

City of Bronte, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 18, 2021

The City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas met in regular session Thursday March 18, 2021 in City Council Chambers, 114 S. Washington Street, Bronte, Texas. An audio recording can be requested through the Public Information Act through City Hall.

The regular city council meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Gohman, and a quorum was established. In attendance were mayor pro tem Santiago Rodriguez, council members Ron Cooper, Kinley Pritchard, Gwen Dyess and Stormy Vaughn also in attendance were staff members Ricky Royall, Teresa Ballard, and Tina Smith.

Mayor Paul Gohman led with the Pledge of Allegiance and Kinley Pritchard led prayer.

Citizens Comments:

Lanette Fletcher thanked Ricky Royall, Ken Coalson, Jayton Cooper, city staff and volunteers that work countless hours to keep our city's water on during the blizzard.

Finance Internal Audit:

Megan Solsbery, CPA auditor from Eckert & Company presented the audit for the year ended September 30, 2020 to council. Overall, Fund balance increased 2% or \$7300. TDEM was new this year. You were over in two accounts. They were over budget in two departments, but they were small amounts and was not a finding. Statement of New Position Water was up 21%, Sewer was up 14% and Sanitation was up 35%. Overall, the audit is better than it has been in the past few years. A/R is getting cleaned up there to where we are making fewer adjusting entries.

Public Safety and Animal Services Reports:

Fire Department treasurer David McWright reported FD had a meeting on March 8, 2021. There is \$25,000 in our funds and under budget. Five runs in February. Two structure fires and one gas leak. Supported Robert Lee to a house fire and one breaker box fire to the exterior structure. Monica Harris talked about grants for vehicles, and we would like to get a brush truck. We talked about communications during COVID-19. We have a credit at the grocery store and are thinking of having a meal as a thank you to the citizens.

Sheriff Deputy Brandon Neal reported three calls for ordinance enforcement, one officer ordinance notification from city hall, no verbal or written ordinances and one ordinance citation issued. For February two calls for ordinance enforcement, four officer ordinance notifications from city hall two verbal and one written ordinance warnings issued, and four ordinance citations issued. Citations were for dogs at large and burning in the city limits.

Municipal Clerk Teresa Ballard reported January had zero warnings and one citation for dogs at large. February had one warning and four citations issued for dogs at large, not registered with city and burning in city limits.

City Secretary Teresa Ballard reported trapper caught for January twenty-four feral cats, one raccoon, one opossum, five skunks, two squirrels, and six dogs. All dogs were claimed. February there was two domestic cats, four feral cats, six skunks, three opossums, two raccoons, and four dogs. Three dogs claimed and one was euthanized.

Citizen spoke from audience to address this concern:

Council member Kinley Pritchard has had a few complaints from citizens on the trapper. One citizen was at home and noticed city trapper outside across the street and when they came out, she drove off and has happened multiple times that I have been told. That is concerning to me. Another citizen was inside watching her dog in the yard and trapper was trying to lure the dog out the yard and when confronted the trapper said it was a register dog check is what they were told. Since being on council I am seeing not good feeling between citizens, city, and city council. I think we need trapping. Gwen Dyess spoke of one concern and said she felt that it has gotten better since, she had spoken to Tiffany Harendt. Mayor Gohman and Teresa Ballard went over trapper duties with everyone. Mayor Gohman asked if this went beyond the driving around and patrol the city for loose dogs. Kinley Pritchard said yes it seemed to be and how

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she is interacting with the citizen. We just need to know we are all on the same page and as a community he felt that we could make this work out. Tiffany Harendt said that she turns in a log each week reporting every time she has contact or sees an animal and what is said to the citizen. "if it is not in the log it didn't happen". Kinley Pritchard said when animals are loose why citations are being given without warnings. Deputy Neal spoke that a ticket is given if animals are miles from their home and not on same street as owners property. Mrs. Holland was upset that she did not get a warning before a citation. Ron Cooper agree that we stay on same page even though each situation is different. We as citizens need to know the liabilities of having an animal and following the ordinances. Gwen Dyess said that we all know animals get out and as an animal owner we must be responsible owners. Mrs. Pritchard asked if the Animal Control Officials job description can be public. Tiffany Kay Sullivan spoke that the things on Facebook were her and that everyone comes to her, so she feels that she needs to post it. Gwen Dyess said that if there is a complaint about the ACO that they need to come and report it in person or in writing to City Hall. Mr. Holland spoke up that he is having a problem with the ACO of harassing his family and luring his dogs. Stormy Vaughn spoke that she had a couple of people call her. She spoke that an ordinance was put into place because of an action that happened a few years back. Stormy Vaughn said that if a complaint has been made that a written warning needs to be done and kept on file. Tiffany Harendt had reported the incident with the Holland family to the sheriff department the night it happened. Stormy Vaughn said that Tiffany Harendt is doing a great job trapping and that she needs to stay away from the Hollands home. Mrs. Fletcher spoke of fixing the problem in a meeting and change the guidelines and for all to work together as a community. Stormy Vaughn said that she is doing a good job making sure their rabies shots are current. Mrs. Holland said this is her official written complaint. Tiffany Kay Sullivan asked what is happening with these cats. Teresa Ballard answered that the feral cats are disposed of and that if they are ear notched and shots they are released.

Mayor Gohman moving forward that we will be working on this in the near future.

Economic Development Report Teresa reported the EDC board approved Zack's BBQ store front grant approved for fence. He will be doing a cook for donations this weekend.

Cemetery Report: bids for trees and city are weed eating and mowing. Spaying is up and will be spaying for weeds next month. Ron asked about if we can use prisoners again Ricky maybe in June.

Depot Status Report: no report

Building Permit Report:

Zero permits issued for January.

2 portable buildings, 1 house, 3 fences and 1 carport for February

Fowl and Livestock permits

6 fowl permit, 5 approved and 1 special use approved.

16 livestock permits approved for January.

4 fowl permit, 1 approved and 3 special use approved.

5 livestock permit, 1 approved and 4 special use approved for February.

Mayor Gohman move to agenda items 7 – 13 to make good use of Financial Everett Bradford's time.

He said we have researched software 24,000. Up front and 15,000. Unable to maintain yearly. We are going to work with the software we have and possibly to go to one checking account.

Ron Cooper made the motion to approve agenda item 7 – 13 minutes and financials, Stormy Vaughn seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Fowl permit: Ron Cooper made the motion to approve special use permit for Colin Pope, Gwen Dyess seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Curbside/Convenience Center: Consider the cost of the monthly Curbside and Convenience Center Table the data, which was presented of cost and expenses, Stormy will call Republic Services and report back to council.

City Secretary: Stormy Vaughn made the motion to authorize City Secretary to declare records beyond the required retention period to be destroyed in compliance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Local Government Records Act, Santiago Rodriguez seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

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Cemetery: Ricky Royall went over bids for tree trimming at the cemetery with council. After discussion Kinley made the motion approve bid from Tree Express for one day for \$3300 to get as much as they can, Santiago Rodriguez seconded by motion. Vote: 4-1 Stormy Vaughn abstained from vote. Motion passed.

Finance: Ron Cooper made the motion to purchase commercial zero turn mower, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Property: Signing from all entities deeded to City of Bronte tax deed Parcel 6480 is complete. Just waiting on document from Coke County. No Action update only.

Property: No update at this time regarding property to be added to Fairview Cemetery.

Council took break at 7:29 p.m. Mayor Gohman reconvened council meeting back in session at 7:39 p.m.

Ordinance: Gwenn Dyess discussed with council some changes to Cargo Shipping and Sea Container ordinance. Teresa Ballard will make changes as discussed. Tabled until April council meeting.

Financial: Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 audit by Eckert CPA, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Grant: Stormy Vaughn made the motion to authorize signatures on TxCDBG Project #7220059, Civil Rights Resolution, and Code of Conduct Policy (19/20/21), seconded by Gwen Dyess. Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Discuss – On-going.

Mayors Report: Reported just how close we came to losing our water during the storm and that we need to work on above ground storage.

Utility Director Report: Several leaks during storm We lost a pump and a motor. Ricky is sending them both in for repairs. Stormy Vaughn asked about Robert Lee water issues. Robert Lee was pumping all they could pump during that storm and had to have a boil mandate in the rural areas.

City Secretary Report: Cyber training needs to be done by June.

Request for future agenda items: Santiago Rodriguez request to buy a batwing shredder and repairs to a building in the water plant roof.

Gwen Dyess reported that the streetlights are going to be replaced with LED as they go out. It would be too expensive to replace them all at the same time.

There was no further business and council adjourned at 8:44 p.m.



Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Ballard, City Secretary