

...Bronte City Council meeting minutes

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Mayor’s Report

Mayor Gohman spoke with the mayor of Robert Lee and said she was clear that she would look elsewhere to find a different solution. At this point, Robert Lee is scheduled to have another licensed person on board November 1. There is no need for a local agreement.

Zoning would cure a host of issues. A priority is to start working zoning and all of these ordinances may be obsolete.

The landfill - treatment plant will not work. It is licensed for 25” per of water for irritation. If there was to be a landfill, and then put back to irrigation, we could only afford to get 1” of rain per year and we would be out of compliance. That would jeopardize our license and we are looking for land elsewhere to do this. When we do this, we have talked to an environmental partner. They will come in some sample houses for demo, check for asbestos, etc, to comply with this program. We will be getting a bid packet back to see what the cost will be. We are working on the cost of that program.

It has been suggested and it’s a great idea to have citizen committees to help: 1) Citizen Committee for code enforcement to help city staff, and 2) Citizen Committee for cemetery.

**City Secretary’s Report**

Reports that were passed out are all preliminary. I will email the final reports when tweaking has been finished. We will have one more budget amendment before we close out FY2018. October accounts payables have no split budget allocation for the year into the current month. I can change as I can according to when/how we receive income/payables.

Kathy with the USG Plant in Sweetwater would like to use the parking of the depot for a “Pokey Run” corn horn fundraiser event on Saturday, October 27, from 9 am until noon. I will let them know what is approved and be aware of the LZ helicopter landing zone.

Auditors have sent the schedule and I will start sending reports to them.

An invitation was sent to all council and EDC members to the TMCN Annual Conference on Wednesday, October 24. With council approval, Buzz and I would like to attend.

**Utility Director’s Report**

Six certified letters have recently been sent and a few have been returned. A few properties are still being worked on. The next step is to go to the courthouse to get more information.

More information was given to the council regarding the last grant applied for replacing the water line and would like to see if we could get another pipeline grant.

Lee Wommack at some time would like to have on the agenda to do away with two

public hearings for the budget, and any other ordinances.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 pm.



365 Days a Year

by James M. Decker

I’ve written in this space several times about Stamford’s Christmas Day dinner. Several weeks ago I wrote that this dinner has a simple mission, to ensure that no one in Stamford is forced to spend Christmas Day alone. This event began 31 years ago and in that first year, served 75 meals primarily to shut-ins. Over the years, the event has grown to encompass delivery, take-out, and dine-in options.

This year, those options combined to provide a record 800 meals, over 25% of the town’s population. Almost 600 meals were served via delivery alone. It took 36 turkeys, 32 double recipes of dressing, hundreds of slices of ham and dozens of gallons of green beans and sweet potatoes. Most importantly, it took an army of volunteers. Over 100 people from across the community prepared ingredients ahead of time, cut pies and packed fruit on Christmas Eve, arrived at the church at 2 am on Christmas Day to begin cooking, and spent their Christmas Day serving and delivering meals, and ultimately, cleaning up the aftermath.

The Christmas Day dinner is an exciting, exhausting, energizing affair. It’s easy to wonder if you have enough energy to power through another year. Then, the dinner happens and you know you’d never, ever miss one. It is often said that sharing a table and a meal is one

of the most powerful, leveling experiences that a group of people can have together. Every year, I look across the dining room and I am reminded of the accuracy of that statement. I see people sitting side-by-side whose paths might never otherwise cross, from all ages, backgrounds, and creeds. Then I see something even more special. They don’t just wolf down a meal at the same table and then depart. They eat. Then they trade desserts. They refill each other’s drinks. They talk to each other’s kids. They visit about their lives. They STAY. Together. One regular volunteer told me that 40 years ago, he never dreamed that he’d spend Christmas Day like this, serving and eating a meal with hundreds of people who aren’t just people in the same

community, they’re family.

This year, I took the opportunity to deliver a few meals and I was reminded of something very important. What we do on Christmas Day in Stamford is a wonderful experience, but it lasts only one day a year. The Christmas Day dinner serves a variety of needs in peoples’ lives - food, companionship, and encouragement of one another. But those needs are present in our communities the other 364 days a year too.

How can we bring the spirit of the Christmas Day dinner to our community year round? What can we do to uplift our fellow community members all 365 days of ever year? Ultimately, the food is important, but the dinner is about more than food. It’s about uplifting everyone,

regardless of age, background, creed, or other specific need. I’m not quite sure how we can bring that to our community for 365 days, but I do know that it matters and Lord willing, we’re going to figure out how.

*James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, Texas, and the creator of the forthcoming “West of 98” podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.*

Observer  
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

On November 30, 2018, Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (“Oncor”), Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C. (“SDTS”), Sharyland Utilities, L.P. (“Sharyland”), and Sempra Energy (“Sempra”) (collectively, “Joint Applicants”) filed a Joint Report and Application for Regulatory Approvals (“Joint Application”) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (“PUC” or “Commission”), copies of which are kept at Oncor’s office at 1616 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Suite 6000, Dallas, TX 75202. The Joint Application requests Commission approval of three transactions (the “Proposed Transactions”), as described below, that will result in SDTS becoming an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Oncor that will own transmission and distribution assets held today by Sharyland and SDTS in central, north, and west Texas, and Sharyland will remain a utility in south Texas, with Sempra owning a 50 percent indirect interest in Sharyland. First, Sharyland will transfer its assets in north Texas, along with associated assets, liabilities, and working capital, to SDTS. In return, Sharyland will receive all of SDTS’s assets located in south Texas. In connection with this asset exchange, Sharyland’s equity interest in SDTS will be cancelled, and the certificates of convenience and necessity of Sharyland and SDTS will be amended to authorize the “North Texas Utility” (referring to the post-closing assets to be owned by SDTS) and the “South Texas Utility” (referring to the post-closing assets to be owned by Sharyland) to own, operate, and maintain their respective post-exchange assets. Second, Oncor will acquire InfraREIT, Inc. (“InfraREIT”) and InfraREIT Partners, LP and, as a result, will own and operate all of SDTS’s post-transaction assets. Finally, Sempra will purchase a 50-percent indirect limited partnership interest in a newly formed Delaware limited partnership expected to be named Sharyland Holdings, LP, which will own a 100-percent interest in Sharyland. The Joint Applicants also request Commission approval of certain regulatory terms listed in Exhibit A to the Joint Application, some of which are regulatory conditions to closing.

The Joint Application does not seek Commission approval of a modification to Oncor’s rates. Oncor is requesting a Commission finding, however, that Oncor may consolidate the North Texas Utility’s wholesale transmission rates with Oncor’s rates as part of Oncor’s next base-rate case. Oncor also requests Commission approval to establish a regulatory asset to track any make-whole payments or other expenses that may be required to extinguish, transfer, or restructure the debt of InfraREIT and its subsidiaries under the Proposed Transactions, so that Oncor may seek recovery of that regulatory asset in its next base-rate case. The Joint Applicants also seek Commission approval to split the current Sharyland wholesale transmission service tariff into two separate tariffs—one for the North Texas Utility and one for the South Texas Utility—which rates, when taken together, would be equal to Sharyland’s rate in effect at the time the Proposed Transactions close.

Any person wishing to intervene in this proceeding must file a written request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 North Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326, no later than January 4, 2019. This case has been assigned PUCT Docket No. 48929. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7136 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech- impaired with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC, SHARYLAND DISTRIBUTION & TRANSMISSION SERVICES, L.L.C., SHARYLAND UTILITIES, L.P., AND SEMPRA ENERGY

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