

**City of Bronte, Texas
City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 17, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas met in regular session Thursday, June 17, 2021, 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 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Gohman, and a quorum was established. In attendance were Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess Council Members, Kinley Pritchard, RA Morris, Zach Davidson, and Clabe F. Webb. Staff members present Teresa Ballard, Tina Smith, and Ricky Royall.

Mayor Paul Gohman led with the Pledge of Allegiance and council member Kinley Pritchard led prayer. There were no public citizen comments.

Monthly Reports: May

Public Safety and Animal Services Reports:

There was no Fire Department representative at meeting to give report.

Deputy Neal reported three calls for code enforcement. One from City Hall. There was no verbal warning issued and one written citation. Teresa Ballard reported municipal court received two warnings for dogs running loose. One not registered and one registered. Three dogs picked up by ACO. One dog went to a rescue shelter and two were returned to owner. The ACO picked up four feral cats, three foxes, two opossums, two raccoons, and two skunks. Seven dogs were picked up and released.

EDC: Teresa Ballard reported both EDC boards tabled the allocation of funds for the community pool due to contractor could not do the repairs before pool opened. Street signs are being replaced. Both EDC boards will be posting for a Bronte Economic Development Director.

Cemetery: Teresa Ballard reported committee did a volunteer clean-up Tuesday, June 15th. Bug Express sprayed Wednesday 16th. Trees Express came out June 8th and got a fifth of the trees trimmed. Committee would like to see poles at the end of all corners to keep people from driving over graves.

Depot Report: Clabe F Webb met with Nathan Bearden to see what repairs he thought were needed at the Depot. The recommendation was that a constructional engineer would need to be brought in. Mr. Bearden said it would cost a lot of money and it would be a lengthy process. If we were to rent the depot it would be more cost effective to have the renters do the repairs. Also, met with Garland Richards since he has knowledge of repairing historical sites. He has not met with Masonic Lodge regarding the furniture. Tina Smith took pictures of the Depot and its contents.

Permit Report: Ricky Royall reported three building permits; one awning and two fences. Two rejected livestock permits.

Regular Agenda

Contract: Mayor Gohman discussed whether the petition from private citizen, brought against city contractor was a legal petition. If it is presented as a petition there are requirements for a petition. There are several issues involved. It is not a petition for a particular issue, it is multiple issues which complicates things. Some of the items are civil matters that need to be taken care

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of by code enforcement officers as opposed of dealing with it from a city's standpoint. As far as the city's involvement with Tiffany Harendt she is the Animal Control Official. There is one issue that has to do with that. Number nine of the petition with the killing of cats. That has been addressed a couple of months ago. This has always been the process of disposing of feral cats. Mayor suggested if someone could produce an adoption process that would be a good idea. Regarding the land issue, it is not specifically on the agenda and if we were to discuss this matter, we would be in violation of the open meeting act. We are looking into the other issues mentioned to see if they are civil issues. Mayor and council members discussed the animal issues at hand.

Permits: Ricky Royall reported committee denied permit due to chicken coop being too close to a neighbor's property. Committee asked Mr. Rote if he would consider moving his storage building over to make room for the chicken coop. Mr. Rote presented letter from neighbor, Ms. Linda Agent stating she does not object to the location of where the chicken coop is regarding her house and yard. Kinley Pritchard made the motion to approve special use building and fowl permit for Brian Rote, seconded by Zach Davidson. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Permit: Ricky Royall reported committee denied livestock permit from Kay Mixon at May's council meeting, because it did not meet the requirements per city ordinance. Ms. Dianne Jackson (Kay's sister and owner of the goat) came to council to appeal the denied permit, she explained to council the goat was almost trampled by the other goats on the ranch and only has the use of three legs. After council discussed, Ms. Jackson explained that she had fencing out at the ranch that could be brought in to be put up. She stated she will bring letter from her brother that lives next door. Council recommends getting letter from the brother to approve a fence to enclose the whole block. Council explained that the goat cannot be tethered per animal ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess made the motion to table until letter is presented to council, seconded by Zach Davidson. Council voted 5/0 to table, motion passed.

Water: Ricky Royall discussed the documents explaining a pipeline was laid by Exxon and then given to the city. It has served its time. Previous council tried to get a grant to replace the line, but that grant was for inside our city limits and was denied. As of right now we can replace the automatic flush valve. This would only be a band aid but would help with the water quality for now. We recently received notification from the US Treasury "American Rescue Plan Act Funding" of \$217K and the city has budgeted \$122K of capital outlay for part of this to help. To replace the whole line, it would be \$410K. Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess made the motion to replace the automatic flush valve, seconded by Kinley Pritchard. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Ordinance: Manufacturing House 19-03: Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess opened the discussion for more possibilities to have manufactured homes in our town. Council decided to form a subcommittee with Kinley Pritchard and Clabe F. Webb on the subcommittee to research further. Discussion only.

Ordinance: Fee Schedule Ordinance 19-07: needs amending since the use of the sanitation convenience center has changed. Also, water section verbiage needs to be added which was left out when the water ordinance was archived. City staff would like council to consider changing section VII Animal Registration (a) B. Dangerous Dogs fee to \$5. Kinley Pritchard made the motion to accept changes to the fee schedule as presented, seconded by Zach Davidson. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

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Grant: Consider approving reopening TCDP checking account at FNB to receive grant money. Clabe F Webb made the motion to re-open checking account, seconded by Zach Davidson. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Finance: Sewer Lease: Consider Riley Coalson lease payment agreement. Riley Coalson asked to waive the fee for the year of 2020 because of the restriction to not graze till the first frost per the NCRS program. RA Morris asked if Riley Coalson could keep up the spraying maintenance of the mesquite trees. Ricky said that sewer lease needs to be harvested or mowed. Kinley Pritchard made the motion to approve the fees waived per the contract of taking care of maintenance seconded by Clabe F. Webb. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Healthcare: Consider re-rate for TML Healthcare Benefits for next fiscal year 21-22. Healthcare has increased \$17.68 per employee. Dental plan no increase. Vision option F has a better plan than the previous year with no cost increase. Mayor pro Tem Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve 100% of the employees benefits for FY21-22, seconded by RA Morris Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Retirement: Consider 2022 City Contribution rate for TMRS of 11.13%. Kinley Pritchard made the motion to approve the TMRS Retirement Plan year 22 for 11.13% rate, seconded by Zach Davidson. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Finance: Consider approving the ability to take payments on-line for utility services. The cost is \$295.00 set up fee, \$195.00 training fee and \$89.00 fee per year. If the customer decides to use EPay the customer covers the processing fee of 3% +.35 cents. This provides an integrated electronic payment solution. Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve to move forward with the setup, seconded by Clabe F. Webb. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

EDC 4A: Consider approving EDC 4A community project. Tabled at this time, because only one bid was turned in.

Street Signs: Consider what to do with old street signs and poles. Ricky Royal's opinion is to do a silent bid on the signs and post once project is complete. The city will post in Newspaper, Facebook, and marquee. Also, citizens have asked if they can purchase specialty signs from vendor. City will find out. Kinley Pritchard made the motion to put signs and poles up for bids when project is complete, seconded by Zach Davidson. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

City Hall: Clabe F. Webb has seen all the interruptions city staff have during the day and recommends changing city office hours either closing at 1pm on Friday or possibly open during the noon hour each day and closing at 4pm Monday-Friday. Other businesses in Bronte close about the same time. Clabe F Webb feels this will help office staff to finish paperwork from 4 to 5pm. Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess made the motion to change city hall office hours to 8am -4pm open during noon hour to the public, take in effect on July 6, 2021, seconded by RA Morris. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Contracts: Council went into executive session at 7:40p.m. in accordance with Texas Government Code 551.074 personnel matters and reconvening into open session at 8:19 p.m. Kinley Pritchard made the motion extending the application process for Animal Control Official till July 9, 2021, due to only having one application turned in also extending Tiffany Harendt current contract till July 9, 2021, seconded by Zach Davidson. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

Consent Agenda: Clabe F. Webb made the motion to approve the meetings of May 20, 2021, and June 7, 2021, and May aging report and May reconciliation of all accounts. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess. Council voted 5/0, motion passed.

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Discuss – On-going.

Mayors Report: Goals and projects- Working on FY21-22 budget and plan to have council workshops in the next month.

Utility Director Report: The Backhoe the city has purchased has been setup for delivery at the end of August. USDA asked us to keep them informed. We are not going to get the TDCJ Work Camp to help with mowing, cleaning creeks and other city work project this summer due to Covid. Mayor pro Tem Gwen Dyess asked about community service help. Ricky Royal said yes, we have had help in the past. Clabe F. Webb suggested the clubs at school might be able to help as well.

City Secretary Report: Tree trimming on next agenda. We only have Clabe F. Webb signed up for the class in Abilene on July 13, 2021. Restoring Bronte Foundation gearing up for Bronteoberfest in October, they are having a meeting on July 12, 2021, at 6:30 pm. Jody Arrott asked if any would like to join the committee.

There was no further business and council adjourned at 8:34 p.m.


Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Ballard, City Secretary