

# Bronte City Council meeting held

The Bronte City Council met in regular session via Zoom on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 6:30 pm. An audio recording can be requested through the Public Information Act through City Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Paul Gohman and a quorum was established. In attendance were Mayor Paul Gohman, Council Members Santiago Rodriguez, Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, Ron Cooper, Stormy Vaughn, Financial Consultant Everett Bedford, Utilities Director Ricky Royall, and City Secretary Teresa Ballard.

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

There were no written comments sent in by the deadline date via Zoom and there were no citizen comments.

Santiago Rodriguez reported that the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department went to one grass fire north of town on July 15. Deputy Roberson reported on June activities with five ordinance enforcement calls, four ordinance enforcement notifications from city hall, zero written, two verbal warnings, and one citation given. Teresa Ballard reported that animal services caught five skunks, two possums, three raccoons, and two armadillos. Three dogs were euthanized by the owner after killing three cats. Both parties did not have their animals registered with the city. One written citizen complaint has been received and the deputies closed the complaint. Municipal court received two summons and one warning.

The Economic Development Boards have not met since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Stormy Vaughn reported that the Cemetery Committee has not met as well but thanked all of the volunteers that have

mowed the cemetery. Bug Express has sprayed the cemetery and the weeds are dying. They are here again this week to spot spray.

There was nothing to report on the status of the depot.

Ricky Royall reported that the June permit committee approved 16 permits; 10 storage or shop buildings, one small house, and four fence permits. Council also approved extending the RV temporary permit until December 31, 2020.

Mr. Ray Sparks was in attendance at the meeting to answer questions from the council regarding the Temporary Cargo Permit to keep tools close by while building a house south of town. Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to approve the permit for 6 months and was seconded by Lee Wommack. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Mayor Gohman read Ordinance 20-03 Budget Amendment FY19-20 about receiving funds from the Texas Division Emergency Management (TDEM) in the amount of \$10,989.00 to the General Fund. Also he requested pre-approval for future budget amendments to the General Funds Account to receive any subsequent funds from TDEM. Stormy Vaughn made the motion to approve the budget amendment for funds received from TDEM and mat the motion to approve any subsequent funds. She was seconded by Ron Cooper and the motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Stormy Vaughn stated that the TDEM money that is available is \$55 per person in Bronte's city population (\$55x999), and that is almost \$55,000. If the funds are not used, they will be used by another town. As long as the funds are used for any COVID related item, the city could use that money instead of taxpayer money. For example, a

<u>Mitchell County</u>		<u>Nolan County</u>		<u>Taylor County</u>	
Overall	80	Overall	185	Overall	1,405
Active	13	Active	26	Active	169
Fatal	1	Fatal	4	Fatal	44
Recovered	66	Recovered	155	Recovered	1,192

  

<u>Sterling County</u>		<u>Coke County</u>		<u>Runnels County</u>	
Overall	4	Overall	64	Overall	232
Active	2	Active	2	Active	17
Fatal	0	Fatal	3	Fatal	5
Recovered	2	Recovered	53	Recovered	212

  

<u>Irion County</u>		<u>Tom Green County</u>		<u>Concho County</u>	
Overall	10	Overall	2,145	Overall	62
Active	0	Active	156	Active	12
Fatal	0	Fatal	61	Fatal	2
Recovered	10	Recovered	1,928	Recovered	48

computer for our Water Superintendent to be able to take his water utility paperwork for testing reports that have to be sent in as an essential employee but be able to work from home if the pandemic gets bad now or in the future. Funds could be used for new radios for EMS, VFD, or city employees for social distancing reasons. The community has been hit hard and local small businesses could possibly receive grants for being closed or even open and payment of overtime, perhaps if the employees stayed all hours to restock shelves. Churches have also been hit hard, as they usually purchase school supplies but could not this year because of COVID-19. Nursing homes also have had it hard. There are lots of different things that the money could be used for to help

the community. Big cities are receiving millions of dollars but we are allowed a little less than \$55,000. The money needs to be used for the benefit of the community.

Mayor Gohman tabled the remaining budget amendments to correct transfers between inter funds until the budget workshop.

Subcommittee Stormy Vaughn and Santiago Rodriguez met with TML Benefits Executive Beth Ellison, Ricky Royall, Ken Coalson, and Teresa Ballard, to discuss options for the F20-21 benefits. Stormy Vaughn and Santiago Rodriguez discussed with the council members the options. Current payment amount is \$608.02. It is in the budget to pay this amount and if option 3 or 4 is chosen, the city could offer to pay dental and vision for

employees. Employees approve of option 3 or 4 and having dental and vision. Santiago Rodriguez made the motion to accept option 3 for \$589.16; Dental Plan III for \$37.64; and Vision B for \$9, for a total benefits package of \$635.80. He was seconded by Stormy Vaughn and the motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

The council discussed the continuation of waiving late fees and disconnects. Stormy Vaughn asked if the city could ask TML if the money that has been waived is reimbursable from TDEM. Ron Cooper made the motion to extend waiving late fees and no disconnects for the month of August. He was seconded by Santiago Rodriguez and the motion passed with a vote of 4 - 1 (Steve Hines voted against).

*(Continued on page 7)*

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**Please Pray for our Communities,  
 Our County, Our State and Our Country**



**And Don't Forget to Pray for Rain!**