

February 19, 2014

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Old Town Burleson could get a whole new look in 2014.

Justin Bond, the City's economic development manager, talked about the growth and challenges, and options to tackle those challenges, during a council work session meeting Feb. 17. No action was taken by council.

"Old Town is one of the greatest assets that we have in the city," Economic Development Manager Justin Bond said. "It's our goal to prioritize a list of the many proposed projects and get a number of them accomplished in 2014."

The challenges include the upkeep of common space, promotion of Old Town District events and a convenient flow of parking. Improvement projects that were highlighted in the focus area - bound by Renfro, Main, Eldred and Warren streets - include a Main Street mobility upgrade, alley connections, light poles/banners, street signs, parking signs, landscaping and trash receptacles. The price tag for that list is an estimated \$415,000 and would be paid for using funds already designated for tourism and/or the Old Town district.

- Main Street mobility upgrade - \$125,000 – to widen the sidewalk an additional seven feet, restripe Main Street to improve flow of traffic, and do a two-inch asphalt overlay
- Alley improvements - \$150,000 – From city hall to Ellison Street to improve sidewalks and curb ramps, paving, mid-block crossings, lighting and street furniture, landscaping and alley gateway features
- Light poles/banners - \$26,160 – for five sets of 25 banners, parking banners, brackets, painting of all 62 poles, and installation (initial, Hot Sounds of Summer, Founders Day, Boo Bash, and Christmas)
- Street signs - \$19,680 – for decorative street signs, district identifiers, logo sleeves and new street name signs
- Parking signs - \$6,000 – for parking sign poles and parking signs
- Landscaping - \$65,000 – for paving, irrigation, landscaping and planters along Ellison Street.
- Trash receptacles - \$7,220 – for 10 trash cans
- Ongoing maintenance - \$16,193 annually – for banner installation, street/sidewalk sweeping, trash pickup and landscape maintenance

The 2014 improvements could be funded via hotel/motel funds, the mobility bond approved as part of the November 2013 bond election and the Old Town TIF (Tax Increment Financing). The Old Town Improvement project will come back to council in March to finalize the specific contribution levels from those funding options.

“Old Town shows our commitment as a community to our history, tradition and quality of life,” Bond said. “Private and public investments over the last 20 years have taken it to where it is today, and we want to continue that trend of improvement.”

Bond told council that the goal is to have the signs up in time for the City’s annual Hot Sounds of Summer Concert series (starts Friday, May 30, 2014 and runs through Friday, June 27, 2014). Founders Day, which is always the second Saturday in October (Oct. 11, 2014), is the target date to complete the remaining Old Town improvements. To hear the Feb. 17 work session discussion go to the city council work session video on the City website at <http://bit.ly/1fa76vq>.