

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, April 20th, 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
Joe McSloy, Alderman
Sharon Smith, Alderwoman
Richard Cheek, Alderman

Neil Howard was absent. Mayor Sykes certified there was a quorum.

Also present were City Secretary Mary Lou Craig, Assistant Secretary Robyn Wolfinbarger, and many residents. President Ray Chislett and Vice-President Chris Broxson from the Austin County ESD #1 were also in attendance.

4. Public Comments – Mr. Chislett explained that Proposition 1 would be on the May 6th ballot. This would raise the current cap on the ESD tax rate from 3 cents per \$100 valuation to 6 cents. He offered explanation and answered several questions.

5. Recess for Recognition of Gary Williamson and Sharon Smith – Mayor Sykes entertained a motion to recess. Richard Cheek made the motion and it was seconded by Joe McSloy. Motion carried. Recess began at 7:15 pm.

At 7:37 pm Joe McSloy made a motion to end the recess. Sharon Smith seconded and motion carried.

6. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Sharon Smith reported that the paving of Standing Oaks and Pecan Grove was complete and everyone seemed very pleased with the result. Mayor Sykes reported that the quote for the job was \$225,875 and since we paid for the asphalt actually used, the final amount paid was \$193,600.87. Residents from the neighborhood volunteered to help with traffic control, and that saved a quoted estimate of \$25,000. Mayor Sykes thanked all those who helped. It was also noted that we received a 2.5% discount for paying with a cashier's check.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Joe McSloy reported that he had not received a call back from Bubba Mullins of Blue Sky Right of Way regarding the work on the Hidden Creek ditch. Mayor Sykes noted that there are other creek areas that might need attention soon and several culverts needing cleaning. Alderman McSloy reported that we are waiting for the county's assistance.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Richard Cheek reported that everything at the water plant was working well and we have experienced only a few leaks in the city since the last meeting.

Update – Storage Building Mayor Sykes reported that the stone for the base of the new storage building had been delivered to the water plant area at no cost by Robyn Wolfenbarger, and that the stone had been donated by Justin Jackson, owner of Apex Stone. The building parts should be ready in about two weeks.

7. **New Business**

a. A T & T's request for increase in residential rate by \$0.07 per month – consideration and action as appropriate – Discussion. Joe McSloy made a motion that this increase be approved. Motion was seconded by Bob Ray and it carried with one opposed. It was noted that according to the instruction sheet sent by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, if the city approved the increase in rate, no action would be necessary.

b. CenterPoint Energy – Request for increase - consideration and action as appropriate It was noted that action by the city to decline this request only results in a 45 day delay of the increase. It was also noted that the resolution to decline needed an attorney signature. No action.

c. Financial

i. Reactivate separate water fund bank account – consideration and action as appropriate – Bob Ray offered an explanation as to the problems encountered with the audit resulting from the merging of the two bank accounts to accommodate the new QuickBooks online software. He also shared insights from our auditor from other clients who had made the change to online and had encountered similar problems. Sharon Smith made a motion that the city ask Citizens State Bank to reactivate the water fund account number 0031860 as of May 1, 2023. The signers for the account will be Mayor, currently Albert Sykes, and five aldermen, currently Bob Ray, Joe McSloy, Richard Cheek, Neil Howard and Sharon Smith. Two signers would be required on each check. Richard Cheek seconded and motion carried unanimously.

ii. Transfer of funds to another bank to comply with FDIC requirement – discussion Mayor Sykes reported that since our balance at Citizens State Bank was over the \$250,000 insured limit by FDIC, he was recommending that some excess funds be moved to Austin State Bank in Sealy in the form of an interest-bearing CD. Joe McSloy made a motion that \$100,000 be used to purchase a CD at Austin State Bank. The signers on the account would be Mayor, currently Albert Sykes, and five aldermen, currently Bob Ray, Joe McSloy, Richard Cheek, Neil Howard and Sharon Smith. Two signers would be required on each check. Richard Cheek seconded and motion carried unanimously.

d. Ordinance 2004-04 – Discuss amendment to this ordinance changing 4 acres to 2 acres - Bob Ray recused himself from this agenda item. Mayor Sykes summarized the ordinance and the request to change the 4 acre limit to at least 2 acres. Ordinance to amend will be on the May agenda.

8. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Sykes asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the items in the consent agenda. After answering one question regarding the Water Fund financial report Sharon Smith made a motion to approve the

consent agenda, including the March financial report and the minutes of the March meeting. Bob Ray seconded and motion passed.

9. **Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary**– Larry Cordes asked about any update on the lake. He requested this be on the May agenda.
10. **Adjourn** – Sharon Smith made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Bob Ray. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.


Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

5-10-2023
Date