

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, April 17th 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 7:01 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  
Albert Sykes, Alderman  
Dave Carrasquillo, Alderman  
Joe McSloy, Alderman  
Shelly Main, Alderwoman

Neil Howard was absent. Mayor Ray certified there was a quorum. Also present were City Secretary Mary Lou Craig, Assistant City Secretary Jan Shelton and approximately ten city residents.

**4. Public Comments** – John Williams ask to make his comments in the Albert Sykes retirement section of the agenda.

**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 reopened by next week and Chew Rd resurfacing should be finished by Monday. He will ask Chip about the sharp drop-off and if the road will be striped even though the county doesn't have any striping contracts. Albert Sykes reviewed in detail the condition of the city roads and cost estimates of approximately \$400,000.00 to resurface the roads and said council could get the county to help repair the edges of the roads that are broken down with their roller machine, if the city purchase the material. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray suggested money be spent from current year's budget for one or two roads and then consider more road repair in preparing next year's budget. Dave Carrasquillo said the Pecan Ridge Ln cul-de-sac is really torn-up and needs to be totally redone.

**b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate** – Joe McSloy said after Chew Rd is finished, he will get with Chip Reed about bringing in some stabilized sand for some issues that need to be addressed and cleaning out the ditches on Standing Oaks Rd to Briar Creek Ln and also down Briar Creek Ln to help with drainage issues.

**c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray reported Hot Taps is making a 24" x 36" map of the water system with the active valves that will be put on the wall at the water plant.

**i. Estimates** – Mayor Ray said he received two estimates of \$1,700.00 and \$3,400.00 for tank inspections and suggests Allied do the inspections for \$1,700.00 since they performed the last inspection in 2020 when they quoted \$26,500 for repairs on the old ground storage tank. Mayor Ray said there is a loose inlet line and cracked drain valve that needs repair and after the inspections council can decide between making the tank repairs verses replacement. Mayor Ray said he also got an estimate for a new 22,000 gallon ground storage tank for \$77,000.00, plus a foundation and crane to do the installation would be around \$100,000.00. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray also received an estimate to build a 20' x 20' cinder block shell with concrete roof to wrap around the electrical control building for protection against the environment at a cost of \$42,600.00. Albert Sykes asked John Williams how much the control panels cost and he said \$60,000.00 in 2017. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray said council will look at money for tank repairs or replacement and a masonry building in next year's budget.

**ii. Rate adjustments** – Mayor Ray postponed the discussion on rate increases.

**6. New Business**

**a. Resignation of Mary Lou Craig** – Mayor Ray said he has a letter of resignation from Mary Lou Craig who will be retiring as the city secretary effective May 01, 2025. Mayor Ray thanked Mary Lou for her six years of excellent service as the city secretary and said she has agreed to stay on as a paid consultant and bookkeeper for \$200.00 a month to help the city get through the audit. Joe McSloy also thanked Mary Lou for her service and dedication to the city. Mayor Ray presented Mary Lou with a gift certificate to Mesquite Mexican Grill from the city councilmen as an appreciation for her service. Albert Sykes made a motion to accept the resignation of Mary Lou Craig as city secretary and her staying on as a consultant at \$200.00 a month. Joe McSloy seconded, and motion carried.

**b. Certification of Janet Shelton – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray recommended the certification of Janet Shelton as the new city secretary with a salary of \$1,800.00 a month to stay within the \$2,000.00 a month city secretary and assistant budget. Albert Sykes made a motion to accept Janet Shelton as the new city secretary. Shelly Main seconded, and motion carried. Mary Lou administered the Oath of Office for City Secretary of Brazos Country to Janet Shelton.

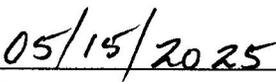
**c. Recognize retirement of Albert Sykes** – Mayor Ray announced the retirement of Albert Sykes as city councilmen adding that he also served as Mayor and accomplished much for the city over the years. Mayor Ray opened the floor for comments and called on John Williams the first City Mayor of Brazos Country and past President of the Homeowners Association to speak. John Williams gave an extensive detailed history lesson from the founding of the City of Brazos Country in September 2000 through present day along with detailed history of the water system. John acknowledged and paid tribute to Albert Sykes as the first person to volunteer for city council and his effort in getting all the city roads repaved. Mary Lou Craig recognized Linda Williams as the first city secretary who served in that position for 20 years. Mary Lou Craig congratulated Albert Sykes on his retirement and presented him with a gift certificate, gift basket and map of the city. Joe McSloy acknowledged Albert Sykes’s efforts in acquiring funds granted through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds after the Covid 19 pandemic, which eventually became quite a challenging task. Mayor Ray thanked Albert Sykes for his service.

**7. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate** – Mayor Ray asked if there were any questions regarding the items in the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Ray asked for a motion to accept. Dave Carrasquillo made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Joe McSloy seconded, and motion carried.

**8. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary** – Mayor Ray reminded council that the May meeting is scheduled for the 15th and said Albert’s position on the council is open, if anyone is interested coordinate with Joe McSloy. Mary Lou Craig said the city is getting a lot of spam emails and asked if anyone else was having this problem and recommended we consult with the city webmaster for advice.

**9. Adjourn** – Joe McSloy made a motion to adjourn. Dave Carrasquillo seconded, and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

  
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Janet Shelton, City Secretary

  
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Date