

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, August 20, 2020, 7:00 PM, at River Ridge Golf Pavilion, 3133 Brazos Oak Ln, Sealy, Texas.

- 1-2. **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation** - Mayor Albert Sykes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. Joe McSloy offered the invocation.
3. **Roll Call and Certification of a Quorum** Council members present were:  
Albert Sykes, Mayor  
Joe McSloy, Mayor Pro Tem  
Neil Howard, Alderman  
Sharon Smith, Alderwoman  
Steve Dorenbach, Alderman  
David Schultz, Alderman  
  
Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum.  
Also present at the meeting were the City Secretary (Mary Lou Craig), John Williams, Justin Holub, Charles Kalkomey and approximately 15 other residents.
4. **Public Comments** - John Williams asked for item 7f Water rates proposal be moved on the agenda to before item #5 Consent Agenda. Mayor Sykes explained that items 7e and 7f should be considered in order. Several residents spoke to council regarding the possible increase in water rates until 7:40 pm.  
**7e and f.** Mayor Sykes explained that according to state law, use of property tax funds is limited to maintenance and operations of the city. This does not include operations of the water system. He also reminded council of the study in drafting the Water Fund Budget based on regular expenses, increasing need for repairs, and identified problems at the water plant. David Schultz asked if the \$106,742.00 included the proposed water rate increase and Mayor Sykes responded that it was. David Schultz asked how the water budget could be approved without first addressing the water rate increase. Mayor Sykes explained that if the water rate increase is not approved the revenue would have to be covered by the reserve funds. After discussion David Schultz made a motion to approve the Water Fund Budget for 2020-2021. Steve Dorenbach seconded and motion carried with none opposed. Sharon Smith then made a motion to table the decision on the water rate increase until the September meeting. David Schultz seconded and motion carried with Joe McSloy voting no.
5. **Consent Agenda - consideration and action as appropriate** - After Mayor Sykes noted that the July meeting had been cancelled due to a spike in Covid cases in Austin County, David Schultz made a motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting, the General Fund financials and the Water Fund financials as presented. Neil Howard seconded and motion carried.
6. **Old Business**
  - a. **Road Maintenance - Update on Sodolak and Pecan Ridge** - Mayor Sykes reported that the repair to Pecan Ridge and Sodolak Lane had been completed Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and he and others present at the meeting were quite satisfied with the results.
  - b. **Feral hog traps - Update** Justin Holub reported that he had taken possession of the 3 traps and had completed his inspection of all the equipment. He reviewed a report he had sent Council earlier in the week and presented a check in the amount of \$785.

**c. Water plant management platform – update - Steve Dorenbach -**

Alderman Dorenbach reported everything was running smoothly with the new set-up at the water plant.

**d. Water tanks – Update** – No actual discussion. Covered in 7e and f above.

**7. New Business**

**a. Austin County EMS ACEDSD-1 presentation – Michael Willett** – Mayor Sykes acknowledged that this would be postponed since the presenter was not present at the meeting.

**b. Funds transfers – consideration and action as necessary** – Mayor Sykes explained that because of recent unexpected expenses there was a need to transfer funds into two line items on the current budgets. Joe McSloy made a motion to move \$13,000 from line item 5615 Road Maintenance Capital to 5610 Road Maintenance in the General Fund Budget and \$1,380 from line item 8710 Contingency Reserve to 8580 Engineering Services in the Water Fund Budget. David Schultz seconded and motion carried with none opposed.

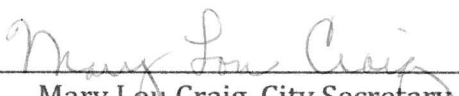
**c. 2020-21 Budget – General Fund – consideration and action as appropriate** - Mayor Sykes noted that this item was actually the General Fund proposal and that the final vote on this budget would be at the September meeting. It was noted that the tax base for the city for 2020 is \$103,073,459. After brief discussion Steve Dorenbach made a motion to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget for 2020-21, with a second from Sharon Smith. Motion carried with none opposed.

**d. Tax rate proposal – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Sykes explained that he recommends the rate which was calculated by Austin County Appraisal District as the “no new revenue” rate which is 8.628%. After discussion Joe McSloy made a motion to accept the 8.628% proposed rate. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried with none opposed.

**Items 7e and 7f were addressed earlier in the meeting.**

**8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary** – Mayor Sykes gave a brief update on the construction of I-10 including the progress of the Chew Road exits and also concerning no news on the availability of Comcast to our city. He noted that the September council meeting would be Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, and it would be conducted via Zoom. The information for the Zoom participation would be available at the Public Notice Boards, on the city website and could be obtained from the city secretary.

**9. Adjourn** – David Schultz made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Neil Howard. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

  
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Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

*approved*  
9-16-2020  
Date