

City of Bronte, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday July 16, 2020 6:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas met in regular session VIA Zoom at 6:30 p.m. An audio recording can be requested through the Public Information Act through City Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mayor Paul Gohman, and a quorum was established. In attendance were Mayor Paul Gohman, council members Santiago Rodriguez, Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, Ron Cooper, and by Zoom, Stormy Vaughn. Financial consultant Everett Bedford, Utilities Director Ricky Royall, and City Secretary Teresa Ballard.

A. Proclamations and Presentations

Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Gohman

Prayer was led by Lee Wommack

B. Citizen Comments

There were no written comments sent in by deadline date via Zoom

There are no citizen comments

Monthly Reports

Public Safety & Animal Services Reports: Santiago Rodriguez reported VFD went on one grass fire north of town July 15. Deputy Roberson reported June activities with five ordinance enforcement calls, four ordinance notifications from city hall, zero written, two verbal warning and one citation given. Teresa Ballard reported on animal services caught five skunks, two possums, three raccoons and two armadillos. Three dogs were euthanized by owner after killing three cats. Both parties did not have their animals registered with the city. Received one written citizen complaint and deputies closed complaint. Municipal court received two summons and one warning.

Economic Development Report and Cemetery Report: EDC boards has since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Stormy Vaughan reports the cemetery committee has not met as well but thanked all the volunteers has mowed the cemetery. The cemetery has been mowed completely. Bug Express has sprayed the cemetery and weeds are dying. They are here this week to spot spraying.

Community: Depot Status Report: Nothing to report.

Permit – Building; Livestock; Fowl Committee Report: Ricky Royall reported June permit committee approved 16 permit; 10 storage or shop buildings, one small house, and four fence permits, also council approved extending the RV Temporary permit until December 31, 2020.

Regular Agenda

Code Enforcement: Permits: Mr. Ray Sparks was in attendance of meeting to answer questions from council regarding Temporary Cargo Permit to keep tools close by while building a house south of town. Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to approve temporary cargo permit for 6 months, seconded by Lee Wommack. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

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Finance: Budget: Mayor Gohman read Ordinance 20-03 Budget Amendment FY19-20 receiving funds from Texas Division Emergency Management (TDEM) in the amount of \$10,989.00 to General Fund, also preapproval for future of budget amendments to General Funds Account to receive any subsequent funds from TDEM. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve budget amendment for funds received from TDEM and made the motion to approve and subsequent funds from TDEM, seconded by Ron Cooper. Vote: 5-0, motions passed.

Stormy Vaughn stated that the TDEM money that is available is \$55 per person in our City population (\$55x999) that is almost \$55,000.00. If the funds are not used, they will be used by some other town. As long as the funds are used for any COVID related, we could use that money instead of taxpayer money. For example, a computer for our Water Superintendent to be able to his water utility paperwork for testing reports that have to be sent in as an essential employee but able to work from home if the pandemic gets bad now or in the future. Funds could be used for new radios for the EMS or VFD or even City employees for social distancing reasons. The community has been hit hard, our small business could possibly receive grants for being closed or for being open and payment of overtime, perhaps like the store when they stayed all hours to restock the shelves. Churches have been hit hard; they usually purchase school supplies but could not this year because of covid-19; buy school supplies for the community. Nursing homes, testing the employees and residents. Lots of different things we could use that money to help the community. If we do not use it, someone else will. Big Cities are receiving millions of dollars, we are allowed a little less than \$55k. We need to use it for the benefit of the community.

Finance: Budget: Mayor Gohman tabled the remaining budget amendments to correct transfers between inter funds until budget workshop.

Finance: TML Health Benefits Pool: Subcommittee Stormy Vaughn and Santiago Rodriguez met TML Benefits Account Executive Beth Ellison, Ricky Royall, Ken Coalson and Teresa Ballard to discuss options for the FY20-21 benefits. Stormy Vaughn and Santiago Rodriguez discussed with council members the options. Currently paying \$608.02. We have in budget to pay this amount and if we chose option 3 or 4 the city could offer to pay dental and vision for employees. Employee approves of option 3 or 4 and having dental and vision. Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to accept option 3 for \$589.16; Dental Plan III \$37.64; and Vision B \$9 total benefit package \$635.80, seconded by Stormy Vaughn. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: Utility Billing: Council discussed continuing waiving late fees and disconnects. Stormy Vaughn asked if we could ask TML if we the money that has been waived is reimbursable from the TDEM. Ron Cooper made the motion to extend waiving late fees and no disconnects for the Month of August, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 4-1 Steve Hines vote no, motion passed

Finance: Sanitation: Original contract started October 1, 2010, and auto renews every five years with annual amendment rate changes notifications from the Modification of Rate Section of the contract. Our contract expires September 30, 2020. It will auto renew for five years if city does nothing. Last year subcommittee met the Republic to discuss adding curb side services to the contact. Republic discussed if we wanted to add curbside services when contract is time for renewing. Stormy Vaughan stated Republic gives us six free roll off removals of container each

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year of a saving \$290 times six, also Fire Department has a 2 yd container free of charge, they are helping us with Curbside Service, help with overage when items are too much for polycarts and containers. Council discussed having another subcommittee be Stormy Vaughn and Santiago Rodriguez and they meet with republic services and report back to council at next meeting. Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to table, seconded by Steve Hines. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Minutes: Lee Wommack made the motion to approve Regular City Council Meeting Minutes June 18, 2020, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 4-1, Stormy Vaughn abstained, motion passed

Monthly Finance Reports:

June Aging Report: Lee Wommack made the motion to approve June Aging Report, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

June Check Register:

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve check register for General Fund, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve check register for Water Fund, seconded by Ron Cooper. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve check register for Sewer Fund, seconded by Steve Hines. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Ron Cooper made the motion to approve check register for Sanitation Fund, seconded by Steve Hines. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to approve Cemetery Fund, seconded by Steve Hines. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Financials: Financial Consultant Everett Bedford has approved of Financials for October 2019 through February 2020.

EFTPS was not transferred for January 2020 but has been corrected and will show correction in July Financials.

Financial: Everett Bedford discussed with council using another payroll software. He has accounting software and the payroll system is very to understand. The cost \$750/yr. but if shared the cost would be \$250. Asyst maintained is \$250/yr. It can print the payroll checks and give me the figures to enter in Asyst. Discuss only.

Mayors Report: COVID-19 has not affected sales tax revenue as you can see on report distributed. Looking to possible getting faster internet for Zoom meetings and laptop. Will have budget workshops first of August.

Utility Director Report: Will be patching the streets

City Secretary Report: Nothing to report

Request for future agenda items:

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- Lee Wommack wants in writing code enforcement employee to have either the mayor or one councilmember to approve or reject all types of permits, except for Manufactured Homes.
- Santiago Rodriguez would like to see about getting more equipment.
- Ron Cooper would like to see if we could get a zero-turn riding lawn mower.
- Steve Hines still needs more information to understand how TMRS works. City Secretary has contacted David Rodriguez to set up Zoomed meeting to see if we can get answers for Steve Hines.
- Stormy Vaughn wants to review the TMRS plan and understand why the City is paying 13.3% towards retirement. Many things are being said that just don't make sense. The Council needs to know how this system works. It is my understanding by what I have been told that the City was in a "buy-back" program for years, when is that buy-back program up? "It is my opinion that the City should pay up to 6% match on an employee, and if an employee wants to put more money in their retirement, they can." "If Ricky and Ken are part of the "buy-back" program, and the City needs to put more money in it because of this program for when they retire, then the Council needs to see that information.... But I don't think whoever comes in after Ricky and Ken or a non-vested employee that the City should have to pay the 13.3% match to their 6%!"
- Stormy would like an update on the water study.

Adjourn: No further business meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.



Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Ballard, City Secretary