



# Staff Report – City Council Agenda Item

## Agenda Item #8

Consider changing the name of Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive and delegating the matter to the Parks Board for naming recommendations.

### Originating Department

Administration – Sam A. Listi, City Manager

### Summary Information

Attachments for this agenda item include:

- A request to consider a name change for Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive by Luke and Kayla Potts;
- A map of the location. Approximately 2.5 acres of the nearly 16 acres that comprises Confederate Park, and the road that bisects it, was conveyed from J.D. and Allie Crawford in 1892 to the Ex Confederate Association of Bell County and the City of Belton, for the Association's Reunions and for use as a City park. The remaining nearly 13.5 acres was acquired over time. The 16-acre site has been used as a City park for decades; and
- Minutes from the Council Work Session for this item from the July 14, 2020 Council meeting, which included comments on this topic in Public Comments.

At that meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>, Council heard Public Comments from 20 persons, and then provided the following input regarding a decision-making process, since formal action was not possible in a Council Work Session at that time.

- The name of Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive will be changed.
- The Parks Board is asked to develop recommendations for Council consideration, with broad-based and diverse participation from Belton citizens.
- The recommended names will emphasize inclusion, and will avoid the name of a person.
- The park and street may have one or two different names.
- The City's Street/Facility Naming Policy should be used as a process guide.

Anticipating this Council action item on July 28<sup>th</sup>, Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Bates scheduled a Special Parks Board meeting. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, he discussed this matter with the Board, and outlined a process of next steps. The Parks Board willingly accepted the Council's request, and agreed to the following process parameters to develop recommendations:

- Each Parks Board Member will appoint two representatives who live in the city limits of Belton to provide input to the Parks Board.
- Appointees will be selected soon, with the immediate opportunity for input.
- Minority representatives are strongly encouraged.
- Other interested persons may provide input directly to the Parks Board, Committee Members, or Director of Parks and Recreation, Matt Bates.
- A public hearing on the names may be held prior to the Parks Board selecting up to 5 names to recommend to Council on the park and the road.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Amount: Nominal amount for Park/Street signage

Budgeted: ☐ Yes ☒ No

### **Recommendation**

Request Parks Board develop recommendations to rename Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive.

### **Attachments**

Request letter from Luke and Kayla Potts

Vicinity Map of Location of Request

Minutes from 07/14/20 City Council Meeting (Available in Agenda Item #3)

# EXHIBIT 1

06.10.2020

## Memo

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**To**  
City of Belton

**From**  
Luke and Kayla Potts

**CC**  
City of Belton City  
Council and Parks  
Department

**Re**  
Confederate Park  
Renaming

**To whom it may concern:**

We would like to recommend a new name for what is currently Confederate Park and Confederate Park Dr. in Belton, TX. The current names have become unwelcoming and controversial to residents and tourist and do not represent the unity that is spread amongst our citizens. While our family goes back many generations, we recognize the history of our town, the lessons it has taught us, the need to never forget our history, and the changes in times. Belton has a history of loving their neighbors and being welcoming to all. We would like this to be present in the names of our beautiful parks that are here for everyone to enjoy. We would like to recommend a committee be formed by the Parks Department/Director to come up with a new name for this park that reflects the unity in Belton and to have the street name to correlate with the new park name. We ask that you please accept this application and consider our request. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

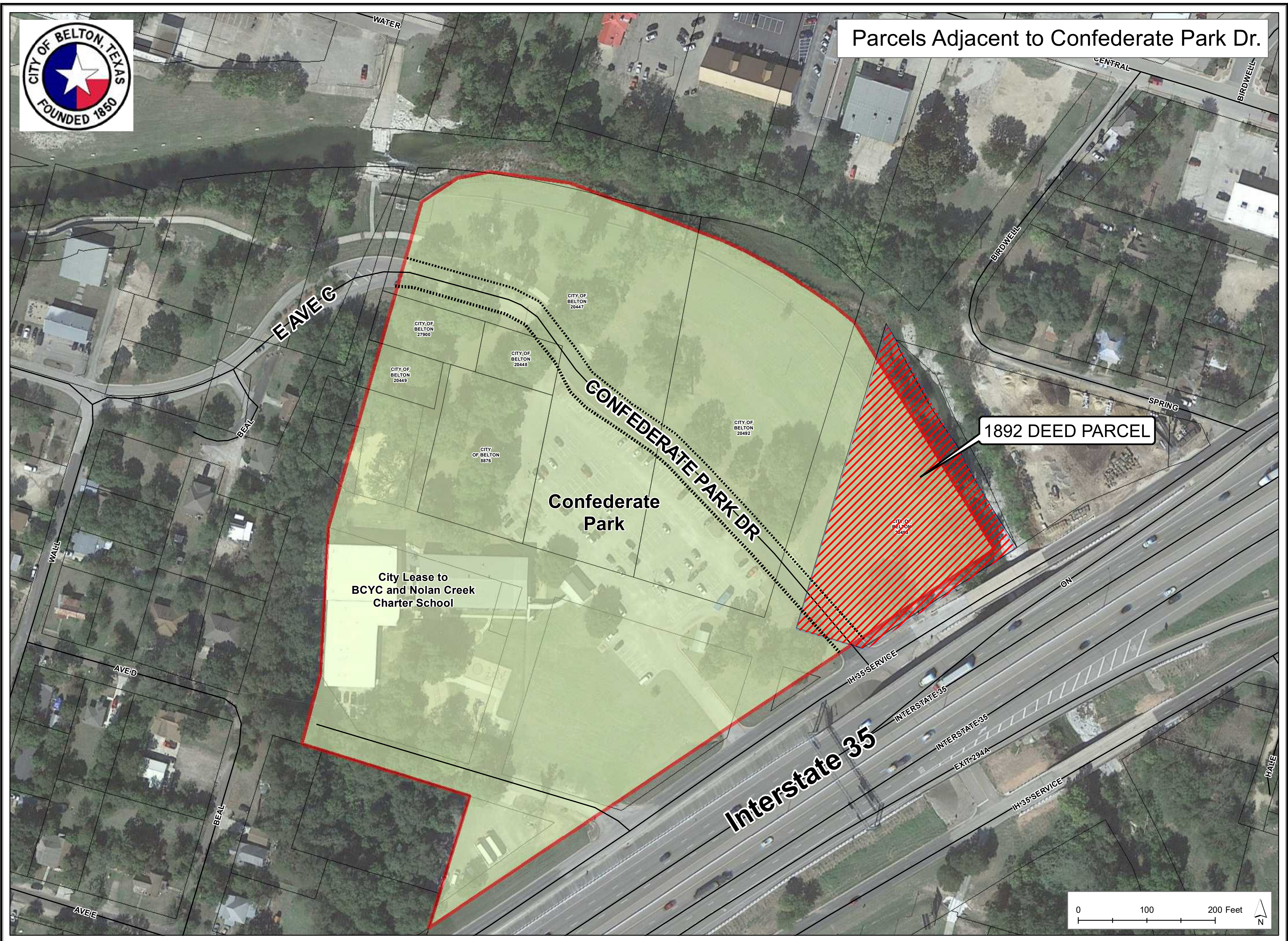
Sincerely,

Luke and Kayla Potts





# Parcels Adjacent to Confederate Park Dr.





**Belton City Council Meeting**  
**July 14, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.**

The Belton City Council met in an in-person/virtual meeting via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency that has been declared by Governor Greg Abbott, Bell County Judge David Blackburn and Belton Mayor Marion Grayson. Members present included Mayor Marion Grayson, Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Carpenter (Zoom) and Councilmembers David K. Leigh, John R. Holmes, Sr., Craig Pearson, Guy O'Banion and Dan Kirkley. Staff present included Sam Listi, John Messer, Amy Casey, Gene Ellis, Mike Rodgers, Cheryl Maxwell, Bruce Ebbert, Ryan Brown, Matt Bates and Chris Brown.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag was led by Councilmember Dan Kirkley and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag was led by Director of Planning Cheryl Maxwell. The Invocation was given by Councilmember David K. Leigh.

1. **Call to order.** Mayor Grayson called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

2. **Public Comments.** *(Audio 1:57)*

- **Jim Bounds**, 804 FM 2271 (Temple)
- **Steve Wooley**, 14291 Sutton Loop (rural Bell County)
- **Linda Wooley**, 14291 Sutton Loop (rural Bell County)
- **Jo Cabaniss Carroll**, 6920 Taylor's Valley Creek Drive (rural Bell County)
- **Mike Moore**, 15370 Cowan Road (rural Bell County)
- **Carleen Carroll**, 1860 Tahuaya Drive (rural Bell County)
- **Joe Truelove, Sr.**, 1011 N. Wheat Road (rural Bell County)
- **Joyce Jones**, 5089 Sparta Road (rural Bell County)
- **Gerald Fletcher**, 3311 HK Dodgen Loop (Temple)
- **Molly White**, 2572 Airville Road (rural Bell County)
- **Joe Trevino, Jr.**, 3502 Village Hill (Belton)
- **Kevin Koonce**, 353 Claremont Drive (rural Bell County)
- **Steven Sanders**, 1205 Cedar Creek Drive (Belton)
- **Charles Rodarte**, 605 Hastings Road (Belton)
- **Wysonda Smith**, 8619 Pleasant Trail (Temple)
- **Denise Siebert**, 114 Great West Loop (Morgan's Point)
- **Arthur Resa**, 620 Surghnor (Belton)
- **Jose Martinez**, 3201 Edgewood Lane (Temple)
- **Marvin Bell**, 3609 North Drive (rural Bell County)
- **Luke Potts**, 3101 Dunns Canyon Road (Belton)

**Consent Agenda** *(Audio 1:03:50)*

Items 3-5 under this section are considered to be routine by the City Council and may be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by the Council, any item may be

removed from the Consent Agenda prior to voting, at the request of any Councilmember, and it will be considered separately.

3. **Consider minutes of June 23, 2020, City Council Meeting.**
4. **Consider a resolution finding no objection to a petition from the Salado Volunteer Fire Department for the creation of Bell County Emergency Services District No. 1 which includes an area in Belton's ETJ.**
5. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the CTCOG Counties and the Cities of Temple, Killeen, Copperas Cove and Harker Heights to develop Transit Alternatives.**

Upon a motion for approval by Councilmember Leigh, and a second by Councilmember Pearson, the Consent Agenda, including the following captioned resolution, was unanimously approved upon a vote of 7-0.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-21-R**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, FINDING NO OBJECTION TO THE CREATION OF BELL COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1**

##### **Planning and Zoning**

6. **Hold a public hearing and consider a resolution for demolition of the structure at 603 South Penelope Street, also described as Belton Original, Block 038, part of Lots 2 and 4 (S 35' of E 90' of 2 and N 40' of E 90' of 4), Griffin/Mitchell Contract. The owner on the tax roll is Betty Ligon, c/o Kerry and Robert Griffin. (Audio 1:05:04)**

Public Hearing: no one spoke for or against the item.

Upon a motion for approval by Councilmember Holmes, and a second by Councilmember Pearson, Item #6, including the following captioned resolution, was unanimously approved upon a vote of 7-0.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-22-R**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, ORDERING DEMOLITION BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF A DILAPIDATED STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 603 S. PENELOPE STREET WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION, AND A LIEN FOR THE COSTS OF DEMOLITION BE PLACED AGAINST THE PROPERTY SHOULD THE CITY DEMOLISH THE STRUCTURE ON BEHALF OF THE PROPERTY OWNER.**

**Misellaneous**

7. **Hold a public hearing and discuss proposed Charter amendments.** (Audio 1:10:02)

Charter Review Committee Chair, Dave Covington, presented the proposed Charter Amendments as shown in Exhibit "A".

Public Hearing:

Charles Rodarte, 605 Hastings Road (Belton)  
Luke Potts, 3101 Dunns Canyon Road (Belton)  
Marvin Bell, 3609 North Drive (rural Bell County)  
Daniel Bucher, 3216 Twin Ridge (Belton)

No action was required of the Council on this item. A second presentation and public hearing is scheduled for July 28, 2020.

8. **Conduct a work session and discuss changing the name of Confederate Park and Confederate Park Drive.** (Audio 1:43:05)

No action was required of the Council on this item, but the Council requested an action item on the next Council meeting on July 28, 2020 to delegate this matter to the Parks Board for recommendation.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Marion Grayson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Amy M. Casey, City Clerk