

...Water on the agenda
(Continued from front page)

That estimate is looking more like \$13.8 million as of this month due to quickly rising costs.

The next step for Bronte's City Council is to agree to perform the necessary studies required for USDA to move forward with the funding proposal. This was on the agenda at the meeting on Thursday evening, November 18, 2021. However, the council chose to table the item. Mayor Gohman pointed out to the council that only the archeology study of \$35,000 would have to be paid up front. USDA will not finalize a proposal for funding for the water project until the council votes to approve this measure.

At this meeting, Bronte City Councilman Clabe Webb proposed forming an exploratory committee to investigate annexing more land into the city limits of Bronte. He eventually wants to encompass all land surrounding Bronte two miles out from the current city limits.

Another, and possibly more equitable, way to help defray the cost of this massive, but vital, project is for Robert Lee's city officials to vote to apply for a grant/loan to purchase more of Bronte's allotment and to pay for 33% of the new plant project.

Without water, communities will die. As a county loses residents, they lose taxpayers putting a higher tax burden on the remaining residents.

Bronte City Council meetings minutes told

[Editor's Note: We are continuing to play catchup with the Bronte City Council minutes as space allows.]

September 7, 2021

The Bronte City Council met in special session on September 7, 2021, at City Hall in Bronte.

Mayor Paul Gohman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and a quorum was established. Those in attendance included Mayor Gohman; Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess; Council Members Kinley Pritchard, Clabe F. Webb, Zach Davidson, and RA Morris; and staff members Teresa Ballard and Ricky Royall.

Mayor Gohman led the pledge and Kinley Pritchard offered prayer.

The council discussed the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Mayor Gohman tabled the budget workshop and opened the public hearing at 5:45 pm to hear citizens comments regarding the above mentioned budget. There were no citizen comments and Mayor Gohman closed the public hearing at 5:46 pm.

The mayor opened the public hearing at 5:50 pm to hear citizens comments regarding the proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. There were no citizen comments and Mayor Gohman closed the public hearing at 5:51 pm.

Mayor Gohman called the special council meeting to order at 5:52 pm.

Kinley Pritchard made the motion to approve the Ordinance #21-05 Fiscal Year Operating Budget beginning October 1, 2021, and ending September 30, 2022, as presented. This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$3,384, which is one cent per \$100 tax increase from last year's budget. Gwen Dyess seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Zach Davidson made the motion to approve Ordinance #21-06 Levying Ad Valorem Taxes for the maintenance and

support of the Municipal Government General Fund of the City of Bronte for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.409373, which is one cent per \$100 tax increase from last year's budget. RA Morris seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

September 16, 2021

The Bronte City Council met in regular session on September 16, 2021, at City Hall in Bronte.

Mayor Paul Gohman called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm and a quorum was established. Those in attendance included Mayor Gohman; Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess; Council Members RA Morris, Zach Davidson, Clabe F. Webb, and Kinley Pritchard; and staff members Teresa Ballard, Tina Smith, and Ricky Royall.

Mayor Gohman led the pledge and Kinley Pritchard offered prayer.

Teresa Ballard announced the new fire department board as of



Students Attend Meeting! Bronte ISD Superintendent Tim Siler and teacher Marlayna Schoenfield accompanied a group of students to Texas State Representative Drew Darby's visit with citizens. The event was held at Pena's Red Barn in Bronte at 10 am, Wednesday, November 10, 2021. Rep. Darby was able to inform citizens about the recent legislative sessions while educating the students about the legislative process.

September 13, 2021, as follows: Chief - Kolby Lee, Assistant Chief - Kinlee Hoyt, Captain - Josh Eubanks, - President - Natasha Sullivan, Treasurer - Riley Coalson, Lieutenants - Cody Pritchard and Aaron Cervenka, and Secretary - Jim Stewart.

Coke County Sheriff's Office Deputy Brandon Neal reported four calls for service in July and five calls in August. There were two verbal warnings and no citations.

Animal Control Officer Tim Smith reported nine calls for service reference animal complaints. The calls ranged from loose dogs to a skunk complaint. The city housed two dogs during this period and both dogs were adopted out. No animals have been destroyed during this reporting period. The nuisance skunk was investigated and the skunk had left the area prior to trapping.

He requested the city to purchase two 'spray proof skunk traps', which have been ordered. He stated that these types of traps prevent complaints in populated areas.

Teresa Ballard reported no municipal court warnings or citations issued in August.

Brenda Hines reported that EDC met this week and adopted the 2021-2022 operating budget and little is going on with storefront grants. They discussed loan forgiveness grant terms for Zach's Smoke Shack.

She also said that someone is looking to purchase the prison. The subcommittee met on September 15 to discuss the director of operations for Bronte EDC job opening.

Brenda Hines also gave a report on the cemetery and said that they met on September 14, 2021, and set a volunteer clean up date for October 2, 2021, at 8 am. The cleanup will focus on a small area on the northwest area. The committee is excited to have new people coming to meetings.

(Continued on next page)

Ladies and gentlemen of Coke County Precinct 2

My name is Henry Chisholm and I am announcing my intention to file as a candidate for Commissioner Precinct 2.

As a resident of this precinct for approximately 20 years, I have witnessed the neglect of many key issues facing our precinct, including the condition of our roads that many of us drive every day.

I am a people person and if elected, I will encourage your input and respond to your comments and concerns about our precinct. I will be a full-time Commissioner who works for you.

I look forward to working for YOU and am asking for your vote in the upcoming election.

Thank you, Henry Chisholm

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Henry Chisholm

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