

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:00 PM, at St. Mary's Catholic Church Faith Formation (Education) Building, 10471 Grotto Rd, Sealy, Texas.

- 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
  - Joe McSloy, Mayor Pro Tem
  - Dave Carrasquillo, Alderman
  - Neil Howard, Alderman
  - Albert Sykes, Alderman
  - Shelly Main, Alderwoman

Mayor Ray certified there was a quorum. Also present were City Secretary Mary Lou Craig, Assistant City Secretary Janet Shelton, Constable James Clark, approximately 18 guests and city residents.

4. **Introduction of Austin County Sheriff Jack Brandes and County Commissioner Chip Reed – public comments and questions:**
  - a. Sheriff Brandes introduced his Chief Deputy Matt Walls and Lieutenant Rob Lockett. The Sheriff and his Deputies detailed a Special Response Task Force and Swarm Team, which includes backup assistance between Austin, Waller, Fayette and Colorado Counties, Constable Clark and the City Police of Sealy, Wallis and Bellville, for call responses across the 670 square miles in Austin County. Sheriff Brandes, Chief Deputy Walls and Lieutenant Lockett detailed various procedures and assets of the department. An informative question and answer period followed.
  - b. County Commissioner Chip Reed shared his work history before he was elected Precinct Four Commissioner and stated his work crew consisted of eight to cover 130 miles. He expects to replace the Chew Road bridge, possibly with grant monies. Commissioner Reed introduced the County Engineer Jonathan Hopko, who explained he was advising on road and building projects in the county from an engineering approach. A brief question and answer period followed.
5. **New Business**
  - a. **Sodolak Estates Road – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray reported approximately three years ago the Sodolak landowners approached the city about deeding their road to the city, but did not want to meet the city ordinance requirements, so they declared their road private. There are currently six lots for sale, with a road maintenance agreement for new property owners. Mayor Ray introduced former Mayor and engineer Charles Kalkomey, who investigated the Sodolak property and reported he could not find any active subdivision of the property. He said the city does not have to accept the road until it meets city standards, and the city is under no obligation to make any improvements. Discussion followed regarding road specifications, as well as access for emergency vehicles. Joe McSloy suggested the Council seek legal counsel before deciding. Albert Sykes made a motion to consult the city's attorney to review and interpret the city ordinance concerning a private road. Dave Carrasquillo seconded and motion carried.
  - b. **Ordinance 2024-05 Subdivision of property – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray recused himself and asked Mayor Pro Tem Joe McSloy to preside over this agenda item. Joe McSloy explained this ordinance is an edit of the current ordinance 2023-04 to remove the stipulation that the property be deeded to a relative. Discussion followed. Dave Carrasquillo made a motion to table this matter for legal counsel to review. Joe McSloy seconded and motion carried.
  - c. **Social media policy for city technology devices per SB 1893 – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray reported that in 2023 the Texas Legislature banned the use of certain social media applications on government devices. Senate Bill 1893 added Chapter 620 to the Texas Government Code to require certain governmental entities, including municipalities, to adopt policies that prohibit the

installation of certain social media applications on government-owned and -leased devices and that require removal of those applications on such devices. The deadline to adopt the policy is November 20, 2024. The policy presented to council complies with the outlined requirements. Joe McSloy made a motion to approve the social media policy. Shelly Main seconded, and motion carried.

**d. Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - grant update** – Albert Sykes updated council regarding the Coronavirus grant awarded the city, most of which was spent to upgrade the water plant. The remaining monies will be applied toward the cost of the engineering study recently completed concerning needs of the water plant.

**e. CD at Austin County State Bank – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray reported that the CD at Austin County State Bank matures on November 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2024. The money could be moved to a money market account or a savings account. Discussion followed. Albert Sykes made a motion to move the money to Austin County State Bank savings or money market account, whichever is paying the most when the CD expires. The signers would be the council members listed above, as well as the mayor. Joe McSloy seconded and motion carried.

## 6. Old Business

**a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate** – Albert Sykes reported that Neil Howard patched numerous potholes this summer with cold mix the county supplied the city. He and Neil recently inspected all roads and found 12 in need of patching, with Winding Creek Lane in the worst condition. They intend to do the repairs with the help of volunteers.

**b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate** – Joe McSloy reported that the tree branches have been cleaned from covering the Hidden Creek ditch and Commissioner Reed plans to bring in stabilized sand to repair the erosion. Dave Carrasquillo asked if the county could bring in stabilized sand to repair the end of Pecan Grove Road on the bottom north side. Joe replied that other areas would be repaired. One resident asked about the creek bed behind properties on Winding Creek Lane. Albert Sykes said most of the homeowners along the creek work to clear areas along their property. The area would be difficult for county equipment to access without encroaching on private property.

**c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray reported, he and Shelly Main met with Hot Taps to review the valve survey map prepared for the city. Mayor Ray also reported that he emailed the valve survey map to the Council for review before the meeting. The mayor said Hot Taps estimates a cost of \$9,000.00 to repair the nonfunctional valves. Joe McSloy made a motion for Hot Taps to repair the valves for a cost up to \$12,000.00. Neil Howard seconded and motion carried.

## 7. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate

**a. Minutes** —The mayor stated that the city finished the year in the positive. Neil Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the September regular meeting and the September financials. Albert Sykes seconded, and motion carried.

**8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary** – Mayor Ray reminded council that the November meeting would be on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the December meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Adjourn** – Albert Sykes made a motion to adjourn. Neil Howard seconded, and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

  
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Janet Shelton, Assistant City Secretary

  
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Date