

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, January 18th, 2024, 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
Richard Cheek, Mayor Pro Tem
Dave Carrasquillo, Alderman
Joe McSloy, Alderman
Neil Howard, Alderman
Albert Sykes, Alderman

Mayor Ray certified there was a quorum. Also present were City Secretary Mary Lou Craig, Assistant Secretary Robyn Wolfenbarger, Constable James Clark, and approximately 13 city residents.

4. Public Comment - None.

5. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Albert Sykes reminded council that the work on Winding Creek was still not complete where the county replaced the culvert. Mayor Ray reported that he had spoken to Chip Reed about this and they knew it still needed to be finished.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – No report.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported that the water plant fared well during the time of freezing weather just experienced. He also told everyone that the generator was used in place of electricity when ERCOT issued a plea for reduced usage to help with the additional power demands. He reported that one resident had requested help with turning off their water and that currently we knew of no leaks in the city.

d. Lake Committee Report – consideration and action as appropriate Jeff Van Pelt reported that research was still being done regarding various ways to improve the lakebed area. Brief discussion followed.

e. Ordinance Review – discussion The mayor, all council members and the city secretary reported on their assigned ordinances. Several were identified as needing updates and/or repeal. Councilmen Carrasquillo and Sykes reported research on proper way to handle these updates. Further review and reports will continue in February.

f. Public Safety – Update, discussion, consideration and action as appropriate Dave Carrasquillo reported that the committee he had organized included residents Bobby Schoelman, Jeff Van Pelt, Carlos Castillo, Tyran Mercer, Reed Noel and Terry Bennetsen. He also reported that the committee had met and was looking into the renewing of the position of marshal on the city council and other ideas pertinent to the safety of the neighborhood/city.

Mayor Ray reported that he had drafted wording which matched an official contract for Constable Clark, but also including the 30 day notice to terminate clause. Discussion followed and the matter was tabled.

6. New Business

a. Ordinance 2024-01 – Set election date; consideration and action as appropriate - Mayor Ray reviewed the ordinance, which council had received to review prior to the meeting, and which set the election date of three aldermen positions for May 4th, along with appropriate application deadline dates.

Albert Sykes made a motion that Ordinance 2024-01 be approved and adopted. Dave Carrasquillo seconded and motion carried.

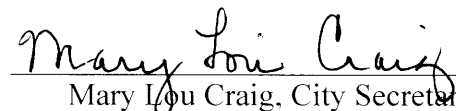
b. Accounting Adjustment for State and local Recovery Funds (SLFRF) – consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Ray referred to the accounting adjustment required to move the funds from the General Fund to the Water Fund, as intended when the funds were received in September 2022. He reported that the transfer had been facilitated this afternoon (1.18.2024) and the resulting balances in the two funds were: General \$90,098.58 Water: \$170,128.59

c. Brazos Hill paving proposal request – consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Ray reported that, based on recent estimates of asphalt for \$125 per ton, the cost of paving Brazos Hill from Chew to Standing Oaks would be estimated at \$90,937; the cost to pave from Standing Oaks to Pecan Grove \$66,600; paving Pecan Grove to River Ridge \$28,500 and Briar Creek Lane \$36,000. After discussion Albert Sykes made a motion to request bids to pave Brazos Hill from Chew Rd to Standing Oaks. Neil Howard seconded and motion passed with 4 yesses and 1 no.

7. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate - Neil Howard made a motion that the Consent Agenda, consisting of the December financial reports and the December minutes, be approved. Joe McSloy seconded and motion carried.

8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary – Mayor Ray reminded council that the February meeting would be on the 15th. There were also comments about the curve on Chew Rd where there had been another recent accident involving speeding and damage to a resident’s fence. Mayor Ray had discussed this situation with county commissioner Chip Reed, who agreed to replacing the damaged sign warning of the curve and the possibility of adding reflective material at strategic points to help drivers anticipate the curve.

9. Adjourn – Albert Sykes made a motion to adjourn. Dave Carrasquillo seconded and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.


Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

Date 2-15-24