

**The City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas met in regular session at the Blue Goose, 117 W Main Street, Bronte, Texas on May 21, 2020 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: City Council Members: Sanitation Rodriguez, Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, Ron Cooper and Stormy Vaughn, Ricky Royall, Utility Director, Teresa Ballard, City Secretary. City Attorney, Eileen M. Hayman was not requested to attend the meeting.

**A. Proclamations and Presentations**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Gohman

Prayer was led by Lee Wommack

**B. Citizen Comments**

No citizen comments

**Regular Agenda**

**Public Safety & Animal Services Reports:**

**Fire Department**

Santiago Rodriguez reported the BVFD responded to 3 calls during May 1 – 20, 2020 as follows:

May 10, three vehicles and nine personnel responded to a brush fire started by a boat trailer tire that flew off the axle and caused the blaze. Ten acres were affected, and approximately 15,000 gallons was used to extinguish the fire. No structures were lost. RLVDF also responded the fire.

May 15, two vehicles and four personnel responded to a utility pole struck by lightning at the corner of McCaulley and Cumbie. The utility pole did not stay ignited, and self-extinguished before BVFD arrived. No structural damage was reported.

May 20, one vehicle and three personnel responded to call of mutual aid for fire in Nolan County, west of Blackwell. Multiple agencies also responded, Texas Forestry Service, Sweetwater FD, Blackwell VFD and Nolan County FD.

BVFD D. Stensby departed to report to the US Navy. FD added four members to the roll, Beau Grigg, David McWright, Kinley Hoyt and Mason Hoyt.

**Code Enforcement**

Deputy Brandon Neal reported as follows:

March had four calls for ordinance enforcement; two officer ordinance notifications from city hall; four written warning and no citations issued.

April had four calls for ordinance enforcement; one written warning and two citations issued.

**Animal Control**

Trapper caught 19 possums, 18 raccoons, 13 feral cats, 3 skunks and 3 dogs

**Municipal Court Report**

Deputies wrote 5 warnings, 1 fowl ordinance: 3 animal ordinances; 1 Junked Vehicle. 2 Citations issued, 1 curfew ordinance and 1 burn ban

**Economic Development Report-** Have not met due to COVID-19.

### Cemetery Committee Report

Stormy Vaughan reported cemetery committee has not met but expressed that the cemetery needs to be mowed before being sprayed. Ricky Royall discussed mowing before spraying with Bug Express and was assured spraying before mowing then waiting a week they chemical soaks into the ground will work.

### Depot Report-Nothing to report

### Permit – Building; Livestock; Fowl Report

Ricky Royall permit committee approving 14 building permits, and none denied. Four Livestock approved and two Fowl denied.

### Regular Agenda

#### Code Enforcement: Review Denied Livestock & Fowl Permits:

Ricky Basquez was present to address concerns from council. Steve Hines made the motion to approve waiver permit, seconded by Ron Cooper. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

John & Jennifer Burdett were present to address the council. Ms. Burdett mark the permit incorrectly. Steve Hines made the motion to approve Fowl wavier permit, seconded by Ron Cooper. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

#### Code Enforcement: Permits:

Louie Rivera was not able to attend the meeting, but council discussed his request for temporary permit of RV while building on this property. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve temporary permit for 90 days, seconded by Ron Cooper. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

#### Code Enforcement: New Business:

Brian Hall discussed to council adding meat processing in with his current business. It will follow all the FDA and USDA guidelines. The business will take up from February through September 1 and adds three employees. Lee Wommack ask the mayor we needed to amend our ordinance, but Ricky Royall said we do have an ordinance for meat processing plant. There is a state law for meat processing plants. All council members gave Mr. Hall a thumbs up to proceed. Discuss only.

Mayor Gohman addressed the financial situation to COVID-19 with the shutdown how it was going to affect us. Sales Tax and Utility Billing is holding up extremely well. Financially we are doing well. We have used 6K in salary for the temp employees. We can use them for 30 hrs. a week until September and be under budget. We probably will not be getting the inmates. That line item is now in reserves.

#### Community: Housing Authority:

Housing Authority would like to re-appointment commissioners Margaret Charlesworth and Jeanna Lee for the next term to the Housing Authority. Lee Wommack made the motion to approve Ms. Charlesworth and Ms. Lee for the next term on the housing authority, seconded by Stormy Vaughn. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: TDHCA Texas Home Grant:

Council discussed applying for TDHCA Texas HOME Grant. Stormy Vaughn would like to see if we get a grant to use it to help residents that only need some work done on their existing home. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to apply for the HOME Grant, seconded by Lee Wommack. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: AEP Texas Inc:

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve authorizing the Mayor to execute a resolution finding that AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its distribution cost recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; finding that the city's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel, seconded by Lee Wommack. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: City Hall

Council members discussed having germ shield install at front desk area. Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to approve bid for germ shield, seconded by Stormy Vaughn. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Finance: Collections

Council members discussed list of Utility Customers owing more than 90 days with closed accounts being sent to collections. Stormy Vaughn made to motion for city secretary to submit list to collection agency, seconded by Steve Hines. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance: Utility Billing

Council discussed continuing waiving utility late fees and disconnects for the duration of COVID-19. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to discuss continue waving utility late fees month to month, seconded by Ron Cooper. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Sanitation:

Mayor recommends opening back up the Convenient Center on regular schedule with using temp employee Ms. Sullivan working the gate so Mr. Basquez would not have any connection with residents. Ron Cooper made the motion to open the Convenient Center on regular schedule with using temp employee at the front gate, seconded by Stormy Vaughn. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Cemetery:

Ricky Royall would like council to consider approving bid of \$7800 from Bug Express to hand spray the cemetery. It is guaranteed for six month and maybe longer as the growth should slow down. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to accept Bug Express bid \$7800 to spray the cemetery, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Discuss/Act Minutes:

Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to approve April 16 regular city council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Lee Wommack. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Consent Agenda - Discuss and Consider Monthly Finance Reports – Feb, March & April

Stormy Vaughn asked city secretary with the financial consultant help research water debt fund and Sales Tax income February through April for General and Water Fund. Steve Hines asked about the city's TMRS contribution. Ricky Royall explained the city contributions. City Secretary will provide Steve Hines the minutes and TMRS correspondence. Ron Cooper made the motion to table General and Water fund and accept Aging Report, Sewer, Sanitation, Grant and Cemetery reports for February, March, and April, seconded by Lee Wommack. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

**Discuss – On-going**

**Mayor Report**

We are looking into a payment drop box for resident use. Mayor will be scheduling special meeting so Eckert can go over the audit and have financial consultant there as well. We will send out dates for council to choose from. Would like to assign Deputy Neal domestic animal and livestock fowl ordinances and assign Deputy Roberson to junked vehicle and nuisance ordinances.

**Utility Director Report**

Robert Lee did have an overage of \$1100. We have a slim chance of getting the inmates this year due to COVID19. The Convenience Center was open May 9, from 8-Noon and we had 12 appointments.

**City Secretary Report**

- Municipal Court is June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm and we have one case on the docket
- Cyber Security Training has been completed for employees
- System for Award Management (S.A.M.) have been renewed for City Hall, Economic Development and Fire Department for 2020
- Budget Seminar was canceled for May 28, but I will get a recorded webinar and handouts so I will share it with council and our financial consultant
- Been attending weekly webinars with Municipal Clerks discussing the challenges we are facing with COVID-19.
- Attended TML Webinar Covid-19 Update today "What you need to know". Sent email to council.
- City Offices are closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day

**Request for future agenda items**

Ron Cooper would like a focus group to brain on crime, dilapidated building, etc.  
Santiago Rodriguez would like to put EMS training on the next agenda and amendments to the budget.  
Stormy Vaughan Need to get the A/C fixed in the tracker. Ricky Royall reported part has been ordered  
Lee Wommack would like to have in writing the procedure and process for the permit committee.

**Adjourn:** No further business meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Gohman, Mayor

**ATTEST:**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Ballard, City Secretary