

# Notes from... the Mayor of Robert Lee

by Allyson Crenshaw  
We've had a lot of changes at City Hall in Robert Lee! Most of you already know we hired a City Secretary, Crystal Blevins. She has been with us several weeks and has been invaluable! There is no way I could have done this without her. We still have a long way to go but we're getting some traction. There's progress every day, mostly thanks to Crystal.

Irene Gamboa was hired as the front office billing clerk. Irene has great computer skills, is catching on to our system very quickly, and has a fantastic personality for the front office position. She speaks Spanish, which is important for some Robert Lee residents. Irene's husband is the new varsity boys basketball coach. She and her family are new in town but I'm sure we will get to know them quickly.

Luke Sheldon was hired as a water and grounds worker and we look forward to him starting on Monday. Luke is a volunteer firefighter and has previously worked at Super H and The Pie. I asked numerous people about him and they all said he's very smart, professional, and a hard worker. We have also hired Kyle Breznak part-time as we try to catch up on some things like routine maintenance and countless repairs to our water and sewer facilities. Kyle is also a volunteer firefighter and currently works for

TXDOT full-time. He works for us evenings and weekends so don't be surprised when you see him out during odd hours.

Most of you are aware of the transition with our animal control officer. We have contracted with Scott Henson. He completed training last week and is officially on the job! Animal control is an issue many people care about very deeply and I want to reassure everyone that Scott is dedicated to taking care of the animal problems we have in a humane way. He is planning to work with rescue groups as much as possible and has already reached out to several people involved in rescues. He has many good ideas about education and awareness about rabies. There are many animal issues in Robert Lee that people do not think about such as bees, bats, and snakes and, of course, all the things we do think about like skunks, raccoons, cats, and dogs.

We really appreciate Scotty Jackson for helping us get the flag pole in front of City Hall fixed.

The water bills are back on the regular schedule and water shut-offs due to non-payment were done in June for the first time in over 6 months. Past billing errors are being corrected as we hear about the problems. Crystal, Irene, and I want to earn your confidence in City Hall and we are working hard to achieve that goal.

Commissioner Millican, carried.

Commissioner Williams moved for the Coke County Annex to be used for the Coke County Justice of the Peace. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik and carried. Opposed were Commissioners Millican and Robertson.

Commissioner Millican moved to discontinue the electricity service with CVEC at the Robert Lee Airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik.

The Court discussed the establishment of a bank account at the First National Bank in Bronte or the Robert Lee State Bank for the new Justice of the Peace, Russell Johnson, with the following signatories - Hal Spain, Vallery Johnson, and Mary Grim. Commissioner Williams moved to approve as presented. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Millican, carried.

Line Item Transfers were presented by Auditor Vallery Johnson. Commissioner Williams moved to approve as presented and the motion carried.

Judge Blair reported that he would be gone June 28 - July 9. He also reported on the autopsy bill, Joyce Roach falling at the Senior Building in Robert Lee, and the retirement party for Justice of the Peace, Jackie Walker.

Treasurer Hal Spain reported that he would be attending CIO School.

Commissioner Robertson moved to pay the bills. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Millican, carried.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:44 am.

## Bronte ISD Board Meeting minutes told March 20, 2018

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a regularly scheduled board meeting on March 20, 2018, at 7 pm. Those in attendance were Board Members Blake Braswell, Josh Schoenfield, Shane Kelton, Ashley Braswell, Jodie Arrott, David McWright, and John Seales. Bronte ISD Superintendent Tim Siler and Accounts Payable Manager Jenny Baker were also in attendance.

The meeting was opened at 7:15 pm with a prayer by Blake Braswell.

Quorum was established at 7:15 pm with seven members present.

A motion was made by David McWright to approve the February minutes as presented. The motion, seconded by Jodie Arrott, passed 7 - 0.

There were no audience items.

A motion was made by Ashley Braswell to approve the bill listing as presented. The motion, seconded by Josh Schoenfield, passed 7 - 0.

Mr. Siler gave an update on

school activities. BISD is in the middle of spring sports with the high school girls winning the Eden Golf Tournament. District Golf will take place next week. District UIL will be held on Saturday, March 24. One Act play performed and FFA is done with stock show season. There are approximately 39 school days left and everyone is getting ready for testing. Mr. Siler also presented the BISD student count of 231 total students.

Board training (Team of 8 and Senate Bill 1566) will take place after the school board election in May.

Mr. Siler advised the Site-Based Retreat will take place on Thursday, April 19, at 6 pm, possibly at the Williams Building.

Mr. Siler presented the financial update on the current budget. BISD is approximately 50% of the way through, but is looking okay so far. Function 13 is sitting higher than normal due to training and conferences. Breakfast/lunch is pulling in less revenue than in the past, which may cause some of the supplemental to be used. The template revenue is down due to loss of enrollment and low ADA. There is a possibility of ending the year down approximately \$13,564.

Mr. Siler gave an update on the Property Value Study. This situation has been ongoing after an appeal was made to keep values at local levels. Bronte ISD is looking at a possible loss of \$180,000 due to property values being raised to state levels.

Based off of current year taxes and ADA, payroll is the biggest expenditure and needs to be lowered to under \$2 million but Mr. Siler is continuing to work on a plan for the future of Bronte ISD.

Mr. Siler presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed changes to the FIRST ratings effective in 2021, including changes to Financial Accountability and Ceiling Indicators.

No amendments were made to the 2017-2018 budget.

A break was taken from 9:19 pm until 9:30 pm.

The board entered into Executive Session at 9:30 pm

and returned at 10:33 pm.

Ashley Braswell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Blake Braswell seconded. The motion passed 7 - 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.

## April 16, 2018

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a regularly scheduled board meeting on April 16, 2018, at 7 pm. Those in attendance were Board Members Blake Braswell, Josh Schoenfield, Shane Kelton, Ashley Braswell, Jodie Arrott, David McWright, and John Seales. Superintendent Tim Siler, Principal John Phillips, and Accounts Payable Manager Jenny Baker were also in attendance.

The meeting was opened at 7:04 pm with a prayer by David McWright.

A quorum was established at 7:04 pm with seven members present.

A motion was made by David McWright to approve the March minutes as presented. The motion, seconded by Josh Schoenfield, passed 7 - 0.

## Audience Items

Angel Cervenka showed her support for the band, including giving an update on the band's performance and how the band boosters are helping with fundraising to offset the costs associated with the band. She also praised Bryan Swecker for driving the bus for the band.

Melissa Pittman spoke regarding the Special Education department from the perspective of a teacher and a parent to a Special Education student. She praised the teachers for being creative and adapting to provide for each student, including the use of a "black room" for stimulation and new techniques in band to help with participation. She showed concern for the path down to the track not meeting ADA requirements.

Dustin Holland voiced his opinion on the Special Education department and how he has not been happy with his child's education at BISD, but showed concern over changes recently made that don't seem to be working as well as they have previously. He expressed displeasure of the significant change made at the end of the year without any explanation to the parents and feels parents need more say in their child's education.

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# County Commissioners Court Meeting minutes told

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in special session on June 26, 2018, at 9 am at the County Courthouse in Robert Lee.

Those in attendance included County Judge Roy Blair, Commissioner Precinct 1 Donald Robertson, Commissioner Precinct 2 Paul Williams, Commissioner Precinct 3 Marshall Millican, Commissioner Precinct 4 Joe Sefcik, and County Clerk Mary Grim.

The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag and prayer was offered by Commissioner Williams.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Sefcik, carried.

No action was taken on the burn ban.

Commissioner Robertson moved to approve the payroll as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik and carried.

Commissioner Sefcik moved

to approve accounts payable for payroll. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Millican, carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to accept the donation of decorative rocks for the Bronte Park from Mark Moore. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson and carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the agreements between the Cities of Robert Lee and Bronte, Coke County, and the Coke County Sheriff's Office for Coke County deputies to serve as Ordinance Officers within the city limits as presented. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Millican, carried.

No action was taken on salary funding for MHMR.

Commissioner Millican moved to approve the bond for Assistant Auditor Olivia Trejo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik and carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to appoint Russell Johnson as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, to fill the unexpired term. The motion, seconded by

**Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Dept.**

**RLVFD**

**Fried Chicken Dinner**

**Est. 1947**

**Sunday July 29th @ Fire Station**

**11:00am - 1:00pm**

(Or Until Sold Out)

Tickets\* Available in Advanced at

Ivey Ford    USDA Service Center    Coke County Feed Store

\*To place an order for a Bucket, please call 325-262-2529 or email robertleevfd@gmail.com

**\$10 Plate**  
Includes 2 pc chicken, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Beans and Dessert

**\$25 Bucket**  
16 piece Chicken Only  
No Sides  
Perfect for 5th Sunday Lunch @ Church