

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Wednesday, May 18th, 2022, 7:00 PM, at 329 Pecan Grove Rd, Sealy, TX. Zoom login was provided for those not attending in person.

1-2. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Mayor Albert Sykes called the meeting to order at 7:01 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
Bob Ray, Mayor Pro Tem
Joe McSloy, Alderman
Neil Howard, Alderman
Richard Cheek, Alderman
Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum. Sharon Smith was absent.

Also in attendance were Sandi Sykes, Charles and Sandra Boulet, Dana Winland, Sarah Blundell, James Clark and the City Secretary. Three residents observed the meeting via Zoom.

4. Oaths of Office – Neil Howard, Bob Ray and Joe McSloy - The oath of office was administered to the three aldermen by City Secretary Mary Lou Craig.

5. Election of Mayor Pro Tem - Joe McSloy made a motion to elect Bob Ray as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion was seconded by Neil Howard and it passed.

6. Public Comments – None.

7. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Neil Howard reported that there was nothing new to report. Mayor Sykes mentioned that he had recently talked with County Commissioner Chip Reed and was recommending that council wait to initiated roadwork. He learned that the cost of asphalt had doubled and the \$70,000 quote he had received earlier this year would now be closer to \$150,000. Mayor Sykes also reported he had talked with Commissioner Reed about the status of Chew Road, particularly in light of the potential new development of River Ridge Estates. No action.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate Joe McSloy reported that he and Bob Ray had identified and flagged the ditches most in need of clean-out and we are now waiting for the county to assist with this project. Bob Ray reported that Commissioner Reed had predicted work could begin next week.

c. Water department – Update - consideration and action as appropriate – Richard Cheek reported that he and Mayor Sykes had met with and were in continuing conversations with representatives from George Bishop’s company concerning the new development of River Ridge Estates. He reminded council that with the higher demand on the water plant, up to close to 250 connections, a new storage tank would be necessary. He had received an earlier quote of \$25,000 to repair the old tank at the plant and consideration should be given to using the old tank as a storage tank dedicated for use by the fire department. He had proposed to Mr. Bishop’s representatives that council pay \$25,000 toward the purchase of a new tank which would increase

the capacity of the plant to meet the needs of current residents as well as the new homes. Bob Ray made a motion to this effect. It was seconded by Richard Cheek and motion carried. Richard also reported that he had received estimates from D & T Electric to tunnel under Pecan Grove to replace the water service lines for \$3,000 per tunnel. Council suggested other quotes be requested for further review.

d. Diamond W contract renewal – consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Sykes drew council’s attention to the contract proposed by Buckshot Weid with Diamond W and answered the question raised at last month’s meeting about prices quoted. Neil Howard made a motion to approve the contract for the year June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. Motion was seconded by Richard Cheek and it carried.

e. Meter reading equipment – update - Mary Lou Craig reported that Gary Williamson had helped her in the investigation of new equipment and software to read the water meters. They are hoping to present a proposal to council at the June meeting.

8. New Business

a. 2022-23 Budget Update Mayor Sykes reported that studies for the 2022-23 budgets are underway. Bob Ray said he planned to have drafts prepared for the June meeting for council to examine. Mayor Sykes said he would like to schedule a fall workshop to review the water department budget and expenses.

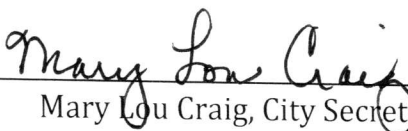
b. Use of River Ridge Golf Course Clubhouse/Pro Shop for City Meetings – Mayor Sykes reported that he had asked Mr. Bishop if he might consider allowing the city to use the Pro Shop and/or Pavilion for city meetings. He agreed. It was discovered the air conditioning system in the Pro Shop requires significant repair. Some meetings in the future could be held at the Pavilion.

c. Austin County Update – Culvert Permits – Commissioner Reed informed Mayor Sykes that the county could no longer bear the expense of installing culverts. They will continue to issue permits, but the installation will be facilitated by private companies, at the expense of the homeowner.

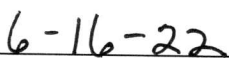
9. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate –Bob Ray pointed out errors in the April Financial spreadsheets, which need correction. Also, Mayor Sykes clarified the number of attendees at last month’s meeting via Zoom. Bob Ray made a motion that the consent agenda, including April regular meeting minutes as amended, and General Fund and Water Fund financials, as amended, be approved. Richard Cheek seconded and motion carried.

10. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary– Due to increasing demands from the state and TCEQ, Mary Lou Craig expressed the need for assistance with the city secretary job. This will be on the June agenda.

11. Adjourn – Joe McSloy made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Neil Howard. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.



Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary



Date