

Mayor Paul Gohman called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. February 15, 2024, and a quorum was established. In attendance were Mayor Paul Gohman, Clabe F. Webb, Mike Bailey, Zach Davidson, RA Morris, Teresa Ballard, and Tara Robinson.

Mayor Paul Gohman led with the pledge of allegiance and council member Mike Bailey led the prayer.

Bronte I.S.D. student Grace Jernigan attended the meeting for Family and Community Services.

### **Public Comments:**

Katie Meeks has deferred comments at this time.

Steve Hines would like to see the animal control report be put back on the monthly reports so he will know what we are getting for our \$1000 a month.

Gerald Sandusky would like to wait for comments until item #2 (water project) is discussed.

### **Regular Agenda**

**Community:** Emergency Service District (ESD) – Discussion led by Council Member Clabe F. Webb. Mr. Webb thanked the mayor and talked about the Emergency Service district, not so much that, but the fact that we do not have one. What I consider to be a functioning ambulance service at this time is we have all the support in the world from Robert Lee that we can get from them. And I know they are doing an outstanding job. They are doing everything they can, but they are stretched. Also, that brings up the topic of what we are going to do about covering ourselves here in Bronte. Some people are for the ESD, some people are against ESD. I am not going to tell you how to vote. That is not my place. But the thing is, we need to do something in some sort of time or fashion to get our ambulance service back, now we have a petition that is going around town and there are some signatures on it. I do not know how many are on it. I do not know if you are for or against the program, but this is a county wide initiative that Bronte seems to be trying to bear the difficulty of getting it going and what I wanted to do, mayor, is I just wanted to make sure that we had some exposure, know that we have not as a group forgotten this topic. We must do something. I do not know what it is. As you the public want to do, but please give us some information. Give us some feedback so we know how to help the community. We are up here, left to our own devices and you know we don't know what you're thinking without your help and your input, so you know, again, I just wanted to bring this up at an awareness level to see if we could stimulate a little bit more information going in and out if you've got questions. We may not be the ones to be able to answer your questions, but we can try some other sources. I do not have any answers to tell you. All I can tell you is that I am for us getting an ambulance service. Somehow. But we must have feedback and input from the community. We need your help.

David Scott said what I understand on this subject is this is going to be county ran. Theoretically, and from what I have been told on the broad side, yes, already have enough votes or enough signatures to put them on the ballot to vote for. But they are trying to get signatures on the Robert Lee side, because it must be both sides of the county that buy into this. Mr. Webb added that we must consider the lake area as well, it is part of Coke County.

Mr. Webb added, but we must consider the folks that live up there and what their impression is. Mr. Scott added most of them have signed the petition. There is one of the gentlemen that is really involved in this, that is retired from the fire department and emergency services. That is what I was told. They are trying to see what kind of interest there is on the west side of the county. There have been a lot of people from Robert Lee, who came over here and signed the petition. We must have an ambulance.

Zach Davidson asks where is the petition posted? If it were not for my wife going to the bank, I would not have known about it. The petition is at the bank, Glenn-Bivins and Bronte Gun and Tackle. I did not know about it; Mr. Webb thanked the mayor for the discussion.

Mike Bailey added would like to see this on a ballot. Information only. No action taken.

**Water Project:** Mayor Gohman read Application Filing and Authorized Representative Resolution 24-02. A resolution by the city council of the City of Bronte requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board; authorizing the filing of an application for assistance; and making certain findings in connection therewith.

Be it resolved by the city council of the City of Bronte: Section 1: That an application is hereby approved and authorized to be filed with the Texas Water Development Board seeking financial assistance in the amount not to exceed \$15 million to provide for the costs of new water treatment plant. Section 2: That Paul Gohman be and is hereby designated the authorized representative of the City of Bronte for purposes of furnishing such information and executing such documents as may be required in connection with the preparation and filing application for financial assistance and the rules of the Texas Water Development Board. Section 3: That following firms and individuals are hereby authorized and directed to aid and assist in the preparation and submission of such application and appear on behalf of and represent the City of Bronte before the hearing held by the Water Texas Development Board on such application, to wit.

Mayor Gohman reported there is no financial advisor because there is a loan. The engineers are Jacob and Martin and Bond council is not applicable because there is no bond involved in that. If you look at page 2, we are going to certify that we did bring this to the full council, and they want the details of all the rules and so first, are there any questions about these two pages?

They want the details on everything. We will record how you vote for, against or abstaining in the official minutes. We are just going to certify the vote on page one. This vote is just a certification that we must submit and therefore this vote will be a roll call vote. So, we document everything. We have a time limit that we are to consider this. It needs to be done now. The application must be in by April the 1st and there is a lot of information gathering that goes in this application. What our cost is for the water. How many connections do we have? We touched on this last meeting, about the pros and cons of this grant. We were the first entity on the list that was approved to receive these funds toward this project with zero repayment. But we must follow their guidelines and policies. Clabe F. Webb it seems like to me the topic was lithium and now I read that we will be responsible to report to the EPA how we managed the levels of lithium. Mayor Gohman, we are going through the pilot study, and it will determine what the quality of the water is. Understand the treatment process that has been outlined being microfiltration, and with the second stage of RO that will do it. Then we are going to verify that it will do it and then they will offer to authorize us to. implement that treatment.

Clabe F. Webb voiced his concerns along with Gerald Sandusky. Katie Meeks asked if the plans already in place would be the same for government loan to TDWB. Mayor Gohman answered yes. Mike Bailey commented that is why since we had gone through this process with the city and citizens and we had gotten this approved to build the new plan with the type of filtration system that we have, that's what qualified us for and to be considered to be #1 on the list. Where this is to get the money that we have already committed to and had a 30 or 40 year pay back.

Mayor Gohman asked if there was any more discussion, if not he asked for a roll call vote. Resolution 24-02 application filing an authorized representative as presented. Mayor Gohman called each city council member for their vote. Mike Bailey - yes. Zach Davidson - yes. RA Morris - yes. Clabe F. Webb – yes. I have four votes for yes at this 100% and there are no no's. motion carried.

**Water Project:** Mayor Gohman reported we must go through the RFQ process again because it is a different funding source. That is just part of their requirements. Zach Davidson made the motion to approve to solicit for RFQ for water project, Clabe F. Webb seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.

**Water Project:** Mayor Gohman reported we have a purchase option for the land, and we were going to roll it into the loan grant originally. It was five acres at \$5,500 per acre for \$27,500. We also must do a survey and the estimate is about \$5000. We found out when we had a zoom call with the funding group, if we try and roll the land into the \$15,000,000, we must jump through an ordinate number of hoops to do that because they want certifications of that land valuations. It would be easier if we would just purchase the land out of contract services and that would not be an issue.

Mike Bailey asked before the pilot project begins and before equipment can be moved, there must be things done to that land which will be included in the other loan, the other grant, but. At some point, we are going to have to complete our obligation to fence our right of way through there for the landowner, as agreed in the in the contract to back there to the back of that property and if the land already belonged, you know, to the city was ready to go to work at that, it would be helpful. Mayor Gohman reported the actual pilot is going to be done at the at the plant, and not on the land.

Teresa Ballard informed the city council if the motion would be in two motions. In one motion to purchase the land and in the second motion to give authority to the city to spend up to \$5,000 for the survey. If it goes over \$5,000, then he would bring it back to the council. That way he can go ahead and get the ball rolling on that part if approved.

Clabe F. Webb made the motion to approve the purchase of the property, and pay up to \$5,000 for the survey, Mike Bailey seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.

**General Election:** Teresa Ballard explained we help each year the city helps BISD with their early voting part of the election and to do this we need an agreement. Mike Bailey made the motion to approve interlocal agreement between the City of Bronte and Bronte Independent School District as presented with corrections; to hold their early voting in the 2024 general election, RA Morris seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.

**Tx Health Benefits Board Vacancy Region 6:** Mayor Gohman reported there is a vacancy on the Texas Health Benefits Board Region 6, would anyone like to serve on the board. is in region 6 Benefits Board. The council said no.

## **January Reports Consent Agenda**

January 18, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting, Aging Report, Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditures.

Clabe F. Webb made the motion to approve the minutes and financials as presented, Zach Davidson seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.

## **Informational Reports**

Mayor – We will have a lot of paperwork for the water board.

Utility Director – In Ricky's absence, Teresa reported the pilot study will be in place by April 1. Delivery will be the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>. This will last for 90 days.

City Secretary – Teresa reported the municipal court received one warning issued for loose dogs for the month of January.

As of today, we have twenty-seven livestock/fowl permits turned in. We will be contacting citizens next week to get the rest of the permits in.

Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) will hold their quad meeting in Hamlin on March 6<sup>th</sup> and the topic is Code Enforcement. I plan to attend.

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA) chapter will hold a training meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> in Early. The training topic is PIA and Municipal Court. I will be attending this meeting.

City hall received an email from Charles Watkins expressing his concerns. The council has a copy of the email. We mailed a letter thanking him for complying with our ordinances.

## **January Monthly Reports**

### **Fire Department**

Held two meetings, responded to two fires and two wrecks.

### **Economic Development Report**

EDC 4B board met and approved a revised loan forgiveness grant. Working on getting pictures submitted to the film friendly town. Both EDC's boards will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cemetery Committee Report**

Ricky will be getting 3D's plumbing to locate the sewer line. Then caliche will be put down over the sewer line before we can design the layout of graves.

Something the council needs to think about is do you want to allow curbs; headstones; grass; lava or caliche type rocks. Do we want to start selling plots in the new section? The city has already received a check for two plots.

We have approximately twenty-five plots available for sale in the cemetery now.

We have a lane that we purposely did not put caliche on so we can close and add 144 plots.

Brenda Hines asked if we could put an information sign at the front of the cemetery.

**Permit Report**

Two permits were approved – one cargo and one fence.

**Request for future agenda items**

Clabe F. Webb asked to have TxDOT information on the agenda for the next meeting.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm.

*Paul Gohman*

Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Teresa Ballard*  
Teresa Ballard, City Secretary



