

City of Bronte, Texas
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 19, 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. by Mayor Pro Tem Santiago Rodriguez and a quorum was established. In attendance: 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. City Attorney, Eileen M. Hayman was not requested to attend the meeting. Absent was Paul Gohman, Mayor.

A. Proclamations and Presentations

Pledge of Allegiance
Prayer was led by Lee Wommack

- B. Citizen Comments** - Any citizen wishing to appear before a regular meeting of the City Council may do so by signing up to speak at the City Council meeting itself, regarding any item posted on the City Council agenda. Council may take comments from citizens on this matter. Citizens are allowed three minutes for comments.

Citizens Shana Schmidt, Amy Reeves, Morgan Runyan representing the families of 4H & FFA, Bryce Short, Kathy Shaw, Mason Hoyt, and Amy Chumney came to hear what the Livestock and Fowl Ordinance changes are and discuss with council. Nathan Bearden asked why his building permit isn't on the agenda.

Regular Agenda

Mayor ProTem Santiago Rodriguez moved agenda item #16 discuss and consider New Animal Control Ordinance and Livestock and Fowl Ordinance. Repealing the domesticated animal ordinance from 1975 with amending sections during the years. Council to consider two separate Ordinances: New Animal Control Ordinance and Livestock and Fowl Ordinance. These two ordinances go hand in hand when repealing the prior Animal Control Ordinance, the Council must either table both new ordinances or approve both ordinances. Stormy Vaughn explained that she has been appointed ordinance commissioner and therefore, has typed the City ordinances. Ms. Vaughn read the ordinances aloud and copies of the new ordinances were available for inspection by the citizens in attendance. The new animal control ordinance (domestic animals) was read first and then discussed with the citizens. Responsible ownership of pets is lacking in our community. The Council is trying to reduce the number of cats and dogs that get euthanized. We changed the required registration "one-time" fee to \$5 to allow more people to afford the registration fee; however, a registered dog or cat owner must show proof of vaccination of rabies per State law. If a City tag is lost it is \$5 for a replacement tag. The \$5 covers the cost of the tag. We have always had a limit of a total of 4 domestic animals in the city. You can have two pythons confined, but an owner must obtain the proper permit from the Texas Park and Wildlife and show proof to the City of Bronte when registering the pythons, this is a new requirement. Discussed new State Law regarding tethering of animal and cruelty to animals' law. Next, the Livestock and Fowl Ordinance was read aloud, and a lengthy discussion and debate was had. Citizens voiced their concerns regarding the 2-acre minimum and maximum classified animal unit. Council allowed an open discussion regarding the matter, listened to everyone objections and statements, and then explained the Council's reasoning. The City Council did not come to a decision regarding this or these ordinances quickly, and many months of discussion and debate was had. Stormy Vaughn read some of the changes to the ordinance as follows: Texas codes that govern livestock; definitions to help explain; permitted minimum acreage requirement and maximum number of livestock limited; prohibition of any fowl except for 6 chickens and 1 rooster with regulations with 50 feet setback line from any property; prohibition of swine in the City limits with exception to Ag school programs, FFA and 4-H supervised school officials and county agents; requirements of a city permit for livestock and chickens and chickens with the definitions; defined and set out regulation determining what is a public nuisance in regards to livestock and chickens; care and treatment of livestock animals and chickens, Texas Law - cruelty to livestock, restraint and confinement of livestock

and chickens; and impoundment/ redemption of livestock and fowl. Concerns were discussed in the open meeting regarding the 2-acreage requirement and number of animal units as defined in the ordinance. Some asked for an exemption for Ag, FFA and 4-H from the regulations in the ordinance. Council explained that some of the complaints from other citizens were from show animals and that every citizen has equal rights to the enjoy the use of "their" property. Council made a compromise with citizens to limit the acreage requirement to one (1) acre or more and added 2 show steers to the list of examples of animal units defined in the ordinance. The changes to the ordinance were made at the open meeting.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve Animal Control Ordinance and Livestock and Fowl Ordinance with noted changes, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0 motion passed

Public Safety & Animal Services reports: Martin DeLaGarza reported BVFD worked two pit fires. Thank you, City, for the radios. We have had several individuals join the BVFD. Work continues on the new fire department building.

Council stopped the meeting by 7:55pm for a break. Council reconvened meeting by 8:01pm.

Deputy Neal gave the Sheriff's Enforcement August Report being 2 citations given for the same dog. State law states no tethering of animals. Stormy Vaughn asked deputy can you give a citation to someone not complying with the ordinances?

Mayor ProTem Santiago Rodriguez moved to agenda item #8 Public Safety to discuss and consider agreement with Coke County Sherriff Department and Code Enforcement Duties. Council would like to have a meeting with the Sheriff's deputies regarding new contract.

Ron Cooper made a motion to table until meeting could be set up, seconded by Stormy Vaughn.

Vote: 5-0, motion pass to table

City Secretary gave the Animal Report being animal services caught 10 cats, 2 raccoons, 2 possum, and 1 dog caught then went to German Sheppard Rescue Shelter.

Economic Development: City Secretary reported EDC 4B hasn't met, EDC 4A met September 16th, revised FY19-20 budget as requested by city council and discussed project for new city street signs.

Cemetery: Monthly Cemetery Committee: Brenda Hines reports the committee hasn't met.

Economic Development Depot: Depot Status Report – Ricky Royall reported Bedo Juarez will be re-grouting the rock off and on at the Depot.

Economic Development: Consider resignation from Paul Knight, president of EDC 4A board.

Storm Vaughn made motion to accept EDC 4A President Paul Knights resignation, seconded by Lee Wommack.

Vote: 5-0 motion passed

Economic Development: Consider approving revised EDC 4A FY2019-2020 Budget

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve EDC 4A FY19-20 budget, seconded by Lee Wommack.

Vote: 5-0 motion passed

Sanitation: Consider Quarterly Curbside Clean-up date with Republic Services. Council consider October 14 or 21.

Stormy Vaughn would like more education to citizens on what they can put on the curb, how much and how to have it bundled.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to have curbside service for October 14, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Personnel: Consider hiring an extra part-time Labor and advertise for position. What council member will do the interview with Ricky Royall? Ron Cooper volunteered.

Lee Wommack made the motion to have Ron Cooper be part of the interview group at \$15/hr. with approximately 15hr a week with a job description, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed.

Animal Control: Consider Employment Contract Agreement with Matt Basquez. City attorney prepared the contract. City secretary has asked TML Risk Pool if Olivia Basquez can help. I am waiting to hear back.

Ron Cooper made a motion to table agreement until we hear back from TML Risk Pool regarding insurance and liability, seconded by Lee Wommack.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed to table

Financial: Consider Agreement (review agreement) with Everett Bedford as our Financial Consultant. City Secretary reported Mr. Bedford just got back from tax seminar/class and haven't heard back.

Ron Cooper made a motion to table until Mr. Bedford has had a chance review the agreement, seconded by Lee Wommack.

Vote: 5-0, motion to table

Municipal Court: Consider Agreement (review agreement) with Judge Allen Gilbert as Bronte Municipal Judge.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion approve agreement with Judge Allen Gilbert as Bronte Municipal Judge, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Public Safety: Consider housing Coke County Disaster Relief 2 axle enclosed trailer at City Hall.

Lee Wommack made the motion to approve the City to house the disaster relief trailer owned by the County at either city hall or new fire station if the fire department approves, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Utilities: Consider new contract rate/term/services from the Electricity Brokers. City Secretary needs direction and suggestions from Council regarding what information Council wants to review prior to making a rate contract agreement. City Secretary will ask all electricity brokers to submit the prices for next agenda.

Ron Cooper made a motion to table, seconded by Stormy Vaughn.

Vote: 5-0, motion pass to table.

Cemetery: Consider Volunteer cleanup day at the Cemetery. We need to fix the fence and paint it and archway, weed eat, mow, rake and trim trees. Lee Wommack made the motion to have volunteer clean-up day for October 26th at 8am-Noon, seconded by Stormy Vaughn.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Streets: Update on spraying and street sweeper. Ricky Royall reports Bug Express lost the license person that is certified to spray the streets. The street sweeper will be here on Monday October 23rd. Wade Stautzenberger will be driving the sweeper.

Discussion only, no action taken

Discuss/Act Code Enforcement: Update and solution to any on-going open cases located in Deputy City Secretary's report and copies of letters being sent to citizens. Stormy Vaughn asked if open cases are over year old, can deputies give a citation for non-compliance? Council discussed "non-comply" letters being sent out for mowing. It was discussed by Council that the City should concentrate on the City lots and not pastureland with mesquite and prickly pear. Stormy Vaughn recommends for city to clean up right of ways and work on city "owned" lots, as well and not focus on pastured land. Stormy Vaughn read page #3 of the public nuisance 18-01. Stormy Vaughn is asking council when sending (1st letter to Comply- regular mail letters) giving notice to citizens 10 days per ordinance. Then if the property has not been mowed within said 10 days, then the City will have it mowed and a second "certificate mail" letter will be sent with the City bill for mowing and admin fees to be paid. Do not drag it out for several months.

Stormy Vaughn made a motion not to send anymore pastureland letter out for now, concentrate on in-town lots and for the city to start cleaning up the right of ways and city lots, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Animal Services: Update to the Animal Report given to Council Monthly. Stormy Vaughn would like, in the future, to see an enforcement report log with what kind of activity the animal control is seeing and doing in his new job duties, mainly to track the success of the new animal control duties or not.

Discussion only, no action taken

Code Enforcement: Update status of list for grandfathered RV, Manufactured Housing, and Sea Containers in the City limits. (List of owners, properties and any temporary Containers and storage only of RV). Stormy Vaughn would like deputies to have the list of what is grandfathered in order to enforce the new ordinances properly. The information spreadsheet will be updated for easier interpretation.

Discussion only, no action taken

Approve Minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and Steve Hines discussed with Council regarding the minutes of September 5, 2019 Special Council Meeting. Mr. Hines met with the JP's office regarding Code 551.401-404, and he says we can run golf carts on the city streets with a city ordinance. Copies to be given to council.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve September 5, Special Council Meeting, sectioned by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Financial: Consider Approval of Utility Customers 90 days closed accounts being sent to collections. City Secretary would like to clean up aging report for year-end.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to send closed accounts sent to collections, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion passed

Finance - August

Discussion; Mayor ProTem Santiago Rodriguez asked several questions regarding the financial sheets presented to Council and explained his findings. He requested that on the report line an item should not be shown as "not available", can we fix that.

Bills Paid

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve bills paid, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, Motion passed.

Balance Sheet. Mayor ProTem Santiago Rodriguez asked about income in/income out regarding the Home Grant shown in the financials. We did not budget for any home grant and we did not do an amendment to the budget regarding the same. City Secretary posted deposits at the end of December 2018 and wrote checks in early January 2019. City Secretary will add to budget amendment. Mayor ProTem, asked several other questions regarding funds shown that would reflect that the balance sheet was off. Example: what is (\$1.00) credit in the Sewer accounts payable account. City Secretary will research.

Ron Cooper made the motion to table, seconded by Steve Hines.

Vote: 5-0, motion table

Aging Report.

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve aging report, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, Motion passed.

Bank Reconciliations

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve bank reconciliations, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, Motion passed.

Outstanding Checks that have not cleared. Mayor ProTem Santiago Rodriguez asked what the status of outstanding checks written in Water fund for Faubian Well. Steve Hines will get telephone number and contact. City Secretary will update council status. FYI only

Revenue and Expenditures –

Stormy Vaughn made the motion to table, seconded by Ron Cooper.

Vote: 5-0, motion tabled

Consider Approval of FY2018-2019 Correction and Reconciling of Fund Accounts. Stormy Vaughn would like to table until next month so council can consider approving the full fiscal year. – No action

Discuss – On-going

- a. Mayors Report: Goals and projects – no report
- b. Utility Director Report – Ricky Royall reported RBF and Jeff Lee will be starting demo to the blue house on Jefferson St. Additionally, Ricky Royall is asking for one of two council members Friday at 9:30 at city hall review building permits applications for approval.
- c. City Secretary Report – I have attended all required seminars.
Attended Texas Economic Development Council Sales Tax Workshop August 23, 2019 in Abilene, Texas

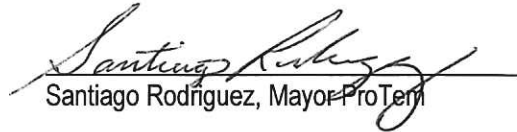
Attended Texas Municipal Court Education Center Motivational Interviewing Seminar September 13, in San Antonio, Texas

Submitted request to attend Election Law Seminar in Austin, December 4-6, 2019

d. Request for future agenda items

Lee Wommack would like to see if Sales Tax money could be used to use for EMS and FD. With voters' approval we could get a 1/8 % of the Sales Tax for EMS and FD.

Adjourn: Council adjourn at 10:34pm.


Santiago Rodriguez, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Teresa Ballard, City Secretary

