

Bronte City Council meeting minutes told

The Bronte City Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 6:30 pm, at City Hall.

Those present included Mayor Paul Gohman, Mayor Pro Tem David Bedford, Councilman Lee Wommack, Councilman Santiago Rodriguez, Councilman Steve Hines, Councilman Stormy Vaughn, Utilities Director Ricky Royall, City Secretary Teresa Ballard, and Deputy City Secretary Sherry Bailey. City Attorney Eileen M. Hayman was absent.

The pledge was recited by those present and the prayer was offered by David Bedford.

Brenda Hines expressed concerns on the roads in the Bronte Cemetery. The prisoners are doing the mowing but no one is doing any roadwork. There are several large holes that need to be addressed.

Marty Percy said that since moving to Franklin Street, he has been getting called by the City 2 - 3 times a week for petty stuff. He said that he doesn't have a giant family but they all have vehicles and two work trucks. He has permission from the people next door to lease their property and keep it clean. He mentioned that there is an 18-wheeler on a city street and he said he knows you can't do that. He also said if the City is going to enforce the ordinance or whatever, all ordinances need to be enforced and not to just pick and choose. He ended by saying that he is tired of being harassed by somebody (a citizen turning him in).

Paul Keeton with the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) Program explained how the MVPN program helps veterans that have fallen through the cracks needing services. Besides help with mental health, it turns in to needing help claims and needing a ride to help with a vehicle. Most of the time the community has the answers.

Jennifer Jensen with the West Texas Counseling and Guidance Service (WTCG) updated that they are expanding services through a grant, not only to active or inactive veterans but also to their families for free. They only need to show proof. WTCG has a counselor that comes to the Methodist Church once a week. Some do not want to see a licensed counselor but would rather talk to a peer and that is where the MVPN programs come in.

Santiago Rodriguez gave the Fire Department Report in Martin DeLaGarza's absence. He reported that the Bronte VFD is hosting fire training this weekend. Firemen from Bronte, Robert Lee, Blackwell, Maryneal, Wingate, and Winters have been invited to

participate in the training.

No one from the Sheriff's Office was present to report.

Teresa Ballard presented the Animal Service's Report as follows:

3 dogs (after 72 hours, they were taken to Corinne T. Smith Animal Center in Brownwood), 8 cats, 1 raccoon, and 1 skunk.

No livestock permits had been applied for, therefore no action was taken.

Ricky Royall reported staff sending out 14 certified letters to citizens for code enforcement Ordinance Public Nuisances 18-01. There will be more sent out. Ricky has spoken with one vendor that has routine lawns and he reports being behind due to all of the rain we have had.

Bob and Sherry Bailey applied for a building permit at 413 S. Franklin for a fence, shop/barn, and porch.

Donna Hall applied for a permit for a 6' chain link fence at 121 W. Main.

Ricky Royall approved all of the mentioned permits and reported that Donna Hall would be adding fire retardant slats in the chained link fence.

A motion was made by Steve Hines to approve the building permits and was seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. The motion carried with a vote of 5 - 0.

Stormy Vaughn opened discussion with local government code title 7, subtitle C, chapter 245, Issuance of Local Permits. The City needs to research and implement residential and commercial zoning. Texas Municipal League (TML) has a template from similar small cities in Texas that can be used as a starting point. There are currently none in place and permits are mainly used off of city zoning. This needs to be looked at in the future.

The list on Texas State Laws affecting municipal ordinances in the packets need to be reviewed and revised as needed.

The City has a manufactured house ordinance which defines exactly where you can put a manufactured home. An RV is not a mobile home. A mobile



Potato Bake! The Sorosis Study Club held their annual Potato Bake on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church in Bronte.

home is a permanent home and an RV is a temporary residence. There is an RV and RV Park Ordinance, which has a little about the RV and a lot about the RV Park. It defines everything to "Accessory Structure" and a permit is needed for such, and "Building Inspector" means the legally designated inspection authority of the city or his/her authorized representative. What Stormy said is not known is if the RV at the cemetery even has a permit. She said there are permits for cabanas and storage buildings, she doesn't know if the RV is hooked up to water and sewer and why a permit hasn't been issued. This issue will be investigated.

Recreation Vehicle or RV is defined as any licensed camp trailer, travel trailer, motor home, or fifth wheel designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational camping travel use, constructed with integral wheels to make it mobile. RV Parks are discussed in detail with specific requirements but not very specific about RVs located on a lot owned by an individual and not an RV park. There are specific exceptions listed and regarding permanent and temporary living and time frames for such. Ricky Royall said it's always been his assumption that one recreational vehicle, they own the lot, and they own the travel trailer, that it was okay to live there. There was lengthy discussion from council members of what the actual ordinance says and its interpretation and it needs to be clear. If there are regulations on an RV park and

how long you can stay there, why is there not more on an RV on a lot? The mayor says we must enforce ordinances as they are, and it has to be fair, and it has to be across the board. Stormy Vaughn says it needs to be transparent and when you read it and everybody in town knows what you can and cannot do. David Bedford reads that you can live in an RV as long as it's the only residence. He explains he thinks it means you can't have two residences, like a house and an RV on the same lot with people living in it. Council members discussed further the two meanings. Stormy Vaughn states that when you read this ordinance it is not clear and that is why half of the town is mad about one way and the other is mad about the other way. It just needs to be clear and not up to an individual interpretation. Mayor Gohman recommends to see what the TML attorney's interpretation

is. Stormy Vaughn reported that the complaints that she had is on an RV in the entrance of the cemetery in which they use the cemetery perimeter fence as their fence; that they don't have their own fence so no one has to look at their stuff. They have wooden fence panels in the front, but while at a funeral you can see all of their stuff. An additional complaint is the 18-wheeler parked at the entrance of the cemetery and leaving the truck running all weekend and all night with the family living in it because apparently they don't have an air conditioner in their RV. Also it was discussed about a lady that comes down to City Hall and turns everybody in. It was suggested that maybe all complaints need to be filed at City Hall and need to have a signed affidavit done regarding said complaint, where there is a paper trail on file to see who has had complaints and who is actually complaining.

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There will be an early deadline for the November 23, 2018, issue of *The Observer/Enterprise* of Monday, November 19, at 12 noon.

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HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

Holiday Hours:
All facilities of this bank will close at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, November 21. All facilities of this bank will also be closed Thursday, November 22.

In Observance Of



Thanksgiving Day

Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

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Robert Lee, Texas