

Mayor Paul Gohman called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. March 21, 2024, and a quorum was established. In attendance were Mayor Paul Gohman, Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess, Clabe F. Webb, Mike Bailey, RA Morris, Ricky Royall, Teresa Ballard, and Tara Robinson.

Mayor Paul Gohman led with the pledge of allegiance and council member Mike Bailey led the prayer.

There were no public comments.

February Monthly Reports

Fire Department

One regular meeting, one training meeting and responded to two wrecks: one fire and assisted EMS one call. Still waiting to hear from the Forestry on the grant for a fire truck type 3 engine. They would like to see if the city or EDC could help to get a sign at the station.

Economic Development Report

Both boards this month met. A Board approved for signage at the community baseball field and scoreboard. Cemetery signage was discussed. B Board bought two new Christmas hanging decorations. They are working on some type of grant for the business owners that do not collect sale tax but if it were not for them, we would not have "the coffee table," etc. Working on brochures to promote Bronte and on-going training opportunities for both boards.

Cemetery Committee Report

Some of the EDC A Board members went out to the cemetery and looked at where we could put a locator and signage for our rows/columns. Cemetery contact information sign is now up.

Depot Report

Ricky Royall reported Cynthia Turner and Hartman roofing are still looking into the roof. Brenda Hines reported having a three-way call with the lady on board and we sent all these pictures back on what the roof looked like. She did not recall ever talking to anybody here, and we know that is the person we talked to before, so we cannot do a thing until something is done. TML risk pool wants an update, they are ready to send their check from the damage that was before so, we will keep working on that.

Animal Report

Six loose dogs; removed dead cats from roadway; set four cat traps at various locations and were negative eight times during the month. Two feral cats have been relocated; set two skunk traps and were negative three times.

Ordinance / Municipal Report

Ordinance official deputy Lopez followed up on the loose dog owners; was able to get two junked vehicles removed. Deputy Lopez has been following up on resident for public nuisances. Spoke to resident regarding open fire pit in backyard. There were no warnings or citations issued.

Permit Report

One permit was approved for a fence.

Regular Agenda

Land: Consider request from Kavin Tinney for additional water wells to the Oak Creek Land 6.846-acre tract land out of the D.L. Laughlin Survey #9, Coke County, Texas and a 11.523-acre tract of land out of the J. E. Hendry Survey #1 and the D.L. Laughlin Survey #9 located near Oak Creek Lake.

Mayor Gohman gave the floor to Mr. Tinney. Mr. Tinney introduced his wife, Irene. He gave his history of moving to Oak Creek and buying property from the city several years ago and again in July 2023. I would like the opportunity in the future, (who knows what is going to happen in 10 or 15 years), to ask for a couple more wells on the two pieces of property. One piece of property is 2100 feet long, the other is 1600 feet long. Say you have a well by a house but then you must lay 2100 feet of pipe to care for animals on the other end of the property. I am not saying today, tomorrow, next week, or next year, I am just trying to plan where I am not having to come to council and do in five or 10 years down the road but while it is fresh on your mind, I am asking you to allow us to do that.

Gwen Dyess spoke along with Mike Bailey. Mike Bailey said he was not on that previous council. I do not know what kind of legal counsel they sought. I know this council respects the legal counsel that we do get and as a member of this council it is my first duty is to is to try to make the right decisions for this community and that is all I am here for. Sometimes it is difficult, but the advice that I see from our legal counsel is not to change the agreement that the land was sold under, and I understand the inconvenience of long narrow property in one well and all that brings but. I do not know. Again, I was not on that council, but this property was originally purchased along with other property in the same reservoir. I do remember that it came up to drill more wells and I was the one that made the motion to leave it as was and I feel the same way today. Gwen Dyess read a partial section from the attorney. "There is the issue of the bid notice only stating that two wells would be allowed. It is basic contract law that when a bid notice is advertised and a bid is submitted, a contract is formed when the City Council accepts the winning bid. I will have to research the ramifications of changing this "contract" after the fact, but I can say there will be a risk that the other bidder(s) would have a claim against the City because they did not have the opportunity to bid on purchasing the property with 3 wells". If approved, it would change the deed. Gwen Dyess made the motion to deny for more wells, seconded by Mike Bailey. Vote 3/1 Clabe F. Webb vote no. motion carried.

Water Project: To authorize the mayor to negotiate a contract with North Runnels Water Supply Corp. to provide a water system interconnect between North Runnels and Bronte which will supply emergency water to Bronte in the event of the loss of lake water in conjunction with a water sales contract between Bronte and North Runnels.

Mayor Gohman one of the things that I had discussed before is finding an interconnect to another water system. We have exhausted all the other opportunities. They are simply not there. There is a good chance they just will not pan out. So, it would cost us millions of dollars to run pipelines, and then you have taken or pay contracts on top of that. Which would increase the cost of water. We have one possibility to go to North Runnels and we talked about that many years ago and we had permission from the UCRA to sell out of

this lake to them and that failed years ago, there were just problems on their end that just would not happen. Now we found out that they have gone to the engineers and want to go for grant loan funding from UCRA to improve their water supply system, which is in horrible shape. They are getting water for exorbitant prices, \$9 per thousand, they are selling it to their people for \$18.00 per thousand you can imagine. They would like to entertain an interconnect with us. They would pay for everything. They are going to fund the pipeline and provide us with that interconnect with the provision that should we lose the lake, we can reverse it and get water from their system and can keep us alive, so it does not cost us anything. To me it is the deal of a lifetime. It is in conjunction with a water sale contract because that is the only way that they can make this payout. They must pay about \$8 million for this pipeline and so they would like water at a less rate than what they are getting from Winters, and they are contractually bound to only take so much from anybody else. But they would still like to negotiate that contract with us and provide us with an interconnect with their system. Their system is connected to Winters, also connected to Ballinger, which is also connected back to Abilene. We know that is a solid connection and if we lose the lake at least we have another source. So, this is to authorize the mayor to negotiate the contract with North Runnels to provide that water interconnect in the conjunction with a water sales contract and that you know the exact provisions of it would be negotiated and that is not done in public.

Mayor Gohman asked for discussion, Clabe F. Webb asked where North Runnels is located. It borders east of coke county and north of Winters. RA Morris asked the cost and Mayor Gohman answered \$4.50 per thousand. It would be more if they sold us water.

Our well fields can provide Bronte with our normal winter consumption indefinitely. Clabe F. Webb said I thought you said previously five years. Ricky Royall reported our wintertime usage is about 80 to 90,000. Our indefinite well field is about 149,000. Now if we want to push it to 200,000 per day, then the projection is only for five years. And it needs to recover. Mayor Gohman said in the summertime, you would not be watering lawns and things like that because you would be restricted to wintertime consumption.

Clabe F. Webb mentioned that the people that he has spoken to do not know that we are under drought conditions. The city has posted notice on the back of water bill, in the newspaper, post office, grocery store, on the marquee at the mini park and it is on the website marquee. We will put it back in the newspaper and add the notice to the senior citizen center.

Mike Bailey reported we were at 32.9% conservation pool and last year 46.5% conservation pool. It takes an average of every 12 years to fill up. There is more water being pulled out of now. Bronte needs another water supply.

Clabe F. Webb would like a chart of all the effects; who's effective over here, pros and cons. Would like to see some breakdowns with everything that is going on and what it is going to be.

Clabe F. Webb made the motion to authorize the mayor to negotiate a contract with North Runnels Water Supply Corporation to provide a water system interconnect between North

Runnels and Bronte which will supply emergency water to Bronte, Gwen Dyess seconded the motion. Vote 4/0 motion carried.

Election: Consider Resolution 24-03 Cancellation of the 2024 General Election.

Clabe F. Webb made the motion to cancel the 2024 general election, Gwen Dyess seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.

City Secretary: Consider approving corrected Records Disposition Log FY15-FY18 documents.

Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve corrected records disposition log as presented, Mike Bailey seconded the motion. Vote 4/0 motion carried.

February Reports Consent Agenda

Aging Report, Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditures

Mike Bailey made the motion to approve reports as presented, RA Morris seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.


Informational Reports

Mayor Gohman distributed a TXDOT map of the curb and sidewalk project. They have met with local businesses. It is slated for November.

Ricky Royall reported ARPA money part of the money went to buy generators and line work we got approval to spend the reminding \$7,556.03. I plan to purchase more pipe and with the 30K budgeted we can replace them approximately forty-one hundred feet towards Humble Road. Also, we have four wells on the Laswell property that we have not utilized in a while, we plan to refurbish one at a time.

Teresa Ballard attended two TMCN meetings, one over code enforcement for junked vehicles and grant writing. I will send out information from both handouts.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.


Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Ballard, City Secretary

