

City of Bronte, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas met in regular session in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 S. Washington Street, Bronte, Texas at 6:30 p.m. An audio recording can be requested through the Public Information Act through City Hall.

The meeting called to order at 6:30 P.M. and a quorum was established. In attendance: Paul Gohman, Mayor; Santiago Rodriguez, Mayor Pro Tem; All City Council Members: Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, Ron Cooper and Stormy Vaughn; Ricky Royall, Utility Director, Teresa Ballard, City Secretary and Sherry Bailey, Deputy City Secretary. City Attorney, Eileen M. Hayman was not requested to attend the meeting.

Proclamations and Presentations

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer was led by Lee Wommack

Citizen Comments – Carl Watkins presented to the Council drainage and ditch problems in front of his house and his neighborhood.

Regular Agenda

Public Safety & Animal Services reports: No one present to give the Volunteer Fire Department report. Deputy Brandon Neal gave the Sheriff's Enforcement Report citing verbal warnings and citations issued. City Secretary gave the Animal Report being animal services caught 4 cats, 2 raccoons, 1 opossum, and 3 dogs and she added in the report of verbal warnings and citations issued.

Code Enforcement: Permits requested. Council reviewed Application and Site Plan and heard comments by the Code Enforcement Officer, Ricky Royall on six (6) requests.

Bedo S. Juarez - building permit for an addition to his house, property on North State Street.

Santiago Rodriguez made motion to accept permit, seconded by Stormy Vaughn.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Diane Irwin & Odis McDonnell Sr. - 5 building permits being a new, replacement Manufactured Home after their house fire, replacement of front, side and back porches and new, wood privacy fence all on property located at 803 E. Railroad.

Ron Cooper made motion to accept all 5 permits, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Code Enforcement: Pending Building Permits. Citation was mailed to the Coke County Cowboy Church regarding the cook shack no action; Municipal Judge will inspect the property owned by Richard Caraway at 410 Sweetwater Road, information only; Permit has been closed with Donna Hall regarding the building permit for a new fence with panels.

Stormy Vaughn made motion to close Donna Hall's permit, seconded by Lee Wommack.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Economic Development Report and Cemetery Report: No report or discussion. Committee's had not met prior to this Council Meeting. Nothing new to report.

Economic Development – Depot Status Report: Mayor Paul Gohman reported events of the meeting. The Depot has a lot of potential and a committee needs to be formed. Grants and donations are needed to renovate this Historical Building. Beth Prather gave her thoughts and "how to's" which helped with a good starting point.

Economic Development: Approved Bryce Short to the EDC 4A as a board member.

Stormy Vaughn made motion to approve Bryce Short to the EDC 4A as a board member, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: Update on Water Study Contract with Jacob & Martin. Mayor Paul Gohman stated funds for the water study have been earmarked on the budget to pay for the study. Council were presented with one proposal. Council asked Ricky Royall to obtain more than one bid and more than one proposal for the water study. Council wants to make sure they do their due diligence when spending that kind of money.

Stormy Vaughn made motion that Ricky Royall obtain at least 2 proposals/bids from reputable firms for the water study for new water treatment facility and to have Ricky Royall check with Valerie (grant writer) to see what other grants are available for the City of Bronte to receive and percentage of grant, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Utilities: Electric Provider/rates. EMEX broker presented his Electricity Usage Reverse Auction and broker services for a new contract. After his presentation, Council discussed. The City of Bronte currently has 28 meters. Our current service contract expires March 31, 2020. Council express concerns regarding the reverse auction. If during the auction, the winner of the electricity bid (has the lowest rate) goes out of business and then the City of Bronte is stuck with this contract. Current contract with Reliant Energy discussed. It was discussed that the City may get a lower kWh but then extra fees could be charged. Council wants to make sure they do their due diligence when entering into a lengthy contract and make sure we get the best service for the price.

Stormy Vaughn made motion that the City Secretary obtain proposals/bids from TruEnergy broker that reached out and our current provider, Reliant Energy, and see what kind of rate for the service we can get, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Sewer: A renewal Sewer Lease was discussed by and between City of Bronte and Riley Coalson. His current lease will be up August 31, 2019. The current lease has a provision for an automatic renewal if he wants it. Riley will graze, maintain and manager the property, and fences year-round. Riley Coalson will apply for grants to control the mesquite. Lease amount is \$2,000.00 a year and the City of Bronte will pay up to \$2,000.00 towards the electricity bill a year. The sewer pumps must run, and Riley Coalson will run the pumps for the City when he is on the property. That would be a city expense if Riley would have the Lease or not. Riley Coalson will be grazing the property and maintenance on the property.

Ron Cooper made motion that the City approve the Sewer Lease Agreement with Riley Coalson with City Attorney approval, seconded by Stormy Vaughn.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Roads: Drainage work has made progress in the last few weeks. There is a lot of dirt out there. There has been some complaints and some compliments. Work has not been done in years. The streets are just flat, and areas are just low in town. The City is trying to get the streets back in its original condition. It will take some time, but it's a work in progress and we are working. A street sweeper is a needed and Council discussed options. Council discussed spray the grass on the streets that will grow after the blading. Council discussed options. Ricky Royall asked the Council for approval of Council to hire Bug Express (who is currently the lowest bid for spraying the Cemetery) to give a quote to spray the streets.

Stormy Vaughn made motion to authorize Ricky Royall to consult with Bug Express to spray the street with a budget of \$3,000.00, if the fee and certain options are more, then consult with Council, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

After making a motion to revisit this item: Santiago Rodriguez made a motion to find a solution to sweeping the streets, either a rental or contractor to sweep the street, giving approval within budget requirements; seconded by Steve Hines.

Cemetery: Cemetery Wall Bids. Mayor Gohman has been discussing grant options for the cemetery improvements with the USDA. City is having trouble getting bids from contractors to build a stucco wall. Council discussed other options. Ricky has the drawing of the upcoming project for bid process. On going process and further discussion later.

Stormy Vaughn made motion to authorize the City Secretary to advertise for bids for cemetery wall project; being a small ad in the local paper and free on social media, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Cemetery: Cemetery Weed Spraying. Update: Bug Express finished a portion of the cemetery and will continue on spraying on July 19th.

Discussion only.

Community: Curbside Service Pickup. Update: Curbside was a success. Started about 8:00-1:30. Didn't miss anyone this time. Some of the citizens got confused on what items would be picked up or not as "curbside service".

Educate citizens again what is allowed and what isn't. Discussion Only.

Community: Disposal of Limbs for Citizens. City has opened the Convenience Center for citizens to bring their limbs and brush when convenience center is open at no charge. City will not come by and chip anymore since this option has been provided. City Secretary will advertise on the marquee to take limbs to the Convenience Center when center is open and time.

Discussion only.

Ordinance: Peddler and Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance and Permit. Council has seen the current Ordinance and has requested changes. City Attorney is still reviewing. City Secretary requests Council to table until City Attorney reviews and approves or makes changes.

Santiago Rodriguez made motion to table right now seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Ordinance: Manufactured Home Ordinance. Change the Ordinance name to Manufactured Housing Ordinance. A mobile home is different than a Manufactured Home. Mobile home was manufactured prior to 1976. The City has a Mobile Home District but not a Manufactured Housing District. This new ordinance will regulate the placement of Manufactured Housing in the City limits to a district described in Exhibit A. The new ordinance will prohibit "mobile homes" and manufactured housing parks in the City limits. It also adds a fee schedule and setback building requirements. Council will review application and site plan and will be the final authority for approval of the application and if permit is granted.

Stormy Vaughn made motion to approve the Manufactured Housing Ordinance with minor edits, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Ordinance: Golf Cart/Off Highway Vehicle Ordinance. Council discussed ordinance and state law. Deputy Brandon Neal expressed his concerns regarding the ordinance. There is a State law regarding this subject. If a municipality adopts an ordinance that citizens can drive on 35 mph on city streets, with the accessory feature requirements met, that they can drive a golf cart/off highway vehicle being a legal licensed driver. The ordinance is simple and easy to understand.

Ron Cooper made motion to approve the Golf Cart/Off Highway Vehicle Ordinance with City Attorney approval, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 3-2, motion passed; Santiago Rodriguez and Lee Wommack voted No.

Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2019, Regular Council meeting

Stormy Vaughn made motion to approve the May 16, 2019 minutes with minor typo edits, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

June 20, 2019, Regular Council meeting

Stormy Vaughn made motion to table the minutes for June 20, 2019 to remove information about finance codes that the citizens wouldn't understand, and more information provided about the water study contract, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

June 27, 2019, Special Council meeting

Stormy Vaughn made motion to approve the minutes for June 27, 2019 meeting to include change that the motion made by Lee Wommack was not seconded and died because a lack of a motion, this was seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: Bills Paid, Balance Sheet, Aging Report for June

Stormy Vaughn made motion to approve the Bills Paid and Aging Report, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance (Continued):

Revenue and Expenditures for June and Preliminary Revenue & Expenditures July 1-15

Stormy Vaughn made motion to table Balance Sheet for June, Bank Reconciliation, Revenue & Expenditures and Preliminary Revenue & Expenditures, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Consider allowing City Secretary to open closed months to correct access to open records previous months to reconcile and make corrections.

Stormy Vaughn made motion to approve allow City Secretary to open the closed months to correct accounting, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: Budget workshop dates set for August 6, 2019 and August 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Report: Everything he wanted to discuss was in the meeting format. Nothing to add.

Utility Director Report: Road base will be added to the North side of town to fill in some of the holes. He would like to see more road base hauled in to put on top of that.

City Secretary Report: July 24th, she will be attending a free seminar. She will not charge the City to go. She will be travelling out of Midland around that time. She received a formal complaint and had an issue with a couple of dogs running loose.

Request for future agenda items

Employee reviews before or at the time of Budget workshop. Santiago Rodriguez would like to discuss more about the street sweeper, either purchase or rent. Steve Hines would like to have an agenda item, discussion only, regarding the City limit location and also an agenda item regarding the number of treated water taps and where that are located outside the City limits and where the meters are located. A citizen asked Ron Cooper what we can do to get rid of the buzzards on the water tower.

Adjourn: No further business meeting adjourned at 9:44 pm


Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Ballard, City Secretary