

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, February 15th, 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 7:01 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 9 city residents.

4. Public Comment – Carlos Castillo began by thanking the mayor and council members for their service to the city. He shared his opinion about the January meeting where the agreement with Constable Clark was discussed. He also shared suggestions about handling similar situations in the future.

5. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported that he had visited with Chip Reed concerning the curve on Chew Road where several accidents have occurred recently. He reported that the “upcoming curve” warning signs would be replaced, but the county would not fund having lights on the signs. Discussion followed. Chip Reed also told Mayor Ray that the county would be returning next week to pave the area on Winding Creek where the culvert has been replaced.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Dave Carrasquillo reported that he had names of two companies that could provide stabilized sand for repair to the area on Winding Creek which has washed away with heavy rains. It was noted that there was a need for this at the Hidden Creek outfall area.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported that the study undertaken by Kaluza Engineering was about 40% complete. The city has supplied data requested and there are new requests which are being researched.

d. Committee Status – consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Ray reported that he had spoken with Jeff Van Pelt of the Lake Committee and Dave Carrasquillo of the Public Safety Committee letting them know that these committee reports will be on future agendas when they can bring a proposal with ways to fund the proposal to council.

e. Patrol Services Contract – consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Ray asked that meeting attendees please wait outside or in the grocery area while council met in Executive Session according to State Government Code 551.074 (Personnel Matters.) This executive session began at 7:34 pm. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:46 pm. Joe McSloy made a motion that the council accept, with the mayor's signature, a contract with Constable Clark which included all the provisions in the proposal Constable Clark presented at the September 2023 meeting. This contract does not include a 30 day termination clause. The motion was seconded by Dave Carrasquillo and it passed with 4 yes votes and 1 no.

6. New Business

a. Road Paving bids – Open bids; consideration and action as appropriate Mayor Ray reported that the only bid received was from GMJ Paving. He opened the sealed bid and reported to council that the total amount of the bid was \$356,757. It was agreed that this item be tabled for further study.


b. Water customer billing – Discussion Mayor Ray explained that the city secretary needed advice from council as to the handling of late payments of water bills. Suggestions were offered and many agreed that the waiver of the late fee for those over 65 was no longer appropriate. Comments were heard and a proposal for action will be presented at the next council meeting.

c. Transfer \$50,000 from Water Fund to General Fund – consideration and action as appropriate Albert Sykes made a motion that \$50,000 be transferred from the water fund to the general fund to essentially pay back the loan made in 2021, which was later deemed a gift. Neil Howard seconded and motion carried.

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

8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary – Mayor Ray reminded council that the March meeting would be on the 21st. Also, Mayor Ray informed all that the county would be replacing the bridge on Chew Road between 1458 and the airport. During this construction this part of Chew Road would be closed. This work had been scheduled for April, but has been moved to May. A suggestion was made for an email reminder be sent to residents concerning the date for the future city council meetings.

9. Adjourn – Joe McSloy made a motion to adjourn. Richard Cheek seconded and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.



Mary Lou Craig, City Secretary

Date 3-21-24