

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, December 14th, 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 7:01 PM. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the city secretary 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, Charles Boulet, and Constable James Clark.

4. Public Comment - None.

Mayor Ray asked council to consider the November financial report before moving to Old Business. He then explained that the city secretary had reported to him that there had been an omission in transferring the second deposit of Covid Relief funds from the General Fund to the Water Fund. The second deposit from the grant was made in September of 2022. This was the same month that the funds had been merged into one bank account because of the change with the QuickBooks software. More research was necessary to confirm, but it seemed that the funds had never been transferred to the Water Fund, as was requested. That omission would result in a difference of \$58,841.33 in the balance of the two accounts. Council was informed that the financial report was accurate according to what was currently in the accounts, but a correction of the omission would result in less monies in the General Fund and more in the Water Fund.

5. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Discussion about timing of road work and possibility of postponing work for a year in order to accomplish more. Albert Sykes reported that there are cracks in various places on Brazos Hill. Bids will be requested in January, a contract awarded in February, with the work to begin in March.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported that the culvert under Winding Creek was replaced that morning (12.14.23) and the work was completed without substantial interference in neighborhood traffic.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported that a leak is suspected in the flowerbed at the entrance of Section 5. The water was turned off at that location so the area could dry up enough to locate the problem.

d. Lake Committee Report – consideration and action as appropriate No report. Mayor Ray reported that Jeff Van Pelt told him the committee would resume meeting after the first of the year.

e. Ordinance Review – discussion Mayor Ray reported that he and the city secretary had surveyed the ordinances and are requesting assistance from council to review them and offer suggestions for

possible updates and/or edits. The city secretary will assign each council member and mayor 7 ordinances to review and report back at the January meeting.

6. New Business

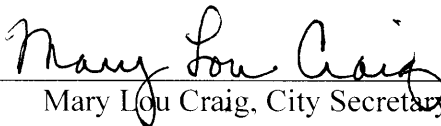
Public Safety Contract – Update and consideration and action as appropriate

Albert Sykes reviewed history of the constable’s patrol in Brazos Country and questioned the need to double the hours of patrol along with increasing the hourly rate in light of the other budgeted items for the General Fund. It was noted that, unlike other contracts the city has approved, the document approved at the September 2023 meeting had no termination provision. Discussion followed. Alderman Sykes made a motion to revisit the proposal with Constable Clark. There was no second so the motion died. Alderman Sykes then made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Neil Howard seconded and motion carried. Dave Carrasquillo then made a motion to form a public safety committee to study the availability of grant funds to assist with the funding of this concern. Richard Cheek seconded and motion carried with one opposed.

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

8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary – Mayor Ray reported that recent conversations with Mr. Bishop’s representative indicated that the River Ridge Estates project was currently on the “back burner.” Alderman McSloy asked if it might be time to revisit the increase in water rates by the City.

9. Adjourn – Joe McSloy made a motion to adjourn. Neil Howard seconded and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.



Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

Date 1-18-24