

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, September 19th, 2024, 7:01 PM, in the parish kitchen of St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10471 Grotto Rd, Sealy, TX.

1-2. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Mayor Bob Ray called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the invocation.

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

Bob Ray, Mayor
Joe McSloy, Mayor Pro Tem
Dave Carrasquillo, Alderman
Neil Howard, Alderman
Shelly Main, Alderwoman (arrived at 7:04 pm)

Albert Sykes was absent. Mayor Ray certified there was a quorum. Also present were Assistant City Secretary Janet Shelton and approximately 7 city residents.

4. Open Public Hearing for Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.07852 per \$100 valuation – Mayor Ray explained the tax rate did not change, the valuations went up a little, so the City will collect an extra 8% over last year.

5. Close Public Hearing at 7:04pm

6. Open Regular Meeting – Regular council meeting opened at 7:04pm

7. Ordinance 2024-06 – Approval of 2024 tax rate - consideration and action as appropriate – Joe McSloy made a motion to approve the 2024 tax rate. Neil Howard seconded and the motion carried.

8. Recess Regular Meeting – Open Public Hearing for Proposed 2024-25 General and Water Fund Budgets – Jeffrey Van Pelt asked, if the City was prepared for a major failure at the water plant, the Mayor stated yes. Charles Boulet asked if the City was planning replacement of failing water lines, since we have lost water service many times. Mayor Ray explained, we have had four leak repairs this year and the City water lines are 30 years old, whereas the City of Sealy's water lines are 80 years old. As long as the pipes are not exposed to sunlight they should last many more years. The City is also looking at replacing nonfunctioning isolation valves. Joe McSloy added, when we replace a water line, we use a sleeving pipe method, which splits the old pipe while inserting the new pipe.

9. Close Public Hearing at 7:14pm

10. Open Regular Meeting – 7:14pm

11. Proposed 2024-25 Budgets – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray proposed a change in the insurance coverage to the \$3,500.00 level, which includes the Law Enforcement coverage and reduce the Contingency Reserve amount to \$46,700. Joe McSloy made a motion to approve the 2024-25 General Fund with the change of adding the Law Enforcement coverage. Shelly Main seconded and motion carried. Neil Howard made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Water Fund budgets as presented. Dave Carrasquillo seconded and motion carried.

12. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Neil Howard reported the holes on Brazos Hill by the Olivier home have been patched. Mayor Ray read a letter from John Williams, asking for volunteers to do mowing and weed control on the Chew Road and I-10 Frontage Road underpass.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Neil Howard reported the ditches on Brazos Hill have been cleaned out. We need to do some maintenance on the Hidden Creek ditches and bring in some stabilized sand at the culverts. Charles Boulet and Carlos Castillo requested the City and/or County remove debris and fallen trees from Winding Creek. Joe McSloy and Dave Carrasquillo will get with Albert Sykes and the County Maintenance Department about Winding Creek maintenance and fallen tree removal and report back at the next meeting.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported the TCEQ Lead Service Line Inventory report has been submitted early because of customer participation with the survey and Jan Shelton’s hard work.

13. New Business

a. TML Insurance – consideration and action as appropriate – Dave Carrasquillo reported, after consulting with the County Judge, the City would be responsible for any lawsuits that may be brought for any action or non-action of hired law enforcement officers and it could be very expensive for the City to defend itself. Dave Carrasquillo made a motion to include the Law Enforcement Liability Insurance for \$914 a year. Joe McSloy seconded and motion carried.

b. Current Water Rate Sheet – consideration and action as appropriate – Neil Howard made a motion to accept the Current Water Rate Sheet for the 2024-25 fiscal year without any changes. Shelly Main seconded and motion carried.

c. Donations – consideration and action as appropriate – After discussion Joe McSloy made a motion to send Austin County EMS \$500, San Felipe- Frydek Fire Department \$500, St. Mary’s Catholic Church \$500 and Austin County Peace Officers’ Association \$200 as donations. Shelly Main seconded and motion carried.

d. Laptop – possible disposal – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported to council that the HP laptop purchased earlier this year had been diagnosed by a technician and determined to be not economical to repair. Joe McSloy made a motion to dispose of the City laptop. Dave Carrasquillo seconded and motion carried.

A Public comment - Jeffrey Van Pelt asked if the County Sheriff and the County Commissioner could attend one of the City Council meetings.

14. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray asked if there were any questions regarding the items in the consent agenda. Hearing none, Dave Carrasquillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the August regular meeting and the August financials. Joe McSloy seconded and motion carried.

15. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary – Mayor Ray reminded council that the October meeting was scheduled for the 17th and we would submit a request to meet again at St. Mary’s. Charles Boulet made a request for the City to email the meeting notices to customers. Mayor Ray acknowledged Mr. Boulet’s request.

16. Adjourn – Neil Howard made a motion to adjourn. Shelly Main seconded and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.



Janet Shelton, Assistant City Secretary



Date