

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, September 22, 2022, 7:00 PM, at 329 Pecan Grove Rd, Sealy, Texas. Zoom login information was provided for those who wanted to observe.

**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. Bob Ray offered the invocation.

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

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

Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum.

Also in attendance were Roger and Kathi Mickan, Brad and Crystal Crabb, from the San Felipe/Frydek Volunteer Fire Department, and City Secretary Mary Lou Craig. Three others viewed via Zoom.

**4. Public Comments** – None.

**5. New Business**

**a. Presentation of year-end contributions: San Felipe Volunteer Fire Department, Austin County Peace Officers' Association, Austin County EMS and Gordon Memorial Library.**

Mayor Sykes presented the city's contribution to the San Felipe/Frydek Volunteer Fire Department to Mr. Brad Crabb and thanked him and his wife, Crystal, for their service. Mayor Sykes also acknowledged an Austin County EMS representative, who was observing via Zoom and promised that their check would be in the mail.

**b. Request from James Griffin of Texas Disposal Systems – consideration and action as appropriate**

At this point of the meeting Mr. Griffin was not present so this item was tabled in case he arrived later.

**c. Ordinance 2022-05 Property Tax Rate – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Sykes reminded council that the proposed tax rate, approved at the August meeting, was the rate calculated by Austin Appraisal District which would produce the equal amount of funds as last year. This rate is 0.084883/\$100 valuation. Richard Cheek made a motion that Ordinance 2022-05 be approved setting the tax rate for the fiscal year 2022-23 at 0.084883 per \$100 valuation. Sharon Smith seconded and the motion carried with unanimous "yes" votes.

**d. Request for increase in pay by city secretary – consideration and action as appropriate**

Mayor Sykes informed council that the city secretary had requested that until an assistant can be found and hired, she would like a raise of \$300 per month, and would agree to drop back to her current rate of \$1200 per month when the new hire takes place. Richard Cheek made a motion to increase the pay of city secretary to \$1500 per month until an assistant can be found. Joe McSloy seconded and motion passed.

**e. Address shortages in current budget lines – consideration and action as appropriate**

After a brief discussion about the shortfalls within the General Fund current budget Joe McSloy made a motion to transfer \$1800 from line item 5710 Contingency Reserve in the following manner:

\$400 to line item 5204 Contract Labor – Assistant Secretary, \$1100 to 5320 Communications and Technology, and \$300 to 5340 Office Supplies. Bob Ray seconded and motion carried.

**f. 2022-2023 General and Water Fund Budgets – consideration and action as appropriate**

Mayor Sykes noted that this item was listed in error on the Agenda for the meeting with the incorrect fiscal year in the description. City Secretary presented a modified form of the budgets approved at the August meeting in which several line items were consolidated. The fund amounts were not changed, only the way in which they are listed. Richard Cheek made a motion that these modified Budgets be approved for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate**

Neil Howard reported that the area on Pecan Grove was still in need of asphalt where the leak had been repaired. Discussion followed as to whether to have county do this or volunteers from council.

**b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate**

Joe McSloy reported that he had talked to David Shultz about cleaning several culverts and he was willing to do the work as soon as his schedule allowed. There was discussion about the drainage along Hidden Creek and the possible need for weed-eating that ditch again soon.

**c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate**

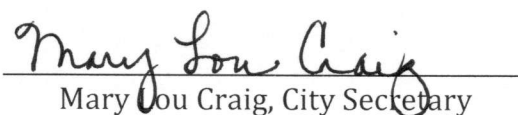
Richard Cheek reported about the various activities of the last month involving improving the equipment at the water plant. Bob Ray noted he had observed anomalies at the well pumps. Richard reported that he had located and procured two new pumps and motors and they would be installed shortly.

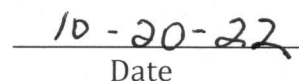
**7. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate** –Bob Ray made a motion that the consent agenda be approved. Neil Howard seconded and the motion carried.

**5b. Request from James Griffin of Texas Disposal Systems – consideration and action as appropriate** – Since Mr. Griffin never arrived at the meeting Mayor Sykes asked council to consider the increase requested in the letter sent by email from Mr. Griffin. The increase requested was 12%. Mr. Griffin reminded council, in his letter, that though our contract with them allows for a rate increase request, TDS had never exercised that option. He outlined some of the increases their business had experienced in the time period from June 2021 to June 2022. Their fuel costs had increased 77% over that period, and labor costs were up 8.3%. Parts required for their equipment had increased 20.4% and other increases were for engine oil, 31.5%, air filters, 25.6%, fuel filters, 9.6% and tires, 5.8%. Discussion followed. Bob Ray made a motion to accept the 12% increase effective immediately, with the cancelling of the 3% increase described in the current contract due to take effect April 2023. Council would then review the contract at that time. Joe McSloy seconded and motion carried.

**8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary**– Mayor Sykes reminded council of the need for a Public Forum where the water department could be discussed. The meeting time was set for 7:00 pm, October 27<sup>th</sup>, to be held at Gordon Memorial Library.

**9. Adjourn** – Bob Ray made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Sharon Smith. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

  
Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

  
Date