

Bronte City Council meeting minutes told

The Bronte City Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 6:30 pm, at Bronte City Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Paul Gohman and a quorum was established. Those in attendance included Mayor Pro Tem Santiago Rodriguez; Council Members Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, Ron Cooper, and Stormy Vaughn; Utility Director Ricky Royall; and City Secretary Teresa Ballard. City Attorney Eileen M. Hayman was not requested to attend the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in chambers and the prayer was led by Lee Wommack.

There was no report from the Fire Department.

Deputy Roberson gave the Sheriff's Enforcement Report and reported that there were no animal calls during the month of September.

The City Secretary gave the Animal Report and reported animal services caught 4 cats, 3 raccoons, 3 opossums, and 2 skunks.

Brenda Hines gave the Economic Development 4B Report. She reported on the welcome signs hung up coming in to town and Brontetoberfest banner is hanging across the highway. Brenda Hines and Marlene Vaughn have been working on organizing cemetery files and a volunteer clean-up at the cemetery is Saturday, October 26, from 8 am to noon.

Ricky Royall spoke with a roofer about the roof at the Depot and reported that the only way to fix it is to take all of the tiles off and start over. It will be very time consuming. Stormy Vaughn suggested getting a grant or see about Restoring Bronte Foundation donating to the cemetery and historical project if they can write off. Also possibly check with the Chamber of Commerce for assistance. The City Secretary will type notes from when the group met to discuss what to do with the depot and Stormy Vaughn will work on the Cemetery Ordinance.

Daryl and Resie Cookie contact city hall to cancel the council considering a temporary permit for an RV while building a house at 220 N. Lombard. This item was tabled.

The Council reviewed seven brokers' electricity provider's proposals. Stormy Vaughn recommends going with a five-year contract and narrow to a couple of providers and then ask them for their best price. Ricky Royall reports that the city has an AEP representative and possibly contacting the representative to explain what the charges mean. Also a resolution could be considered authorizing the mayor to sign

contract with the new contract rate. Stormy Vaughn made a motion to table the item and have Ricky Royall contact AEP to ask about the nodule pass through comparison to all-inclusive and Hudson Energy and the details for 60 months. She was seconded by Santiago Rodriguez and the motion passed 5 - 0.

Amber Pedigo with the United States Census Bureau discussed that the census centennial count is coming up in 2020. There are two huge components - federal funding that will last for ten years and Congressional District representation that will also last for ten years based off of population. There are now four ways to respond to the census, including online, by mail, telephone or door-to-door. It is hoped to hire locally for census takers. Those interested can apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs or pick up a flyer at city hall. April 1, 2020, will be the actual census date but the project runs through July. The City can post on their website, marquee, and Facebook. They would also like to organize a complete count committee to build awareness and educate the community about the importance for the community to participate.

The Council considered approving a Golf Cart Ordinance with Lee Wommack presenting the ordinance but in a different version. The Council discussed and Stormy Vaughn read the version from the attorney. The ordinance passed at the July 18, 2019, council meeting with the attorney's approval. Lee Wommack's concern is as it needs to state that you need liability insurance. Mayor Gohman requested for a motion to publish the Golf Cart Ordinance that had already been passed. Ron Cooper made a motion to approve the Golf Cart Vehicle Ordinance and was seconded by Steve Hines. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 2, with Santiago Rodriguez and Lee Wommack voting against.

It was considered approving Ordinance 19-14, amending Fiscal Year 2018-2019 adopted operating budget for municipal transfers for Transfer of Revenue and Expenditures. The City Secretary needs to increase the Fire Department, EMS, and Cemetery budgets. Lee Wommack made a motion to approve amending the ordinance and was seconded by Ron Cooper. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Consideration was given to approving the new UniFirst Customer Service Agreement and a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign the new agreement. Lee Wommack made a motion to approve the service agreement and approve a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign the agreement with

UniFirst. He was seconded by Stormy Vaughn and the motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0. Lee Wommack amended the motion to add and approve a resolution to authorize the mayor to sign the services agreement with UniFirst and was seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

The minutes from September 19 and September 23 were reviewed by the council with a few typos to the minutes. Lee Wommack made the motion to approve September 19 and September 23 minutes and was seconded by Ron Cooper. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Lee Wommack discussed that the attorney's bill is high and he thinks we are paying too much to the attorney. The City has spent \$2800 for ordinances. When the Council talks to the TML attorney to get an answer, they still say go through our city attorney. Lee Wommack made a motion to approve the bills paid and was seconded by Stormy Vaughn. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

The City Secretary reported on the Balance Sheet and she met with Mr. Bedford and the credits for Medicare and Social Security are over payments to general ledger. The Council asked why we keep overpaying. The City Secretary reports that her figures were incorrect but are now correct. Lee Wommack made the motion to approve the Balance Sheet and was seconded by Ron Cooper. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 1, with Stormy Vaughn abstaining.

The Council discussed the Aging Report and Stormy Vaughn made a motion to approve the report. She was seconded by Steve Hines and the motion passed 5 - 0.

Regarding bank reconciliation, Steve Hines asked about the balances going up and down, then made a motion to approve the bank reconciliations. He was seconded by Ron Cooper and the motion passed with a vote of 3 - 2, with Stormy Vaughn and Santiago Rodriguez abstaining.

There is an outstanding check that has not cleared. Stormy Vaughn made a motion to approve outstanding checks and was seconded by Ron Cooper. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Stormy Vaughn questioned that the Robert Lee water revenue and debt payment doesn't look right. Sales tax revenue and the EDC revenue isn't correct for the year to date. The Mayor's recommendation is that if the Council has a question regarding financials, that corrections are made within a week of the council meeting. Stormy Vaughn made a motion to table the Revenue and Expenditures Report and was seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. It was decided to table the item until the City Secretary makes the corrections.

Stormy Vaughn said that the Deposit List by Funds report helps when you are looking at

your balance sheet to see if your deposits are matching up. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to accept the report and was seconded by Ron Cooper. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

The Council considered the approval of FY2018-2019 Correction and Reconciling of Fund Accounts. Ron Cooper made a motion to table until corrections have been made and was seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. The item was tabled until corrections can be made by the City Secretary.

The Mayor reported that they have been working on goals and objectives with all employees. All have agreed and have come up with some good solutions. On the Utility side, Ken will be taking on more responsibilities and that will free up Ricky. Ricky will be managing Ken and will be working on the plant expansion that he will be the liaison for. On the secretarial side, works will be done on a manual that outlines all of the standard operations to the city and will be working on a manual in Asyst. The Deputy City Secretary will be cross trained in everything. Goals will be sent when signatures have been collected. In the end of the year, the City will be in much better shape. Street cleaning has had some hiccups. The roads on the northwest side of town are

getting better and better and the Livestock Ordinance is being worked on.

Ricky Royall gave the Utility Director's Report and said that the blue house on Jefferson Street is done. It will be placed on the agenda next month to start the process of getting it back on the tax roll. There are a couple of applications for a part-time helper but Ricky would like to keep it open another week and maybe get some more applications. The time is up on the sweeper but he would like to keep it one more week. Bug Express has hired someone with the qualifications but they are just waiting on a class. Since May, the Convenience Center gate fee revenue is \$825. The cemetery has been mowed and a clean-up day is October 26 from 8 am until noon.

The City Secretary reported that it has been brought to her attention that the Council tabled Mr. Bedford's agreement and it has been signed. She is also working on a Waste Services bid.

The following items have been requested to be future agenda items: Property at 202 N. Jefferson; Curfew Ordinance; Livestock Ordinance discussion; Mr. Bedford's agreement; and the Coke County Sheriff contract needs to be done before the animal and livestock ordinance is final.

The Council adjourned at 9:13 pm.



Finding a New Box

by James M. Decker

If you've been reading my essays for a while, you know that Stamford has dealt with its fair share of health care challenges. You also know that these issues aren't isolated to Stamford alone. When Stamford

Memorial Hospital closed its emergency room and inpatient care services in June of 2018, it was one of 90 such hospital closures in the last decade. At least 20 of those closures were in Texas. Something like 800 more rural hospitals, one-third of the rural hospitals in America, have been at risk of closure.

In February of 2019, I wrote that rural healthcare was a problem that transcended Stamford. It was a daunting problem with no easy fixes. Providing healthcare solutions would require more than just "thinking outside the box."

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