

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, March 16th, 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
Joe McSloy, Alderman
Sharon Smith, Alderwoman

Richard Cheek was absent. Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum.
Also present were Sandi Sykes and Mary Lou Craig.

4. Public Comments - None.

5. Old Business

a. Roads - Update; consideration and action as appropriate - Mayor Sykes reported that roadwork progressed today on Standing Oaks Lane. 334 tons of asphalt was used for the job. Work on Pecan Grove will begin Monday, March 20th.

b. Culverts & drainage - Update; consideration and action as appropriate - Bob Ray reported that since the last meeting the county had dug out ditches along Hidden Creek and Standing Oaks near Brazos Hill.

c. Water department - Update; consideration and action as appropriate - Mayor Sykes reported that the goal of finishing the replacement of water lines under Standing Oaks and Pecan Grove was not completed due to an injury sustained by Buckshot Wied. Buckshot was able to oversee repair of the two reported water leaks in the city before the roadwork was started.

Update - Storage Building Mayor Sykes reminded council that the crushed stone would be donated by resident Justin Jackson, owner of Apex Stone, for the bottom of the building. He and Bob Ray still are planning to visit Mueller Metal Buildings again to work out details.

6. New Business

a. Certification of Unopposed Candidates for May 6, 2023 election - consideration and action as appropriate - *Unopposed candidates: Mayor - Bob Ray; Alderman at large - Albert Sykes; Alderman at large - Richard Cheek* - City Secretary Mary Lou Craig presented council with a signed certification that aforementioned candidates were unopposed for their positions.

b. Ordinance 2023-03 Cancel election - consideration and action as appropriate

Recognizing that because all candidates were unopposed for their respective positions, Sharon Smith made a motion that Ordinance 2023-03 canceling the May 6th, 2023 election be approved. Bob Ray seconded and motion carried.

c. CenterPoint Energy's request for increase in residential rate by \$2.47 per month – consideration and action as appropriate Joe McSloy made a motion that this agenda item be tabled. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried.

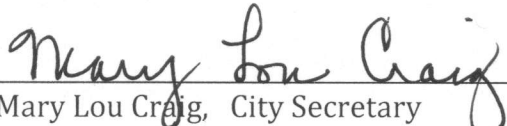
d. Drainage and Culvert Repairs – Pecan Grove, Hidden Creek and Winding Creek Lane - Joe McSloy reported that he and Bob Ray had visited each of these locations with Bubba Mullins of Blue Sky Right of Way and he had quoted \$2,850 to complete these repairs. There was discussion about these, as well as the area along Hidden Creek where the ditch is washing away during heavy rains. Joe McSloy made a motion that they ask Mr. Mullins to address this additional work and that council approve payment not to exceed \$5,000 for the job. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried.

e. Water Department Maintenance – Contingency Plan - Council discussed the need to look for a company which could be called in the event of a water-related emergency to which Buckshot could not respond. Discussion followed. It was agreed that more investigation was needed.

f. Disaster Finance Workshop – Report and Discussion - Bob Ray reported that he had attended this workshop facilitated by Texas Emergency Management. He learned that FEMA money is available for assistance to reimburse expenses incurred during and after a natural disaster within the city. He said that the most important thing to remember is that everything must be documented. This would include any names of volunteers who help, dates and time worked.

g. Gulf Coast Local Coordination Workshop – Internet for All – Report and Discussion - Mayor Sykes and Bob Ray attended this workshop and learned that federal money is available to reach a goal of supplying internet access to everyone. They reported that most of the money would most likely be awarded to companies like A T & T and Comcast to expand the territories they serve.

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. Neil Howard made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the February financial report and the minutes of the February meeting. Joe McSloy seconded and motion passed.
8. **Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary**– Mayor Sykes asked if the May meeting could be held before the third Thursday so he would be able to attend. Wednesday, May 10th was suggested and all agreed. City Secretary Mary Lou Craig reported that 27 additional water customers had agreed to receive their invoices by email, saving the city money for the post card stamps.
9. **Adjourn** – Sharon Smith made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Bob Ray. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.


Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

4-20-2023
Date