change? This defeats the main purpose for the liaison. If they don't feel they can work with a specific person, why should we force them to do that?"

Councilman Orea: "Dr. Turner, who do these boards and commissions work for?"

Councilman Turner: "The Council."

Orea: "So, if the Library Board has a problem with their Council Liaison, is it

appropriate to remove the Council Liaison, or perhaps we ought to remove the Library Board."

Turner: "One or the other."

On Aug. 9, Mayor Story sent a letter to the members of the Beautification Commission, the Community Affairs Commission, the Library Advisory Board, and the Parks and Recreation Board indicating that, due to an oversight, those groups should have been given a "sunset review" prior to Jan. 1, 2007 as required by a Dec. 14, 2004 amendment to the City Charter. As a result, the Council will conduct that review and, for groups that are reauthorized, appoint members to those boards and commissions during tomorrow night's Council meeting.

This will provide a fresh opportunity to consider who will be the Liaison to the Library Advisory Board. As Mayor Story pointed out, some other municipalities have recognized that the advisory boards are not intended to tell the Council what it wants to hear. They are intended to present the Council with a different perspective. The Council is then expected to give that advice whatever weight it deems appropriate when considered along with the Council's other concerns.

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:

- ◆ *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.