

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, January 19th, 2023, 7:00 PM, at Kathy's Korner, 9027 S E I-10 Frontage 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. Bob Ray offered the invocation.

3. Roll Call and Certification of a Quorum Council members present were:
Albert Sykes, Mayor
Bob Ray, Mayor Pro Tem
Neil Howard, Alderman
Richard Cheek, Alderman

Sharon Smith and Joe McSloy were absent.

Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum.

Also present were Kay Ribardo and Mary Lou Craig. Sharon Smith attempted to attend via Zoom, but there were technical difficulties.

4. Public Comments – None

5. New Business

a. Open bids for road renovation – consideration and action as appropriate

City Secretary Mary Lou Craig opened the only bid received at 7:03 pm and Mayor Sykes announced that it was from GMJ Paving. Copies of the "Quote" page were made for council to review. After some discussion Bob Ray made a motion to accept the GMJ Paving bid, subject to some clarification, and to approval at a special called meeting to be announced in the near future. Neil Howard seconded and motion carried.

b. Interlocal Agreement for Road Maintenance between Austin County and City of Brazos Country – consideration and action as appropriate Neil Howard made a motion that the Interlocal Agreement for Road Maintenance between Austin County and City of Brazos Country for 2023 be approved. Richard Cheek seconded and motion carried.

c. Ordinance 2023-01 – Election Consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Sykes noted that the dates for submitting applications to run for council positions were January 18th through February 17th, 2023. The position of mayor and two aldermen are up for re-election. Bob Ray made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01. Richard Cheek seconded and motion carried.

d. Approve moving funds to a savings account – consideration and action as appropriate Richard Cheek made a motion to authorize Mayor Sykes to establish a savings account at another bank to protect the city's funds over the FDIC limit. Bob Ray seconded and motion carried.

e. Water Department – projects for 2023 – consideration and action as appropriate

Richard Cheek reported that he, Bob Ray and Mayor Sykes had met at the water plant to discuss the needs most urgent for the system. Priority number one is a new 44,000 gallon ground storage tank. Next would be a new, additional storage building at the plant. Also, attempting to get isolation valves installed throughout the city.

f. Assistant Secretary – discuss – consideration and action as appropriate City Secretary Mary Lou Craig reminded council of the need for help in some of the regular duties, as well as the need to cull unnecessary papers currently being stored. Since there is money budgeted for this position, it was decided we would advertise it at 10 hours per week at a rate of \$600/month.

g. WebMaster – discuss – consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Sykes reported that he had met with resident Kay Ribardo about helping with the city website. She agreed and was introduced to council.

6. **Old Business**

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – No update.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Bob Ray reported that the resident who had called to report standing water in her ditch after the county clean-out had been contacted by City Secretary and told that situation would be on the next list given to the county when they returned to work on the ditches.

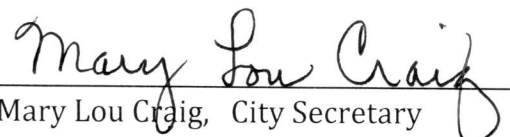
c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – No update.

d. Trees on cemetery lot – update – consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Sykes shared that there were 3 estimates for tree removal on the table. There was now, however, a question about whether the property actually belongs to the city. The removal of the trees would be postponed until this matter is settled. City Secretary Mary Lou Craig was instructed to write to the owner company about the need to maintain the property, and to ask about selling the property to the city.

7. **Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Sykes asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the items in the consent agenda. Bob Ray made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the December financial report and the minutes of the December meeting. Neil Howard seconded and motion passed.

8. **Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary**– Mayor Sykes reported that he had a conflict with the date of the February meeting and asked council if meeting on the 15th would be acceptable. Council agreed.

9. **Adjourn** – Bob Ray made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Neil Howard. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.


Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

2-15-2023
Date