

Bronte City Council meeting minutes told

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in chambers and Mayor Pro Tem David Bedford gave the prayer.

There were no citizen comments.

Discussion was held regarding how to help citizens with disposing of materials on their property. Restoring Bronte Foundation has expressed their willingness to help with this. The Council is thinking about having a city wide pickup in March. This will be addressed later in the meeting. Republic Services has offered to help out as well. There are some opportunities for help in terms of a city wide clean up.

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief DeLaGarza reports that all electrical is complete at the new building. Bids were taken for heating and cooling systems from Butler HVAC and Percy, with Percy winning the bid. The plan is to have the building done by April. Also plans are to open the bay area for citizen use for the May city wide garage sale. The last training was very informative on how to approach the scene of an accident instead of just jumping in. Ten members attended the training in San Angelo.

Sheriff's Enforcement Report

Deputy Neal reported that December was a slow month and the report is as follows:

- Calls for ordinance enforcement - 3;
- Officer ordinance notifications from City Hall - 1;
- Ordinance warnings issue - 0 verbal, 0 written;
- Ordinance citations issued - 0.

Animal Services Report

City Secretary Ballard reported the following:

- Skunks - 3;
- Opossums - 3;
- Fox - 1
- Raccoons - 2.

EDC Report

Economic Development Corporation representative Marlene Vaughn reported that EDC4B did not meet this month and there is nothing to report at this time.

Discussion was held regarding the lawsuit of Ronny Loyd vs City of Bronte. Mayor Gohman gave an overview of

the case. TML was the indemnity insurer and they took control of the case and called for mediation on January 8, 2019. In mediation, the Council got to a number that TML could support that would not cost the City of Bronte anything, so TML chose to settle through mediation. The lawsuit is done. Mayor Gohman went on to say that the Council has been muzzled this whole time. The Mayor then turned the floor to Councilman Vaughn.

Council Member Stormy Vaughn (summarized minutes being stated) said that the whole deal with Loyd and the lease was a mess and the current Council dealt with the case as best as they could.

1. Prior to the lease being terminated in December 2016, City Hall had contacted Texas Municipal League and they stated that they could not help with the claim.

2. Settlements from Loyd included amounts of \$16k, \$30k, \$21,900, and the last demand for \$60k had been received.

3. Council's hands were tied and legally could not give anything of value to Loyd, including the settlements he was looking for.

4. No proof was provided for any settlement offer that was acceptable. The only proof that the Council ever received was regarding the sea container. A Bill of Sale was produced from Loyd to Ken and Linda Scott, in which Loyd sold the container to them. The Council knew that the City did not purchase the sea container and could not legally keep it.

5. The Council decided to contact TML again as there was new evidence of the dealings with the lease.

6. The TML Risk Pool stated that if a lawsuit was filed to contact them again and they would cover the claim up to a certain point.

7. A lawsuit was filed by Loyd and sued for \$100k-\$200k.

8. TML covered the fees of the appointed TML attorney in the case.

9. At this point, it was out of the City of Bronte's hands and TML decided if the case would be settled or not and it went through mediation.

10. The Mayor stated that he was at the mediation and an amount was agreed upon by

Former Resident Honored!

Former Coke County Attorney and Robert Lee resident, Bill Helwig, was recently honored at the annual Denver City Chamber of Commerce banquet as "Citizen of the Year" for 2018. Helwig served as Coke County Attorney from 1980-1992 and had children Chad Helwig of San Antonio and Jodee Helwig Melton of Kansas City, Missouri, graduate from Robert Lee High School.

At the present time, Helwig serves as the elected Yoakum County Criminal District Attorney and is serving his second term on the Board of Directors of the Texas County and District Attorney

Association. He is also on the Board of Trustees of University of the Southwest, a private Christian university in Hobbs, New Mexico. For the past 7 years he has been Vice President of the Denver City Economic Development Corporation and has been instrumental in promoting programs to benefit the entire community. Helwig has also served on the Denver City School Board and the City Planning and Zoning Committee.

During his 21 years in Denver City, he has served 4 separate terms as President of the Chamber of Commerce and a total of 12 years on the Board. For at least twelve years he has served as Master of Ceremonies for the Chamber Banquet, as well as announcer for the awards program of the Yoakum County Stock Show. In the fall of the year, Helwig additionally serves as co-host commentator for the Denver City Mustang Football home games.

In accepting the recognition, Helwig stated: "My life has been richly blessed in each and every community I've been a part of and I share this with each and every person with whom I've crossed paths with over the years. Thank you to one and all."



TML and Loyd. TML insurance paid a settlement amount (\$15,000) that was acceptable to both parties and the Mayor was there to make sure that no funds for the settlement came from City of Bronte funds.

11. The City Secretary said that fees, including the deductible for insurance coverage, were a total of \$48,000. This amount includes \$43,000 of the attorney's fees prior to the TML attorney being appointed and the City of Bronte's coverage under the insurance.

Livestock Permits

- Howard Baker - east side of block 300 of Briarwood and property east of the cemetery - emu, poultry, goats;
- Travis Black - north Main - mules and goats;
- DR Braswell - 802 Mesquite - cows;
- Larry Dyess - auto repair shop - miniature horse and goat;
- Andy Eubanks - 6 acres located at 118 W. Kickapoo - cattle;
- Calli Eubanks - 114 S. Randall - chickens;
- Lynn Follis - old football field - goats;
- David Green - corner of Barclay and Pecan - sheep or goats;
- Katherine Harness - dead end on North Jefferson St - 3 acres fenced;
- Corby Kelso - 114 S.

- Washington - horses;
- Carolyn Knight - 601 N. Jefferson - poultry;
- Terry Marrs - 702 Meadow Ln - Nigerian Dwarf goats;
- Kenneth Miller - 702 W. Jackson - cows;
- Cathy Oliver - 502/536 Brunson St - sheep, cows, horse;
- Colin Pope - 404 Kickapoo - goats;
- Colin Pope - Monico Flores estate - goats;
- Bethany Pritchard - 708 Meadow Ln - mini donkey;
- Bob Ragsdale - nursing home old W. Railroad and city limit fence 277 - sheep;
- Rocky Rawls - 707 Meadow Ln - sheep, goats, chickens;
- Jonathan Reeves - 705 Meadow Ln (south and west side of home) - show goats;
- Kathy Shaw - corner of Kickapoo Rd and Westwood Ln - chickens, horses, mini donkey;
- Ron Sims - 234 N. Randall - cattle;
- Dan Stone - 629 NW Railroad - 2 horses;
- James Vaughn - 703 Westwood - sheep;
- David McWright - 710 Westwood - pigs, chickens, rabbits;
- Cowboy Church Roping Arena - 205 Roping Arena Road - horse, cattle, goats, pig (Sheriff's Office using property to temporarily house or board stray livestock);
- Juan DeLaRosa - 310 Lombard - horses;

- Tiffany Harendt - 515 S. Franklin - chickens and guineas;
- Tim Siler - 108 Driftwood - show cattle.

Councilman Hines mentions that from the signal light to each city limit sign is approximately 6/10 of a mile and there are 29 livestock permits. He says that is a lot in the city limits.

Ricky Royall has approved all of the permit requests, however has concerns for the following three properties: Juan DeLaRosa, Tiffany Hardent, and Tim Siler.

Mr. Siler's property is in the Southland Terrace and this addition as deed restrictions. Mr. Royall's recommendation is to give him 60 days to have the livestock removed, as the stock show should be over by then.

Mr. Royall reports that Tiffany Hardent's property is just in a bad spot, as it is near the entrance to the cemetery. The Council discussed that the property owner could possibly put up a privacy wood fence (similar to the one in front of the house) with all four sides and not use the perimeter fence of the cemetery. The recommendation is to approve with stipulations. The property owner would need 60 - 90 days to correct the issue but until then would need to contain the chickens/guineas. They will also need a permit for the fence. If she doesn't comply with the recommendation, then the chickens/guineas would need to be removed.

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