

ACTION FORM BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING: February 11, 2014		DATE SUBMITTED: February 3, 2014	
DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Executive Services		SUBMITTED BY: Frank Clark	
MEETING TYPE:	CLASSIFICATION:	ORDINANCE:	STRATEGIC INITIATIVE:
<input type="checkbox"/> BCD	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING	<input type="checkbox"/> 1ST READING	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SAFETY
<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2ND READING	<input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUTORY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC DEVELOP.
<input type="checkbox"/> WORKSHOP	<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR		<input type="checkbox"/> INFRASTRUCTURE
			<input type="checkbox"/> QUALITY OF LIFE
AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION: Consider approving a resolution to authorize the Mayor to commit the amount of \$100,000 from the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund for Fiscal Year 2014 to be contributed for the proposed "Aggies Go to War" Exhibit featuring Aggies that fought in the Battle of Bastogne to support tourism, convention, and hotel industry in Bryan.			
SUMMARY STATEMENT: The "Aggies Go to War" exhibit is a joint project between the City of Bryan, the Belgian government, the Texas A&M System, the City of College Station, and the Research Valley Partnership. The exhibit will be designed and built in Belgium. The exhibit opening will be on December 31, 2014, in Bastogne, Belgium, marking the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.			
<p>The Siege of Bastogne, Belgium (Battle of the Bulge) was among the turning points in the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.</p> <p>To commemorate this anniversary, the new 5,000 square foot exhibit will feature seven (7) multimedia rooms that detail the American contribution in Bastogne through the stories of five (5) Aggies. The stories told in the exhibit will focus on the five (5) Aggies' lives before the war, during the war from the Normandy invasion through the Battle of the Bulge and Bastogne, and after the war through today's relationship between Texas A&M University and southern Belgium. One of the seven (7) multimedia exhibits will focus on the Bryan-College Station area and what this area has to offer in tourism, education, and business. An item of note is that Bastogne is home to one of the first international companies to locate in the biomedical corridor, Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>Total cost of the exhibit is \$1,500,000. The contributions for the exhibit cost are proposed to be comprised of the following: Belgium - \$750,000, Texas A&M System - \$375,000, City of Bryan - \$100,000, City of College Station - \$225,000 and the Research Valley Partnership - \$50,000. The exhibit will promote the Bryan-College Station area as a tourist destination and a friendly place to do business while on display in Bastogne, Belgium. Additionally, the exhibit will highlight Texas A&M's history of sacrifice and honor as well as telling the story of what is happening in the present day. The exhibit will be displayed at the Bastogne Belgium museum for a total of two (2) years and then sent to Bryan-College Station as a permanent home for the exhibit. The new location of the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau is an option for the exhibit's location; thus serving as a tourism destination.</p> <p>The City of College Station is scheduled to consider funding their portion of the exhibit on February 13, 2014.</p>			
STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION: If approved, the "Texas Aggies go to War" exhibit will be the first international location to promote tourism, convention, and the hotel industry in the Bryan-College Station area. Staff recommends authorizing the Mayor to make the contribution of \$100,000 for this exhibit.			

OPTIONS (In Suggested Order of Staff Preference):

1. Approve the proposed Resolution
2. Approve the proposed Resolution contingent upon the City of College Station funding their portion
3. Do not approve the Resolution or Amendment and provide direction to staff

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

FUNDING SOURCE: Hotel/Motel Tax Fund

APPROVALS: Hugh R. Walker, 02/03/2014

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL: CITY MANAGER Kean Register, 02-03-2014

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL: CITY ATTORNEY Janis K. Hampton, 02-03-2014

Revised 04/2013

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS, APPROVING A CONTRIBUTION OF HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE FOR THE AGGIES GO TO WAR EXHIBIT; PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATE AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

WHEREAS, the City of Bryan, Texas (“City”) is a home rule municipality which is duly incorporated and chartered under the constitution and laws of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City has been offered an opportunity contribute to the creation of an exhibit called “Aggies Go to War” which is in partnership with the Belgian government, Texas A&M University, the City of College Station, and the Research Valley Partnership, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determines that the exhibit will contribute to raising the profile of the Research Valley as a whole, and the City of Bryan in particular, by highlighting the contributions of Aggie Veterans to one of the most historic battles of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further determines that the benefits to be gained by the City in terms of exposure, community pride, and recognition of the historical contributions of our veterans justifies the contribution which is essential to the success of the project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS:

1.

The City Council authorizes the Mayor of the City of Bryan to execute a check for \$100,000 from Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue to be joined with contributions from the other partners in the project including the Belgian government, Texas A&M System, the City of College Station, and the Research Valley Partnership.

2.

The City Council directs City staff to coordinate with the other partners in the project to facilitate the completion of this project for the benefit of the community.

3.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption, but shall in no way effect the validity of prior acts or agreements of the City.

4.

This document was passed and approved at a public meeting in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

APPROVED AND AOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bryan, Texas, on this ____ day of _____, 2014.

ATTEST

CITY OF BRYAN

Mary Lynne Stratta, City Secretary

Jason P. Bienski, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Janis K. Hampton, City Attorney