

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, January 21, 2021, 7:00 PM, via Zoom.

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. Mary Lou Craig offered the invocation.

3. Roll Call and Certification of a Quorum Council members present were:

Albert Sykes, Mayor
Joe McSloy, Mayor Pro Tem
Sharon Smith, Alderwoman
Neil Howard, Alderman
Bob Ray, Alderman

Richard Cheek was absent.

Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum.

Also in attendance were Denyce Treybig, Robyn and Jim Wolfinbarger, Gary Williamson, Fran Sodolak, Misty (Sodolak) Gaskamp, Tim Morin, and City Secretary Mary Lou Craig.

4. Public Comments - Denyce Treybig reported that she is serving on a master planning commission in Sealy and has recently been made aware of a rising crime situation in the neighboring community of Brookshire. She introduced Doug Hodges who was with her and he gave council more information about the possible measures being studied in order to prevent the spread of this crime escalation to the neighboring communities.

5. Old Business

a. Roads - Update; consideration and action as appropriate - Neil Howard reported that he and Joe McSloy had patched some of the holes recently noticed on roads in the city. Mayor Sykes reported that he had a meeting scheduled next Thursday, January 28th, at 9:00 a m with Mr. Arthur Saucedo to talk about more possible work on the roads. This will be at Kathy's Korner.

b. Culverts and Drainage - Update; consideration and action as appropriate - Joe McSloy and Bob Ray reported that the rip rap which had been added at the Hidden Creek outfall area was holding, even with the heavy rains we have experienced since the last council meeting. Mayor Sykes thanked Joe and Neil for their assistance in the clean-up of the roads and ditches after the hard rains.

c. Water department - Update and action as appropriate

Mayor Sykes reported that Richard Cheek had received only one quote for the inspection of the water tanks. The quote was discussed and it was decided to request another proposal before moving forward. Mayor Sykes also thanked several council members for their assistance in reading the meters in December since the water maintenance crew members had tested positive for Covid.

d. Replats of Sodolak Lane - Consideration and action as appropriate - Mayor Sykes referred to plat drawings which had been sent to council earlier in the week. He also introduced Mrs. Fran Sodolak and Mrs. Misty Gaskamp, who expressed the desires of their family to subdivide their property into two-acre

tracts. The need for better road access was reviewed. This matter was tabled until further information is made available concerning the plans to meet the city's requirements.

e. Replats of Warren property – Update – Mayor Sykes reported that all the required paperwork had been received by the city secretary yesterday. Copies are available for council to review. The mayor entertained a motion and it was made by Joe McSloy to hold a special meeting Thursday, January 28th, 7:00 p m to possibly approve the replat plan presented. Bob Ray seconded the motion and it carried.

6. New Business

a. Budgets – Correct beginning balances; consideration and action as appropriate

In order to correct the beginning balance on the budgets to the actual amount on 10/1/2020, Joe McSloy made a motion to change the beginning balance on the General Fund Budget for 2020-21 to \$183,173.33 and change the amount in the Contingency Reserve line item to 75127.33. The motion was seconded by Sharon Smith and it carried. Joe McSloy next made a motion to change the beginning balance on the Water Fund Budget for 2020-21 to \$69,145.75, change the line item 8205 to \$9,600.00 and the line item 8595 to \$15,765.75. Neil Howard seconded the motion and it carried.

b. Ordinance 2021-01 Election – consideration and action as appropriate – Bob Ray made a motion that council approve Ordinance 2021-01 setting guidelines for the May 1st election. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried.

c. Interlocal Agreement with Austin County regarding road maintenance – consideration and action as appropriate - Sharon Smith made a motion that council approve the 2021 Interlocal Agreement with Austin County regarding road maintenance. Joe McSloy seconded the motion and it carried.

d. Lake Improvements – Discussion - With residents Gary Williamson and Robyn and Jim Wolfenbarger giving input, council considered possibilities to improve the 10 acre lake property belonging to the city. Mayor Sykes asked Mr. Williamson and the Wolfenbargers to put together a few ideas and plan to present again at the February meeting.

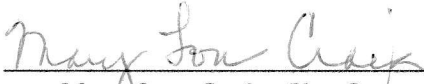
e. Electric bill – SECO – Update and discussion - Secretary Mary Lou Craig reported that after the agenda had been presented it was discovered that Austin County was not in the list of counties needing to address this report.

f. Renew City Secretary Salt Grass Chapter dues – Joe McSloy made a motion for council to pay the renewal fee of \$70 for Mary Lou to stay in the City Secretary organization. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried.

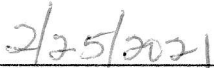
g. Engagement letter from Curtis Craig, CPA – Consideration and action as appropriate – Sharon Smith made a motion that council accept the engagement letter presented by Mr. Craig to perform the audit on the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020 for the amount not to exceed \$8,250. Bob Ray seconded and motion carried.

h. Security cameras for Water Plant – Consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Sykes presented council with a quote for a 5 pack of cameras which could be installed at the water plant to monitor activity at the shed as well as around the pumps and tanks. Joe McSloy made a motion that the cameras be purchased. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried. It was noted that the purchase for \$369.99 from Amazon will have tax added.

7. **Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate** –Bob Ray pointed out that an Excel formula in the General Fund financial sheet needed correction on the line for Centerpoint Energy. Neil Howard made a motion that Council approve the consent agenda, including minutes from the December meeting and the Financial reports for the month of December. Joe McSloy seconded and motion carried.
8. **Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary**– Mayor Sykes updated council with information about Covid vaccine availability. Mary Lou Craig suggested that council seek a volunteer who might help with the city website.
9. **Adjourn** – Sharon Smith made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Neil Howard. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.



Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary



Date