

Bronte City Council meeting minutes told

The Bronte City Council met Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 6:30 pm at Bronte City Hall. Those present included Mayor Paul Gohman, Council Members Santiago Rodriguez, Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, and Stormy Vaughn, Utilities Director Ricky Royall, City Secretary Teresa Ballard, and Deputy City Secretary Sherry Bailey. Newly elected Council Member Ron Cooper was also present, as well as Wayne Barr with Eckert CPA. City Attorney Eileen M. Hayman and Mayor Pro Tem David Bedford were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in chambers and prayer was led by Mayor Gohman.

Megan Solsberry from Eckert CPA went over the Annual Financial Report Year Ended September 30, 2018, to council. Management letter recommends employee training, prior year's auditor's recommendations, meter deposits, and budget.

Findings of the audit includes segregation of duties, monthly reconciliation of the account receivable to the general ledger in a timely manner, and the budget should be monitored

closely to see that amendments are made as necessary.

There was also a questions and answers session.

The City Secretary does not have account receivables and cash control modules on Asyst. The recommendation is to get the cash control module to help with reconciling accounts receivables.

There was discussion only, no action was taken.

Discussion was held considering an ordinance amending Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Adopted Budget for municipal purposes respecting the General, Water, Sanitation Funds for Transfer of Revenue and Expenditures. The Mayor, Utilities Director, and City Secretary went over the budget and presented amendment recommendations to the Council.

Discussion was held amongst the staff and Council. More recommendations were noted. The City Secretary will be revising the budget and it will be sent to the Council for final review before the second reading.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.



What is West of 98?

by James M. Decker

As you know, my essays are identified as "from West of 98." You've also no doubt seen that my bio promises the "forthcoming 'West of 98' podcast and website." Occasionally, I receive questions about the meaning behind "West of 98." Today, I want to share that meaning in this space and also share with you my coming plans.

In 1931, the great Texas historian Walter Prescott Webb published "The Great Plains," one of the most important works ever written on the history of the American frontier. Webb's stated vision was to show that the primary characteristics of the Great Plains - flat, semi-arid, treeless - uniquely shaped life on the Plains, distinguishing life there from life in points to the East. Moreover, the necessities of life on the Plains shaped the people and their institutions, requiring the people and institutions to adapt to the new environment, rather than simply taming and settling the land, as they did in the prior American frontiers. Webb identified the beginning of the Great Plains as the 98th Meridian West. This line of longitude, running north to south, roughly corresponded

Local Author to hold book signing in Bronte on August 11

My name is Roma Johnson Holley. The story of my life began in Nolan County where our family had a small farm/ranch. My parents, Herman (d.1995) and Irene Johnson (d.1998), were hardworking, Christian individuals who instilled the same hardworking, Christian traits in myself and my brother, Russell Johnson. We moved to Bronte in the fall of 1976 because of my father's ill health. My mother re-established her nursing career at the Bronte Nursing Home. She was a dedicated caregiver there for many years when she finally semi-retired. I say semi-retired because she was still nursing part-time at Robert Lee Nursing home at the time of her passing.



Russell and I both graduated from Bronte High School in 1980 and 1981, respectively. We both left to pursue careers and Russell's journey led him back to Coke County where he was in law enforcement for many years before being elected Coke County Justice of the Peace in 2018.

My journey led me to adventures in many countries and states and although I moved back for a while to Bronte in 1996, I finally settled in Eastland, Texas. There my life became entrenched in family life, school and work. My husband and I have a blended family of 4 children and that meant a lot of activities. We always said that if we can just get the kids raised and out of the house that we could survive anything. Well, that statement was put to the test on June 28, 2012, when we were faced with a parent's worst nightmares. Our youngest son, Zachary Shephard, was killed in a vehicle accident in Andrews County. He was only 21 years young.

I don't pretend to be an expert on how to handle grief. I only know what my experience has taught me. It's been said that experience is the best teacher. Well, I would probably have to agree. I never thought that I would write a book that deals with grief. I mean, think about it, who wants to deal with grief? But this experience was thrust upon me and there was no escape. Facebook became one of my coping mechanisms. I could write out everything that I was feeling and I always felt better afterwards. After 5 years of my journey through grief over the loss of my son, I realized that some of my writings were actually helping other people who were reading them. So, I decided to combine my Facebook postings into a book along with some of my other writings. The result is "SURVIVING THE STORM THROUGH THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT: MY JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF".

My hope is that this book will teach by my example, how to live life on purpose; how to not let the past define our future; and how to keep on keeping on when the light of life has become so dim as to be unseen. For it is when we become blind and unseeing that we depend upon someone else for help. "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" Psalm 121:2. God has allowed the Holy Spirit to sustain me, strengthen me, comfort me and most importantly, Guide Me.

I must confess, I do not think of myself as an "author". I think of myself as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, and many other things, but "author" is not one of the descriptors. First and foremost, I think of myself as an humble servant of God.

A Meet and Greet is scheduled for Sunday, August 11, 2019, from 12 noon to 2:30 pm at the Blue Goose (117 W. Main) in downtown Bronte. Roma will be autographing copies of her book during this time.

with the point in which rainfall dropped precipitously in both quantity and consistency. East of the 98th Meridian, rainfall was sufficient to support all forms of agriculture. West of the 98th, farming became difficult without irrigation or dryland crops adapted to the climate. As a result, grazing of livestock became far more prevalent west of the 98th Meridian.

The 98th Meridian enters the United States in eastern North Dakota, passing east of Bismarck

and east of Pierre, South Dakota. It crosses through the middle of Nebraska and Kansas, then passes west of Oklahoma City and Fort Worth, before crossing the west side of Austin and just east of San Antonio. In Texas, the areas west of the 98th Meridian and north of the Hill Country roughly correspond with the cultural, economic, and topographic definition of "West Texas." In essence, the areas west of the 98th Meridian are the Great Plains of your history

books and of your Western novels and movies. It is a different land, scientifically verifiable as such.

It is from this perspective that I write. Over the years, I have found our national and state conversations dividing us into overly-simplistic camps—Republican/Democrat, white/minority, urban/suburban/rural, and so forth. Real life is more complicated, despite what society's political, media, and cultural classes might say.

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Because our area schools start on different days, the Bronte United Methodist Church is asking everyone to "Pray For Our Schools" this Sunday, August 4th. Please take time to pray for our students and faculty

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