

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, March 20th 2025, 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
Albert Sykes, Alderman
Dave Carrasquillo, Alderman
Neil Howard, Alderman
Shelly Main, Alderwoman

Joe McSloy was absent. Mayor Ray certified there was a quorum. Also present were City Secretary Mary Lou Craig, Assistant City Secretary Janet Shelton and approximately five city residents.

4. Public Comments – City residents commented on Hidden Creek ditch maintenance and internet service in the city.

5. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported he spoke to Chip Reed and he said, the Chew Rd bridge will be finished mid April and Sealy Paving Company should begin resurfacing Chew Rd around the end of March beginning of April and next year the county will remove the zig-zag and straighten Chew Rd at Lezak Rd then they will replace the old wooden bridge and resurface Chew Rd from Brazos Hill just past the new bridge. Discussion followed. Albert Sykes reported he reordered the two-sided no outlet signs and asked Matt Childress to spray the grass along the edge of the roads. Neil Howard reported Sodolak Ln has been torn up from large truck traffic. Mayor Ray said the city will install two new message board signs and research whether they must be lighted.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Dave Carrasquillo said he spoke with Chip Reed about cleaning out the drainage from Chew Rd to the river. Mayor Ray expressed his concern that opening up the drainage channels would cause flooding at the bottom where there is little drop towards the river. Dave Carrasquillo said he would speak to Mr. Brown about his charges to maintain the Hidden Creek Rd ditch. Mayor Ray said he receives phone calls from developers asking about the requirements to develop property in the city. Mayor Ray recommended the developers build their own detention pond or ditch to the river. Discussion followed.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray reported the engineer should finish the drawings for the TCEQ report this weekend. Albert Sykes asked if we had a leak on Brazos Hill and the Mayor said no, a resident was draining their swimming pool. Mayor Ray reported Hot Taps is making a map of all valve locations that will be put on the wall at the water plant, with only one more valve needing repair we will be able to isolate a section for leak repairs and they are not billing the city for the valve survey map.

6. New Business

a. Water Rates – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray said he and Shelly Main went through the plant and determined all ground storage tanks and pressure tanks need to have a TCEQ inspection at the same time to get all of them on the same schedule. The inspections should run between \$1,600.00 and \$2,000.00. The pressure tanks need to be empty for inspection so they will be drained one at a time while the other tank is still in service and the ground storage tanks will not need draining. After the inspections the maintenance and repairs can be done to extend the life of the tanks. Mayor Ray said approximately five years ago the city was quoted \$30,000.00 to repair the 46 year old ground storage tank which will probably be around \$50,000.00 today and he is waiting on a quote for a new replacement 22,000 gallon storage tank. One of the booster pumps needs to be rebuilt at a cost of \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00, one

of the other booster pumps has been rebuilt and to replace a booster pump with motor, four years ago ran about \$8,000.00 and would be around \$10,000.00 today. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray said the above ground piping needs repainting and he is waiting on a quote to build a concrete cinder block shell around the electrical control building to protect the electrical system from wind storms. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray asked for the water rates to be tabled until next month to allow time for upgrade and repair cost to come in. Albert Sykes made a motion to table the water rates. Shelly Main seconded, and motion carried.

b. Engagement Letter from Curtis Craig, CPA to audit FYE 9/2024 – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray announced the cost and proposal is the same as the last few years and Curtis has always done a thorough job for the city. Dave Carrasquillo made a motion to accept the CPA's engagement letter for the FYE 9/2024 audit. Neil Howard seconded, and motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate – Mayor Ray noted James Clark's report was included in the meeting packet as an example of what he does for the city. Mayor Ray asked if there were any questions regarding the items in the consent agenda. Hearing none, Albert Sykes made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Neil Howard seconded, and motion carried.

8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary – Mayor Ray reminded council that the April meeting is scheduled for the 17th and asked Albert or Neil to get a cost for the roads. A burn ban was discussed, an old table was offered for free and internet service in the city was discussed.

9. Adjourn – Neil Howard made a motion to adjourn. Shelly Main seconded, and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.



Janet Shelton, Assistant City Secretary



Date