

Bronte City Council meeting held

The Bronte City Council met in regular session on December 19, 2019, at 6:30 pm, at Bronte City Hall.

Those in attendance included Mayor Paul Gohamn, Council Members Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, Ron Cooper, Stormy Vaughn, Santiago Rodriguez, Utility Director Ricky Royall, City Secretary Teresa Ballard, and Deputy City Secretary Sherry Bailey. City Attorney Eileen M. Hayman was not requested to attend the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Gohman and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gohman and prayer was offered by Lee Wommack.

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Gohman recognized the Bronte ISD Lady Longhorns volleyball team and coaching staff for their outstanding achievements and commended them for their display of sportsmanship and leadership. Team members include Kyalyn Seales, Zoe Watkins, Mia Minjarez, Saige Busby, Karissa Cervenka, Dree Davis, Elexia Davis, Katelyn Powell, Keeley Queen, Searra Powell, Michaela Basquez and managers Mariah DeLaCerde and Thaliah Casteneda. Coaching staff includes head coach Carol Moore, and assistant coaches Misty Davis and Samuel Torres. The Lady Longhorns were named Class 1A-Region 1 runners up.

Fire Chief Martin DeLaGarza reported that the fire station has stained the floor red in the office and the heating is being installed. There were two runs this month - one helping with a grass fire toward Robert Lee and the second was working a wreck north of town. The Bronte VFD has also received a new 5-ton truck and a skid unit is available from the forestry service. There will soon be a special flag posted at the VFD notifying citizens when the county is under a burn ban. Chief DeLaGarza also mentioned that in January the wind turbines will be doing a large burn around the turbines going to Sterling City. The VFD is also still receiving equipment from the previous grant that is helping working rollover wrecks. The VFD will be using one of their trucks to put all of the new equipment on.

There was no Sheriff's Office report.

Teresa Ballard gave the Animal Services report and said that the following animals were caught: cat - 1, raccoons - 2, skunks - 2, and one dog that was claimed. Animal Services is now making his presence known in the community by driving around in the city truck with the animal control magnets on it. He has been out several times since November 27. There has also been two occasions where the same dog

as been picked up, however the owner was located and they live outside of the city limits.

Brenda Hines gave the Economic Development report and Cemetery Report. She said that the cemetery still has tree limbs piled up at the back. Stormy Vaughn reported meeting with a contractor regarding repairs to the arches at the cemetery. It was recommended to remove the cattle guard and knock off the cement and redo the footing and old stucco and adding quick wall around the arches. A tree trimming service was also met with. They have a 12" chipper that will handle what the cemetery has. It was also discussed about possibly having the front entrance painted. It is also time to think about putting pre-emergent down and then in the spring doing some landscaping. Stormy Vaughn also mentioned on a cemetery ordinance to be worked on. Citizen Gwen Dyess gave some recommendations that have worked for them in the past.

Ricky Royall had nothing new to report on the depot.

The Permit Committee reviewed an application and site plan from Bedo Jaurez for adding an addition to a permanent building. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to accept the permit and was seconded by Santiago Rodriguez. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

EDC 4A president, Ryan Webb, reported that the board approved the new street signs for Bronte. This is the first project and is costing approximately \$18,000 for 249 signs and 50 blanks in case some must be replaced. There are several components being looked at, one of which is the status of existing poles and stop signs.



Sisemore Honored! Gayle Sisemore was honored for her many years of service as an off hours dispatcher for the Coke County Sheriff's Office with a reception Friday morning, January 31, 2020. Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen presented Mrs. Sisemore with a plaque during the reception. Off hours dispatching for the Coke County Sheriff's Office 24 hour phone line is now being contracted to dispatchers for the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office.

EDC is looking into replacing them all with galvanized poles that do not need painting. Also it was discussed how to get them installed and decided this topic needs further discussion. The EDC considered having work contracted out and expressed that they are here to help the city with what is needed to make everything happen.

Fire Chief Martin DeLaGarza said that we are at the point in needing internet services and asked the city to pay for it. The VFD needs internet to be able to send various reports, training, etc. They have a quote of \$29.95 for 100GB (\$360/year). Stormy

Vaughn mentioned that the council approved to pay the VFD's bills/utilities and this is one of the items needed to do their job. Stormy also mentioned that it is not currently in the budget but it has been approved that city hall staff to have a cell phone and that wasn't budgeted either. The City Secretary is waiting to hear back from West Central to see if the fire department can get free WiFi since the VFD has a new location and because the City of Bronte gets their internet for free since the tower is located on City property. Lee Wommack expressed concerns and mentioned that the radios could

have been approved with a grant and that he doesn't want to see the water plant and city hall be tied in with the fire department. He also said that whatever is done for the fire department needs to be independent of the City. The bill should go straight to the fire department and then they could present it to the City for reimbursement. Santiago Rodriguez weighed in and his thought was about how much the internet would be used and at the time the VFD started looking, it was \$59/month. Since then the monthly rate has come down in price.

(Continued on page 7)

UPCOMINGS!

Early voting for primary election begins February 18

Early voting for the March 3, 2020, primary elections will begin on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, and run through

Friday, February 28, 2020. Coke County elected offices to be decided in 2020 include Commissioners Precinct 1 and 3. These positions are currently held by Donald Robertson and Marshall

Millican respectively. Others to be decided and their current office holder are County Attorney (Nick Arrott), Constable (Marty Boyd), Tax Assessor/Collector (Josie Dean),

and Sheriff (Wayne McCutchen). All incumbents have filed to retain their seats and Constable Marty Boyd will be joined on the ballot by Billy Williams.

Glenn-Bivins Insurance

325-473-6791 - insurance@glennbivins.com
Locally and Family Owned Since 1922
Home - Auto - Life - Commercial - RV

**Re-Elect
MARTY BOYD
COKE COUNTY CONSTABLE
Remember
County First
Constable Since 2005**

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Marty Boyd

**City of Bronte
Inside City Limits
Curbside Clean-Up**

**Monday,
February 10, 2020**

***Set items out
by Sunday evening***