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Controversial minutes provide basis for payments

As reported in the August 16, 2019, issue of *The Observer/Enterprise*, the Robert Lee City Council voted on July 22, 2019, to award Mayor Allyson Crenshaw with salary and stipend payments in the amount of \$48,000 for her 24 month term. Minutes of this meeting begin on page 3 of this issue.

The story actually begins at a budget workshop on August 18, 2016, when members of the council Janie Munoz, Joe Longoria, Roger Alexander and Jeanette Meeks and then Mayor Leroy Casey "discussed adding a Mayor 'stipend' to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor salary. Council members were in agreement to add \$15,000 year to the proposed budget and asked the City Secretary (Kay Torres) to inquire with the auditor regarding the 'stipend.'" Minutes of the following budget workshop on August 25, 2016, are one of the sets of minutes in question. These minutes were in the possession of various council members and other sources. However, the minutes currently in the "official Minutes Book of the City of Robert Lee" contain a major discrepancy. In interviews with prior council members, mayor and city secretary, all have agreed the original minutes are correct and the minutes

FOOTBALL FRIDAY NIGHTS!



Robert Lee Steers vs. Water Valley Wildcats
Friday, August 30, 2019

7:30 pm

Water Valley

Bronte Longhorns vs. Rising Star Wildcats

Friday, August 30, 2019

7:30 pm

Bronte



Blackwell Hornets vs. Eden Bulldogs

Saturday, August 31, 2019

7:30 pm

Blackwell

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, August 30

High School Football -
Bronte vs Rising Star at Bronte, 7:30 pm
Robert Lee at Water Valley, 7:30 pm

Saturday, August 31

High School Volleyball -
Bronte JV at Clyde Tournament
Bronte Varsity vs Sonora at Bronte, 12 noon

Kickball Tournament, 7 pm,
Gladney Field, Robert Lee

Blackwell Homecoming Activities -
Visitation, Refreshments, Registration - 10 am

Lunch - 11 am - 1 pm
Parade - 3 pm

Introduction of the Players, Flag Ceremony - 7 pm
Blackwell vs Eden, 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 1

Bake Sale and Hot Dog Fundraiser, 9 am - 1 pm,
Bronte Supermarket

Monday, September 2

School Holiday -
Bronte ISD
Robert Lee ISD
Blackwell CISD

Tuesday, September 3

High School Volleyball -
Bronte at Clyde, 5:30 pm

Friday, September 6

High School Football -
Bronte at Loraine, 7:30 pm
Robert Lee vs Sidney at Robert Lee, 7:30 pm
Blackwell vs Highland at Blackwell, 7:30 pm



currently in the "book" are incorrect.

The original minutes include the following section. Items in bold italic highlight the discrepancies.

Water Utility Fund
Consideration of a Mayor "stipend" to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor salary was discussed. Council members were in agreement to add \$15,000 year to the proposed budget and asked the City Secretary to inquire with the auditor regarding the "stipend". City Secretary reported that upon conversation with the City Auditor and information received from the Texas Municipal League regarding the "stipend" **that it was not recommended and may violate the common law doctrine of incompatibility.** Following discussion, council members expressed support and appreciation to Mayor Casey for his service and commitment of all his efforts to the City. The "stipend" **was removed, but**

the \$15,000 remained in Payroll Services.

This section of the August 25, 2016, minutes currently in the "book" are below.

Water Utility Fund
Consideration of a Mayor "stipend" to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor salary of \$750 was discussed. Council members were in agreement to add \$15,000 year to the proposed budget and asked the City Secretary to inquire with the auditor regarding the "stipend". City Secretary reported that upon conversation with the City Auditor and information received from the Texas Municipal League regarding the "stipend". Following discussion, council members expressed support and appreciation to Mayor Casey for his service and commitment of all his efforts to the City. The "stipend" of \$15,000 remained in Payroll Services.

It should be noted that in the minutes currently in the "book",

the Mayor's salary has been given a figure of \$750. It should also be noted that the information and recommendation obtained from the City Auditor and the Texas Municipal League has been omitted from the minutes currently in the "book".

The story jumps ahead to a city council meeting held on December 11, 2017. This meeting was attended by Mayor Leroy Casey and Council Members Roger Alexander, Janie Munoz and Shaunna Grantham. There are also discrepancies between the original minutes in possession of these former elected officials and the minutes currently in the "book". However, the original minutes were printed in their entirety on page 3 of the January 19, 2018, issue of *The Observer/Enterprise*. The former elected officials have stated that the correct minutes are the original minutes and the minutes currently in the "book" are incorrect.

(Continued on page 6)

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