

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Brazos Country, Austin County, Texas, convened in regular session Thursday, September 18th 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
Joe McSloy, Mayor Pro Tem
Charles Kalkomey, Alderman
Dave Carrasquillo, Alderman
Neil Howard, Alderman
Shelly Main, Alderwoman

Mayor Ray certified there was a quorum. Also present were City Secretary Jan Shelton and approximately ten city residents.

4. Open Public Hearing for Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.07852 per \$100 valuation

Mayor Ray opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm and explained the proposed tax rate did not change from 2024. He said because the property valuations went up the city will collect approximately \$10,000.00 more than last year, which will allow the city to pave some streets.

5. Close Public Hearing at 7:04 pm.

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

7. Ordinance 2025-03 – Approval of 2025 tax rate – consideration and action as appropriate

Mayor Ray asked council for questions and hearing none, requested a motion. Charles Kalkomey made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03 setting the tax rate at \$0.07852 per \$100 valuation for the tax year 2025. Shelly Main seconded, and motion carried with votes as follows: Joe McSloy – aye; Neil Howard – aye; Shelly Main – aye; Charles Kalkomey – aye; Dave Carrasquillo – aye. There were no nay votes.

8. Recess Regular Meeting – Open Public Hearing for Proposed 2025-2026 General and Water Fund Budgets

Mayor Ray opened the public hearing at 7:05 pm and reviewed the proposed General and Water Fund Budgets. Mayor Ray said the city will pay for the new water tank from the reserve account and the water rate increase will reimburse that account. Attendees and council discussed line items on the proposed budgets.

9. Close Public Hearing at 7:08 pm

10. Open Regular Meeting at 7:08 pm

11. Proposed 2025-2026 Budgets – consideration and action as appropriate

Mayor Ray asked council for questions. Joe McSloy asked why field repairs on the 2024-2025 water fund budget were \$48,000.00 and the 2025-2026 is only \$24,000.00. Mayor Ray explained the 2024-2025 amount was due to cost of valve repairs and late billing by the vendor. Mayor Ray asked if there were any more questions and hearing none, requested a motion to adopt the general and water fund budgets. Joe McSloy made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 General and Water Fund Budgets. Neil Howard seconded, and motion carried with votes as follows: Joe McSloy – aye; Neil Howard – aye; Shelly Main – aye; Charles Kalkomey – aye; Dave Carrasquillo – aye. There were no nay votes.

12. Old Business

a. Roads – Update; consideration and action as appropriate

Neil Howard asked who patched several areas on Sodolak Lane and a guest reported the county made the repairs.

b. Culverts & drainage – Update; consideration and action as appropriate

Joe McSloy said nothing to report. Mayor Ray said the city needs to find some stabilized sand for making repairs.

c. Water department – Update; consideration and action as appropriate

Mayor Ray reported Kaluza has surveyed and marked the location at the plant where the new ground storage tank will be constructed. Mayor Ray said there have not been any leaks in four months and the Hot Taps valve survey map is complete and one large map is at the plant. Charles Kalkomey made a request that all councilmen receive a digital copy of the valve map. Discussion followed. Shelly Main recommended spray painting each valve top with its corresponding map number.

d. Aspen Fiber Networks Franchise Ordinance – consideration and action as appropriate

Mayor Ray reported Aspen has not yet accepted the franchise agreement because they are trying to acquire grant funding for the project. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray said the city will require Aspen to secure insurance or a bond to cover any damages that might occur during the installation process. Joe McSloy said when the franchise agreement is approved, the city will collect 5% revenue from sales.

13. New Business

a. TML Director Election – consideration and action as appropriate

Mayor Ray reviewed the candidates running for the open position on the TML Region 14 Board of Directors official ballot. Mayor Ray explained what services TML provides to the city. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray recommended Sally Branson, the incumbent. Charles Kalkomey made a motion to cast a vote for Sally Branson. Joe McSloy seconded, and motion carried.

b. Donations – consideration and action as appropriate

Mayor Ray said there was \$1,700.00 available in the budget for donations. Mayor Ray detailed the 2024 donation breakdown, then asked for a motion. Neil Howard made a motion to send Austin County EMS \$500.00, San Felipe-Frydek Fire Department \$500.00, St. Mary’s Catholic Church \$500.00 and Austin County Peace Officers’ Association \$200.00 as donations. Shelly Main seconded, and motion carried.

14. Consent Agenda – consideration and action as appropriate

Mayor Ray asked if there were any questions regarding the items in the consent agenda. Charles Kalkomey asked who the payee “DSHS” was on the water checkbook spreadsheet and Jan Shelton answered his question. Discussion followed. Mayor Ray asked if there were any more questions and hearing none, requested a motion to accept the consent agenda. Dave Carrasquillo made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Shelly Main seconded, and motion carried.

15. Comments – Mayor/Council/City Secretary

Mayor Ray reminded council that the October meeting is scheduled for Thursday the 16th at 7:00 pm. Mayor Ray said the new water rates take effect for October water usage which will be November receivables. Jan Shelton asked the councilmen if the webmaster had resolved the issues they were having and they responded that she had.

16. Adjourn

Joe McSloy made a motion to adjourn. Neil Howard seconded, and motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.



Jan Shelton, City Secretary

10/16/2025
Date