

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, August 24th, 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 Bob Ray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and offered the invocation.

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

Bob Ray, Mayor
Dave Carrasquillo, Alderman
Joe McSloy, Alderman
Neil Howard, Alderman

Albert Sykes and Richard Cheek were absent. Mayor Ray certified there was a quorum. Also present were City Secretary Mary Lou Craig and about 16 city residents.

4. Public Comments – Jeff Van Pelt reported that some residents with property around the empty lakebed met and discussed several ideas to consider. Various attendees were assigned options to study further and there were plans to meet again in September.

5. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Neil Howard reported that he had patched several potholes in the neighborhood.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Dave Carrasquillo reported that he had canvassed the neighborhood and made a list of all the culverts with 50% or more blockage for the county's attention the next time they come to help.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported that the city had received a request that afternoon from the Emergency Management Coordinator for Austin County to conserve electricity until 10 pm. Bob and Joe McSloy turned on the generator to fulfill this request. He also shared data with council and those present concerning the total usage so far this year as compared to usage in years past.

d. 2023-24 Proposed Budgets – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reviewed the proposed budgets provided to council earlier in the week, and explained differences from the amounts reviewed at the July council meeting. He reminded everyone that the vote at tonight's meeting was to accept the proposed budgets, and that the final budgets would be adopted at the September meeting. Joe McSloy made a motion to accept the budgets as proposed. Dave Carrasquillo seconded and motion carried.

e. River Ridge Estates – update – Mayor Ray reported that he and Alderman Cheek had met with representatives of Mr. George Bishop and plans for the River Ridge Estates subdivision were progressing.

6. New Business

a. Property tax rate – proposal – Consideration and action as appropriate – Council considered the calculations offered to the city from Austin Country Appraisal District in their worksheet. After review, Dave Carrasquillo made a motion to accept the "no new revenue" rate of 0.0785320/\$100 valuation as the proposed rate for the 2023 tax year. Neil Howard seconded and motion carried.

b. Water plant operator – Consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Ray reported that we had received notice of resignation of Buckshot Wied of Diamond W Utilities as the operator of the city's water plant. Bob talked with Mr. Cullen Brotherton who operates other water plants in the area and procured a proposed contract from Mr. Brotherton's company, Crobul Services. Council reviewed the contract and Joe McSloy made a motion to sign the contract, which would go into effect September 1, 2023, and extend one year. Neil Howard seconded and motion carried.

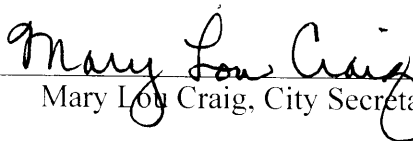
c. EPA TCEQ – new legislation information – Mayor Ray informed council and meeting attendees about new legislation which will require water facilities to report to TCEQ information about the service lines connected to the public water distribution system. The report would require the date of construction of these homes and businesses, as well as the material used in the delivery pipes. More information about this report will be forthcoming as it is made available.

d. Water plant expansion – Update – Mayor Ray reported that he had procured Request for Qualifications reports from two companies to study the requirements for the necessary water plant expansion, due to the development of River Ridge Estates. The two companies are Kaluza, Inc. and Bleyl Engineering. This matter was tabled to give council time to study the two reports.

7. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate - Neil Howard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda including the July minutes and financial reports.

8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary – Mayor Ray reminded council that the September meeting would be September 21st, and is scheduled to be held at Kathy's Korner.

9. Adjourn – Neil Howard made a motion to adjourn. Joe McSloy seconded and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.



Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

Date 9-21-2023