

... City Council

(Continued from page 1)
in this area.

Lee brought up how people were illegally dumping trash on this property and said a fence was required. He further stated the council had the privilege to lease the land at whatever price.

The city secretary answered a citizen's question on whether the council had received bids on demolishing the 27 houses. City Secretary Crystal Blevins said they had received two bids, one for \$13,000 per house and another for \$17,000 per house.

Another citizen pushed for an answer of why the council would vote for such a bad lease. Council member Martin Lee provided the only response by saying he couldn't answer her question.

Another citizen said any further leases or sales of city property by the city council be done by sealed bids.

Questions arose over how Loyd knew about the land to be leased. Lee stated "I have no idea." He reiterated that "he didn't know the guy (Ronny Loyd)".

Two parcels purchased along with the land in question were sold and were first advertised in the April 22, 2016, issue of The Observer/Enterprise. One parcel sold quickly, but the other did not. The city then advertised this property in the Abilene, San Angelo and Midland/Odessa areas. The second property was then sold.

Lee explained how the profit from the sales of the two properties provided enough funds to pay for the 18.369 acres leased to Loyd. Knight relayed an analogy that "if you had 100 acres and sold 90 acres for enough to pay for all 100 acres, would you give away the 10 remaining acres".

A citizen made the point that someone with the city had to have been aware of Ronny Loyd's plans prior to the April 14th meeting since the lease was voted on that night, the same night of his proposal. They further questioned how the terms of the lease were known in advance, enabling the lease to be prepared prior to any council discussion on this subject. She also pointed out that it appeared the lease was copied from a City of Sweetwater lease and adapted to fit this matter.

Blevins stated that she and Lee had looked over the lease prior to it being included in the books provided to the council in advance of the meeting.

Lee said he first read the lease when they passed it.

Knight continued to question how the deal benefitted Bronte.

Tomes interjected that Loyd could possibly sue Bronte and he was interested in protecting the city at this point.

Sheriff Wayne McCutchen had to step in several times to restore order to the meeting.

One citizen asked if the reason for Tomes' second motion was because the city was worried about repercussions. The members said yes.

Another citizen pointed out

that the community may need to be more concerned with the price the city might have to pay to terminate the lease with Loyd. The question was asked if the city had insurance if a lawsuit arose.

Lee once again stated he didn't know Loyd.

A citizen asked for clarification on the chronology, wondering who had talked to Loyd about the lease prior to the meeting.

Mayor Gerald Sandusky stated "I don't personally ever remember talking to him (Ronnie Loyd) before it was brought to the city council to vote on all this."

The citizen then asked who prepared the contract. Lee physically pointed to Blevins.

Several other citizens wanted to know why council acted on this when two members, Jodie Arrott and Misti Bedford, were unable to be at the April 14th meeting and Jodie Arrott had requested the matter be tabled until all were present. Lee talked of how business had to go on as long as a quorum was present.

Knight started to tell of a prior conversation between he and Wade Stautzenberger. Before he could complete the telling, Wade told him he "needed to shut up". Sheriff

McCutchen stepped in and Stautzenberger said he might resign.

Knight went on to tell that Wade had told him he didn't vote to give Loyd the land. Knight told Stautzenberger that he had when he voted for the lease. Stautzenberger then admitted to the crowd he didn't realize he had voted in favor of this and said he'd resign right then. Knight called for his resignation and that of Lee, Sandusky and Blevins.

Stautzenberger appeared to become angry and McCutchen once again stepped in and warned the men to calm down or leave. Stautzenberger left, resigning as he went out of the door.

Another citizen asked the council to acknowledge they'd made a mistake with this lease and accused the council of stonewalling the citizens.

Lee apologized and said they didn't plan to go to court or cost the city of Bronte money.

Citizens voiced their support of Fort Chadbourne, but were more concerned with needed infrastructure repairs.

Citizens in attendance asked council to try to find a way to not allow Loyd to have the land while avoiding litigation.

Bedford said they could put it out for bids at a fair market

value.

It was mentioned that reportedly Loyd has spent \$21,000 in improvements. Citizens then asked Sheriff McCutchen if his office had received reports of illegal dumping on this property. He said illegal dumping continues to be a problem throughout the county off and on, but he could not recall receiving reports about this specific property.

Another citizen asked how the city could terminate the lease without the lease having a termination clause. She asked if council members discussing this with Loyd before the meeting could provide the city with a way out of the lease. Lee said he didn't know of any council member discussing it with Loyd prior to the meeting.

Lee stated, "It was in our book that we get a day or two before the meeting. I guess he came in and asked if he could get it on the agenda, didn't he?" he asked of Blevins. Lee said Blevins is responsible for setting the agenda.

Lee went on to say "The first thing we knew about it, it was in...It was a contract that I suppose...Did he (Loyd) bring the contract or did you (Blevins) get the contract from the City of

Sweetwater?"

A citizen asked Blevins who instructed her to put it on the agenda. Blevins quietly said Martin (Lee).

It was revealed that Lee had discussed it with Loyd prior to the meeting and Lee told of a meeting between Loyd, Garland Richards and himself.

There was then a question of who had brought in the City of Sweetwater lease to be revamped. Lee said he did not provide it, with Blevins saying he had brought it in and was responsible for the revisions.

Tomes made a motion to rescind his second motion. All voted in favor.

Sandusky apologized for not doing more investigation.

Tomes made a final motion, which carried, to turn everything over to Nick Arrott for further review.

Friday morning, December 9th, Stautzenberger presented a formal written resignation.

On Monday, December 12, 2016, a special council meeting with this matter on the agenda was set for Thursday evening, December 15, 2016, at 7 pm.

On Tuesday, December 13, 2016, Stautzenberger presented a letter rescinding his resignation from the council.

Only recently have I had the need to visit a loved one in the Bronte Health and Rehab center.

I would like to express many thanks to the staff and board of directors for the conditions there - competent friendly staff, very clean facility !

Many thanks to all for helping those, that are not able to help themselves!!!

Anonymous Resident of Coke County



Russell Davis
Agent

611 Austin Street
PO Box 1079
Robert Lee, Texas 76945
(325) 453-4505 office
(325) 453-4524 fax
(325) 650-1904 mobile
TXFB-INS.COM

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

Holiday Hours:
All facilities of this bank will close at 12 noon Friday, December 23. All facilities of this bank will also be closed Monday, December 26.

In Observance Of



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

Robert Lee State Bank

Member FDIC

453-2545

Robert Lee, Texas

Christmas in Olde Bronte

Saturday December 17th, 2016

4:00 pm: Live Music from Longhorn Band in the Kickapoo Creek Lodge!

4:30 pm: Story time with Mrs. Claus in the lobby of the First National Bank!

5:00 pm: Santa arrives at Kickapoo Creek Lodge!

7:00 pm: "The Polar Express" Pajama Party at the Texas Theatre! (Free Admission)

Drinks and Holiday Cheer in the Kickapoo Creek Lodge beginning at 4



www.restoringbrontefoundation.org
www.facebook.com/restoringbrontefoundation