

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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Thursday

October 11, 2007

CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This issue is devoted to an overview of the highlights of last Tuesday's City Council meeting. A more in-depth article about each item marked ** will appear in a future issue of The Bedford Citizen.

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OCT. 9 CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Councilman Oreaan was not present at this meeting.

GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE FOR BEDFORD **

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Communications/Special Projects Manager Mirenda McQuagge-Walden, addressed the Council regarding the 3rd draft of a gas drilling ordinance for Bedford. The Council spent extensive time reviewing the draft, asking questions, expressing concerns and making suggestions. City staff members and City Attorney Stan Lowry provided responses whenever any of them could supply the information.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

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City Manager Queen and City Secretary Jennings informed the Council that Staff has received 10 applications from individuals wishing to serve on the Committee and need 15 committee members. Individuals may be appointed without submitting an application. The Council has the discretion of whether they would like to appoint someone of their choosing or select from candidates who submitted applications. Also, the Council isn't required to interview candidates who have applied. Each Council member will turn in three names of possible committee

members for the group to consider so that the Council can vote to approve Committee members at the Oct. 23 Council meeting.

MEET THE BLIND MONTH IN BEDFORD

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Mayor Story proclaimed October 2007 as National Federation of the *Blind Meet the Blind Month* in Bedford and urged all citizens of Bedford and surrounding areas to accept this invitation to attend the Living with Low Vision Fair at Bedford Public Library this coming Saturday, Oct. 13 from 2-4 p.m. Patt Dreyer, advocate for low vision and the blind, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the National Federation of the Blind. Ms. Dreyer mentioned that there is a tax incentive for businesses that hire people whose vision needs require some kind of adaptive technology. She said that businesses may contact Library Manager Maria Redburn to find out how to contact her for more information on that program.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AWARD

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Council approved a resolution authorizing the Beautification Commission to recognize the Fort Worth Community Credit Union "for maintaining, improving and/or keeping their property visually attractive to the community." The City and the Commission will present a *Certificate of Recognition for Overall Appearance* at the business on a

to-be-determined Saturday morning in November. Mayor Story pointed out that the site is the headquarters of the Fort Worth Community Credit Union.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

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Mary Nixon, the only person scheduled to be heard, withdrew her request due to a conflict.

PUBLIC HEARING: CATS UNLIMITED

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No one spoke during the public hearing segment of the first reading of a proposed ordinance (Zoning Case Z-166, request of Darlene Thomas for Cats Unlimited) to rezone a portion of Lot A, Block J, #C, Shady Oaks East Addition from Heavy Commercial to Heavy Commercial/Specific Use Permit/Kennel. The property is generally located east of Brown Trail and south of Harwood Road. The business has been active at that location for approximately nine years and has primarily sold pet supplies exclusively for cats. Ms. Thomas would like to add cat grooming and boarding to the services she offers. She anticipates boarding as many as 15 cats during peak times and possibly only two or three during off-peak times. Except under special circumstances such as when an owner is out of the country or is ill, cats are not expected to stay longer than two weeks at a time. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of this item by a vote of 6-0-0 at their Sept. 13,

2007 meeting. The council approved the first reading of this ordinance unanimously.

ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT

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- ◆ Second readings
 - Ordinance No. 07-2867 amending the schedule of sewer rates by amendment of Section 1., Ordinance No. 04-2739; providing a repealing clause, providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.
 - Ordinance No. 07-2868 amending the schedule of water rates by amendment of Section 1., Ordinance No. 2511; providing a repealing clause, providing a severability clause; and declaring an effective date.
- ◆ Resolutions
 - The Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with Espey Consultants, Inc., for a comprehensive wastewater collection system evaluation (\$87,580), to extend the existing software maintenance contract with New World Systems (\$76,386) and to renew the contract with Dr. Roy Yamada, M.D., Fort Worth, to provide medical control services for the City's emergency medical operations under the same terms

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and conditions of the agreement enacted in 2004 (\$15,000).

- The Council also authorized the purchase of two 2008 replacement police staff vehicles through the Houston-Galveston Area Council program (\$53,302 total), one 2008 replacement patrol supervisor vehicle through the Holiday Chevrolet state contract (\$28,500) and seven 2008 replacement front line police vehicles through the Tarrant County Joint Venture Cooperative Purchasing Program (\$147,136 total). Chief Flory said that the patrol supervisor vehicle is a pursuit-certified Chevy SUV with a four-year bumper-to-bumper warrantee and that, if the vehicle proves worthwhile, the department may consider gradually replacing more of its fleet with such vehicles.
- The Council suspended the October 25, 2007 effective date of Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division requested rate change to permit the City time to study the request and establish reasonable rates; approving cooperation with the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) and other cities in the Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division service area to hire legal counsel and consulting services

and to negotiate with the company and direct any necessary litigation and appeals; requiring reimbursement of cities' rate case expenses; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the Company and legal counsel.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS ON CITY BUSINESS

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- ◆ Councilman Savage attended the HEB State of the Cities presentation Sept. 27 and was proud of the light in which City Manager Queen presented our city. He congratulated her on a job well done. He also attended a Barnett Shale presentation hosted by the HEB Chamber of Commerce which focused on what to look out for when signing leases, in general, both good and bad. He felt that the most important things discussed were where compressors would be located and where the pipelines will go. The Fire Department recently presented a total of 21 badges to firefighters. Mr. Savage congratulated each of the recipients and said that he appreciates their contributions to our city.

- ◆ Councilman Cason attended Artoberfest and congratulated the Staff on a job very well done.
- ◆ Councilman Turner also enjoyed Artoberfest. He thought the Staff did a fantastic job running the event. He recently spoke before a group of AMBUCS™, a group that works to create mobility and independence for people with disabilities, and was impressed with the energy of the group. He's attending the Police Academy on Thursday nights and, therefore, hasn't been able to attend meetings of the Parks and Recreation Board for which he serves as Council Liaison.
- ◆ Mayor Story agreed that City Manager Queen did a great job in her State of the Cities presentation. He attended the Santa USA breakfast and presented a plaque of appreciation to former Hurst Mayor Bill Souder for his years of service. He attended the Tarrant County Mayor's Council recently and mentioned that the entire Council is invited to attend their annual banquet Dec. 3. He attended a United Way luncheon at which the HEB Transit, a newly established transportation service, was spotlighted for its success. The service, which is provided to individuals that do not qualify for existing programs such as NETS or WHEELS and have limited transportation options, transports

people to and from work and work-related activities. He and the mayors of Hurst and Euless spoke recently to the HEB Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class about economic development. He also commended the Staff's work on Artoberfest.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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City Manager Queen reminded everyone of the Oct. 20 Open House at the Central Fire Station on Bedford Road and the opportunity they'll have to tour the remodeled facility at that time.

OPEN FORUM

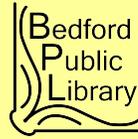
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- ◆ Joyce Johnson spoke about the proposed gas drilling ordinance, particularly regarding the distances of wells beneath places where people lived and named some Texas cities which, according to her research, have experienced sink-hole problems during the past 25-30 years.
- ◆ Kim Probasco, a Bedford resident for nearly 10 years, said that she thinks the Council does a great job overall and understands that situations can sometimes be difficult but that she was concerned about the comments Councilman Whistler made recently in an email to a resident regarding animal control. She felt that his apology was not

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enough and asked that he resign his position.

- ◆ Referring to the Work Session discussion of the gas drilling ordinance, Ralph Good expressed concern that there were far too many questions that Council asked which Staff could not answer with confidence. He suggested that the Council consider bringing in a mutual professional to answer their questions in order to put the Council on better ground, once they make their decisions, to have someone whose views will support whatever information they decide to put into the ordinance. "This is much too large an issue to make a decision without, I think, expert opinion." he said.



**FREE GARDENING
WITH TEXAS
WILDFLOWERS
PROGRAM**

Premier Gardener Ralph Chaney will discuss his adventures with Texas wildflowers in a program at the library Saturday, Oct. 13 from 10:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Jeanne Green at 817/952-2342 or jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us.