

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, July 21st, 2022, 7:00 PM, at 329 Pecan Grove Rd, Sealy, TX.

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
Bob Ray, Mayor Pro Tem
Sharon Smith, Alderwoman
Neil Howard, Alderman
Richard Cheek, Alderman

Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum.

Joe McSloy was absent.

Also present were Mary Lou Craig and Carla Walthall. Two residents observed the meeting via Zoom.

4. Public Comments - None

5. New Business

a. Introduction and Welcome - Assistant City Secretary - Carla Walthall - Carla Walthall was introduced as the new Assistant Secretary for the City of Brazos Country. Albert Sykes stated that the city has one laptop and that another one was needed for the Assistant Secretary. Sharon Smith made a motion to purchase a refurbished lap top, not to exceed \$600. Neal Howard seconded the motion and it carried. Secretary Mary Lou Craig was instructed to purchase a second laptop for the city.

b. Proposed 2022-23 Budget - consideration and action as appropriate - Richard Cheek expressed concern for some of the Water Budget expenses. Due to the age of the water plant equipment, it was deemed necessary to increase the Water Plant Maintenance and Capital Improvement accounts. Mary Lou Craig explained that the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District had increased their fees for the coming fiscal year. That expense was increased to accommodate the new rate. The General Budget was discussed and no changes were suggested. Bob Ray moved to approve the General Budget as presented and the Water Budget with proposed changes. Richard Cheek seconded and motion carried.

6. Old Business

a. Roads - Update; consideration and action as appropriate - Neil Howard reported that the county had black topped Chew Road at the Brazos Country entrance and that he had thanked the county for the repair. No other action to report.

b. Culverts & drainage - Update; consideration and action as appropriate - Bob Ray reported that no changes had been performed this month.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Sykes reported that the Stage 1 water consumption contingency plan has been successful and water consumption is down. He stated that the Brazos Country pumps don't pump as well as new ones and that repairs will be made as needed.


7. **Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate** –Neil Howard made a motion that the consent agenda, including June regular meeting minutes, General Fund and Water Fund financials be approved. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried.
8. **Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary**– Mary Lou Craig thanked the council for approving the purchase of the new water billing software. She reported that the program is very successful.

Sharon Smith asked about River Ridge Estates and their needs for City Water services. Mayor Sykes updated Council on the project and advised the Contractor would be responsible for all new infrastructure requirements. This would include water, roads, drainage and utility easements. After all infrastructure requirements are met, the City would be responsible for the maintenance. The Contractor also advised this subdivision would be a gated community with its own HOA and deed restrictions. This would relieve the City from road, drainage and utility easements. Only water maintenance will be needed. Further updates will be made as they become available.

Richard Cheek expressed his concern that the Brazos Country water rates are too low to sustain the city budget as it now stands. Mayor Sykes suggested that a public meeting be held in the near future to educate the community concerning the conditions at the water plant and the improvements/maintenance necessary to continue to supply the water needs of the city.

Albert Sykes asked that the September Brazos Country City Council meeting be moved to September 22.

9. **Adjourn** – Bob Ray made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Sharon Smith. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.


Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

8-18-22
Date