

## RESOLUTION NO. 2022-23-R

### A RESOLUTION ENDORSING, SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE IMAGINE BELTON PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS.

**WHEREAS**, the Belton Economic Development Corporation initiated the planning process that resulted in development of the IMAGINE BELTON PLAN; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bell County Commissioners Court recognizes the importance of Belton as the Bell County seat, and its role as a property owner and policy maker for Bell County matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Belton City Council recognizes the need for a Plan to provide direction, goals, standards, recommendations and strategies for implementation in an effort to provide for and continually improve the City of Belton; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary objective of the Imagine Belton Plan is to provide guidance in decision making related to future growth and development in a critically important area in Central Belton; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed recommendations establish a framework to ensure that current and future issues are assessed, and decisions concerning future development are made, grounded on Plan objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Imagine Belton Plan includes a vision, a framework, and opportunities for partnerships for implementation of the community's goals; and

**WHEREAS**, various public meetings were conducted by the BEDC, City Council and Bell County Commissioners Court during 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, each public body, having taken into consideration the results of the Imagine Belton Plan, determines that the Plan is reasonable and achievable.

#### **ROLES:**

(1) Possible collaborative roles for each of the three (3) entities – BEDC, Bell County and Belton – include:

- Work to enhance public-private partnerships among these entities, as well as with UMHB, BISD, CTCOG, KTMPO, TxDOT and others.
- Coordinate Capital Improvement Plan Projects undertaken by each entity, recognizing relationship to one another's facilities.
- Exercise stewardship and care given public land inventory held by each entity and in land use decisions.
- Consider land banking to maximize opportunities for development or redevelopment of properties within the Plan boundary.
- Solicit investments that reinforce historical and cultural aspects of Belton's quality of life.

(2) Possible roles for the Belton Economic Development Corporation in Imagine Belton Plan implementation:

- Consider land acquisition, assembly, and property development as needed.
- Support City of Belton infrastructure extension and upgrade projects to induce commercial development.
- Facilitate economic development activities emphasizing investment and job creation.
- Continue to enhance training opportunities in collaboration with BISD and UMHB.
- Market Belton's quality of place, partnering with the City of Belton and Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

(3) Possible roles for Bell County Commissioners Court in Imagine Belton Plan implementation:

- Explore opportunities for public-to-private property conversion, i.e., returning publicly held properties to the property tax rolls where feasible.
- Coordinate with the City on the future of major institutional facilities located in Belton's Plan boundary – i.e., Bell County offices, Downtown Jail, Sheriff's office, parking facilities, among others.
- Recognize the historical context of buildings, such as the Bell County Courthouse, Bell County Museum and the former Carnegie Library, and preserve them for future generations.

(4) Possible roles for the Belton City Council in Imagine Belton Plan implementation:

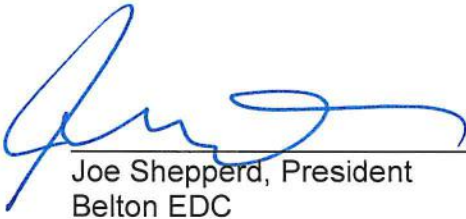
- Update the City's Strategic Plan for FY2023-2027 to include an Economic Development Goal that emphasizes implementation of the Imagine Belton Plan.
- Evaluate zoning, platting, design standards and building codes to ensure predictability and streamlining of the planning and permitting process.
- Explore an "Imagine Belton" Overlay Zoning District to signal support for plan implementation.
- Consider expansion of financial incentives for development/redevelopment:
  - Create an "Imagine Belton Partnership Fund" for special project funding, with support from City, BEDC, Bell County, TIRZ, others.
  - Expand boundary for Façade Improvement Grants to Plan boundary.
  - Offer private property assistance for flood plain studies, ADA improvements, fire protection, asbestos abatement.
  - Emphasize funding for public improvements such as sidewalks, benches, trails, streetscapes, murals, water, wastewater, and streets, wayfinding signage.
  - Evaluate permit fee waivers/reductions; property tax abatement; sales tax rebates.
- Work with TxDOT and KTMPO on transportation needs within the Plan boundary, balancing the need to accommodate all modes – vehicles, bikes, pedestrians – with maintaining the vitality and attractiveness of the area for commerce and living.


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BELTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, THE BELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS,** that the Imagine Belton Plan for the City of Belton, Texas, is hereby officially adopted, as shown on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein for all intents and purposes.

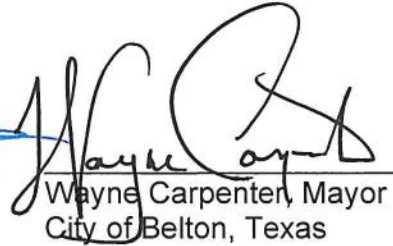
**PRESENTED AND PASSED** on this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022, by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the Belton Economic Development Corporation.

**PRESENTED AND PASSED** on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022, by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the Bell County Commissioners Court.

**PRESENTED AND PASSED** on this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022, by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Belton, Texas.

  
Joe Shepperd, President  
Belton EDC

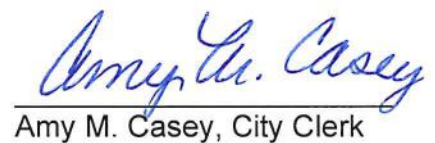
  
David Blackburn, Judge  
Bell County

  
Wayne Carpenter, Mayor  
City of Belton, Texas

ATTEST:

  
Cynthia Hernandez, Exec Dir

  
Shelley Coston, County Clerk

  
Amy M. Casey, City Clerk