

**City of Bronte, Texas**  
**Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 17, 2020**

**The City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas met in regular session Thursday, December 17, 2020 in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 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 5:32 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, staff Ricky Royall and Teresa Ballard. Council member Stormy Vaughn was absent.

Mayor Paul Gohman led with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

There were no public comments.

Public Safety & Animal Services Reports for September: Santiago Rodriguez reported the Fire Department had no runs and no meeting due to Covid. The Sheriff's Department was not present to report. Animal services report from December 1 to present is as follows; 10 cats, 3 foxes, 1 opossum, 3 raccoons, and 3 skunks. City hall received 2 calls of lost cats – one was found deceased and one found its way back home both had collars with no identification on collars. City hall picked up 2 dogs both with collars, one apparently was injured and died after ACO brought to city hall. The owner did claim the deceased animal and the other dog was kept overnight with the owner claiming the next morning. There was no Municipal Court summons issued in November.

Economic Development Report and Cemetery Report: EDC 4B board approved two store front grants, also sponsored the downtown lights for a month, and will look at doing it year around if feasible. 4A board has ordered city street signs. Also, discussed the Depot and is interested in forming a little exploratory committee to see how to best to utilize the Depot if the city is interested.

Cemetery Report: Ricky Royall reported the water faucets are done. We are on the schedule with Scherz landscaping for mid to late February to start landscaping at the north entry of the cemetery and cost of this section is \$10,800.00.

Depot Status Report: Ricky Royall is checking with our grant writer Valree Thompson to see if there are any grants to help with repairing the depot.

Code Enforcement: Building permit committee reviewed and approved two permits since our last meeting. One metal fence and one solar permit.

### **Regular Agenda**

Economic Development Corporation 4A Board presented FY20-21 Budget for council approval. Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve EDC 4A FY20-21 budget as presented, seconded by council member Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

Mayor Gohman reported to council the building standards committee members are Lee Wommack, David McWright, and Gwen Dyess. No action.

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Mayor Gohman read resolution 20-09 ordering the 2021 general election on May 1, 2021. Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to authorize the Mayor to order the 2021 general election, seconded by Gwen Dyess. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

Mayor Gohman presented to council the recommendation to consolidate the city's telephone line from frontier to Granite Telecommunications. City will not be tied into a long contract. The contract is month to month. Ron Cooper made the motion to consolidate telephoned lines to Granite Telecommunications, seconded by Kinley Pritchard. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

Mayor Gohman went over cyber liability and data breach coverage options from TMLRIP. City's recommendation is to increase cyber coverage to Tier 2. Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve cyber liability increase coverage to tier II for \$48/yr., seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

Council member Gwen Dyess has been approached by several citizens wanting to have a container on their property with but the current ordinance they cannot have one. If the Cargo Container ordinance could be revisited on the restrictions. After council discussed, the mayor tabled the discussion and asked council to look how other cities handle cargo containers. Cargo container ordinance will be placed on February's council meeting to discuss findings and have guidelines added. Discussion only.

Mayor Gohman discussed nuisance violations are creeping back up in the city. City hall will notify citizens either by telephone, letter, or door hanger. If no action is taken, then CCSD will be notified to follow-up. All we want is to get the violation taken care of. Information only.

Council member Ron Cooper gave overview to council members highlighting the RV violation meeting with Ms. Harendt. She voiced her concerns to council and as of right now all her questions have been answered and she is in agreement to move forward with council's proposal. Council member Gwen Dyess will talk to AEP regarding setting pole. Ms. Harendt's RV will be grandfathered but if the RV needs to be serviced she will need to go in front of council to get a waiver as per the ordinance. Discussion only.

Mayor Gohman reported December curbside service did have a lot of items place by curb. Council discussed the possibility of every other month. We will have curbside in January and then discuss options. Our future goal is to close convenience center. Discussion only.

Ron Cooper made the motion to approve consent agenda items 8-15, for November 19, regular city council meeting minutes, aging report, September, October and November Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditures; November finance reports as follows: bills paid, check register, bank reconciliation for General, Water, Sewer, Sanitation and Cemetery funds, seconded by Gwen Dyess. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

Gwen Dyess made a motion to approved customer #067700-16 to be sent to collections for bad debt and customer #055500-01 written off due to dying, seconded by Kinley Pritchard. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

Ron Cooper made the motion to approved ordinance 20-09 FY20-21 budget amendment as presented, seconded by Gwen Dyess. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

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Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve tax deed and property card for trust property in the City of Bronte, seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. Vote: 4-0, motion passed.

City Hall Personnel: Council went into executive session at 7:16 p.m. in accordance with Texas Government Code 551.074 personnel matters and reconvening into open session at 7:33 p.m.

Gwen Dyess made the motion to terminate Tiffany Sullivan, seconded by Kinley Pritchard. Vote: 3-1 Ron Cooper abstained, motion passed.

Discuss – On-going

Mayor Gohman discussed after meeting with Ms. Harendt we will wait on starting the landscaping project until property exchange has been finalized. The sales tax trending report was distributed and went down a little but still doing well. Jacob & Martin is here surveying the water lines for the grant award by "TxCDBG".

Ricky Royall reported waiting on the USDA grant for the backhoe. USDA reported will not have budget until March 2021 before we will know if we get the grant. We will be upgrading Neptune software next month.

Teresa Ballard attended the virtual public investments training December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am working on revising the procurement policy. Will present to council as soon as I have it revised. Will be sending out renewal livestock fowl permit letters that are for January next week. Mr. Bedford is looking at other billing and financial software.

There was no further business and council adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

  
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Paul Gohman, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Teresa Ballard, City Secretary