

Mayor Paul Gohman called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. June 20, 2024, and a quorum was established. In attendance were Mayor Paul Gohman, Clabe F. Webb, Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey, Zach Davidson, David Scott, Ricky Royall, and Tara Robinson. RA Morris was absent from the meeting.

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

Public comments – Brenda Hines and Gerald Sandusky signed up to talk, but not at this time.

Monthly Reports - May

Fire Department Report

Tara Robinson reported there was one meeting. BVFD responded to two wrecks and one grass fire.

Economic Development Report

Brenda Hines reported approving loan forgiveness grant for Shane Bearden of Bearden Auto, for a lift, new sign, and job creation for a part-time position.

Cemetery Report

Mayor Gohman reported we are still gathering information from other cities for the information to go on marquee board. Ricky Royall reported we are going to start working on putting down caliche over the sewer line.

Depot Report

No report

Animal Report

Tara Robinson reported 1 Cat with 9 Kittens Released @ Ranch, 2 Cats Released Domestic, 1 Cat Euthanized, 1 Snake Relocated and 1 Loose dog unable to locate.

Ordinance / Municipal Report

Tara Robinson reported trapper responded to a call that a dog was attacking a lady while watching her dog. The call came from someone driving by. After he contacted the person walking, he was told the dogs were just smelling and checking each other out and she had not been bitten. One neighbor's complaint referred to the county he resides in now. One Junk Vehicle removed by the owner.

Permit Report

Ricky Royall reported one carport, two storage buildings, one cargo container, one fence and one office building permit approved.

Regular Agenda

- 1. **Discuss/Act – Public Safety:** Consider approving Mayor the authority to grant its written consent to the creation of the district, Resolution 24-06 granting the consent of the City of Bronte, Texas to the creation of Coke County Emergency Services District #1.

Discussion:

Zach Davidson made the motion to authorize the mayor to sign the Tx Health Benefits for FY 24-25 as presented, David Scott seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.

4. **Discuss/Act – Finance**: Consider authorizing Mayor on behalf of City of Bronte to sign renewal 2025 rate for Texas Municipal Retirement System.

Discussion:

Ricky Royall – The city for the last several years has been putting in right at about 11.13%. The city matches what the employee puts in, up to 7%. The only way that can change is with authorization from the council to either raise it or lower it. The reason we have been putting in 11.13% for the last several years is to try and catch up on where we are behind. The reason we are behind is because of disadvantages. I guess you could say that older people that have worked here for longer periods of time are catching back up to what they would have had. In 2025 we should be caught up. If we keep it to 11.13%. Now we could drop it down a little bit, but then if we drop it down, that is going to push it out to say 2026-2027, something like that. And so, I would recommend that we stay at the 11.13% where we are now because we can afford it at this time.

Mayor Gohman - Any discussion?

Clabe F. Webb - Is 11 percent combined? City and employee contribution or just the city contribution?

Ricky Royall - Just the city contribution. The employees will still be putting in 7%.

Clabe F. Webb - So in this trade it makes 18% total.

Ricky Royall - Well, it makes an 18% total yes, but the employee will never see that 18% because in that, there is also some death benefits and things like that that the city is contributing to that the employee is not.

Clabe F. Webb - What age does the employee become eligible?

Ricky Royall - Retirement eligibility is 60 years old with five years of employment or any age at 25 years of employment.

Clabe F. Webb - So, it is 60 years old when they become eligible. Are they eligible for the 400 percent or is it like many businesses where there is a step? Where you would get part of it now and part later or is it all at one time?

Ricky Royall - No, you cannot draw this out at all. At one time, I mean.

Clabe F. Webb - Do you start 100%? Do you start at 50% different businesses have it where you start when you become eligible. It depends on the time.

Ricky Royall - When you become eligible, the only way you can draw it out is you must retire. Now at that time you have a choice, you can take a one-time offer at the time of retirement, or you can take a partial lump sum and then get paid monthly for the

David Scott made the motion authorizing Mayor on behalf of City of Bronte to enter a Cyber Liability and Data Breach Response Interlocal Agreement with Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool better known as Cyber Fund Interlocal Agreement, Clabe F. Webb seconded the motion. Vote: 4/0 motion carried.

7. **Discuss/Act – Finance:** Clabe F. Webb would like to propose three picnic tables at the Depot under the oak trees.

Discussion:

Clabe F. Webb- I have been going around talking to our businesses here in town. I haven't got to everybody, but I have been talking to quite a few of them and getting a feel for their thoughts in the community about over here at the depot that I would like to see picnic tables over there so when people come through town, they see number one in some places they can stop, slow down beside stripes, that they can have a picnic.

I was thinking about when my wife and I were young, we were traveling with the kids. We would look for places along the way to stop and have a picnic during the day and let your kids get out for a little. While folks travel with their animals, they can let the pets have a place to stretch their legs for a little bit as they pass through here. Now they will have a place to stop.

Now I realize that we have a little park right there on the corner next to the City Hall and we have a community park down off the roadways, but I am just thinking of some places that are small so that people could stop and have a picnic. But also, that folks here in town could go to gather and get together.

I talked to the business owners in the town, and I asked them, "What do you think about this? Do you think this is a good idea and would you want to sponsor something like this? Naturally, the first thing that came up is how much it is going to cost. So, I talked to Bralyn, the local CPA and he said if a person or if a business was to do this and sponsor table or build a table, if they were to have a sign of some kind on the top of the table with their business, Bralyn said that the business can use that for a write off. He did not say he knew exactly how much it would be.

For the table, let us just pick a number out of the air. This number comes to me from one of the business owners so, what if your picnic table costs \$2000? If you got 45 to 50% break on your taxes for that amount well, you are still left with one thousand dollars. When I talked to Teresa and Ricky in the office, Teresa said that it sounded like a good idea, that she knows a lot of places that would really jump on the opportunity to provide a picnic area, part type environment not really a park, but just a stopping place where the kids could have someplace to go, like when the kids come from school, and they are walking around town at different times of the year that we could get grants and funding that way the tables would not cost anything. There would not be any cost to the city because I am looking to fund this thing.

If I get permission to do this but in a way that it would not cost the people, any money. So, the next thing is why should anybody be interested in it? Well, here is what crossed my mind, it is very important this be something to involve the families and the children. I cannot speak for the school or the churches or stuff like that but a business that wanted to sponsor a table, let us say that we had a family or business or a family-owned business and in their sign they have all the kids put their handprints in there

comes in cans that the schools use to erase vandalism off the side of their buildings. I know that because at Permian, they got many hits when they were footballing, anyway. These are all valid thoughts. Some of the nearby picnic tables over there are made from solid steel pipe. Some of them just look like they are made from material that would come from the oil field. But you are right, vandalism is possible, but I do not want that to take away from what I think might be a good idea. There are a lot of things that could go wrong, but we will not know until something happens. When I was talking to Ricky, also I said there is a lot of people who travel with their pets, especially their dogs, their dogs need to get out and run around sometime and if we were to include a little area where the dogs could get out with a fenced in area where the people could let their dogs run. Now we have hit on two funding and grant areas that help provide money to support this project.

Steve Hines - Are you going to put a fence around the veteran memorial or just make a playground out of it.

Clabe F. Webb - No, I'm going to ask Ricky to recommend the area to put the picnic tables because we got water pipes out there in that area and under the trees, but we need him to help to say we're the proper place to have a picnic table, two or three and where would be the place to have a dog run.

Brenda Hines - That's what all the people are doing down at stripes. So, I am driving down the street every day to get my food and there is a dog running over to this side of the road over to that side of the road and it is a mess. Are there any lights in the park at night?

Ricky Royall – There are no lights at the depot.

David Scott – Who is going to empty the trash.

Clabe F. Webb - Well, like I said, the other parks do not have trash cans. I think we should have a trash can. It would be like any place else would have to have it picked up and hauled off. We could either use like city hall having the polycarts or we can either have a metal can. It is something that we need to consider, but I do not think that is an overwhelming obstacle.

Mayor Gohman - When we had those recycling bins, there was kitchen trash in them. That is an issue.

David Scott - They're going to empty their house trash.

Mayor Gohman - There are people who drive around looking for dumpsters.

Clabe F. Webb - Well, there are a lot of good things, at least if we have something like this it will not be thrown now on the street and let it blow around our homes and it seems like we have enough trash blowing around as it is.

David Scott - If you did this and made it a popular place for people to stop, that is also the landing pad for the helicopter, is that going to be an issue?

are safe.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey - I just heard a whole lot of stuff added to it though, but obviously wondering lighting electrical, maintenance of dog park and who is going to pick up poop.

David Scott - Where's the funding going to come from? You keep saying funding.

Clabe F. Webb - My idea is just for the three picnic tables, which is where I would like to start. If it takes off and we find the desire to have a dog park, we pursue that later, but my primary goal is let's see some picnic tables to give the people a place to stop and rest and have a picnic in the evening or in the midday where they have shade and not load this up into a full-blown subdivision.

David Scott - They are going to fund everything. They are going to donate tables with their names on it, they get a tax write off, we are going to have a trash can, and they are going to take care of the trash can.

Clabe F. Webb - The city park does not have a trash can. The picnic tables will be up to us to decide if we wish to provide a trash can, but we must recognize there are going to be people with trash there. But over here at our park they always take the trash with them. They do not leave trash out over there so why would we think that they would leave trash out over here? As for the rest of the funding I am hoping to get Teresa's help with grants and funding for half of it. If we could get funding for half of it and the businesses pay for half and then get credit on their taxes at the end of the year, they would not be out anything.

Mayor Gohman - but if it is not a declared park, can you still get the grants?

Clabe F. Webb - We can call it a park, Bronte Children's commemorative park and that is when I had the thought of having the children take possession ownership in their picnic tables by putting their handprints in it and their name and the date and it is hard to argue where the children play.

David Scott - I am not saying it is a bad idea, I am just saying I see lots of problems.

Mayor Gohman - It could be just bigger than a breadbox, you know, I mean is this declared a park. What obligations do we have as a city? Do you know Ricky?

Ricky Royall - No, we had never looked at that. Yes, there would be liabilities.

Clabe F. Webb - You'd have a lot of building problems. Would there be liability problems? Don't we have that with the park at the corner?

Ricky Royall - Yes, we do. Now I think and this is just in my opinion, I think the ones that are going to the park on this little corner over here are locals. That one would draw locals too, but I think it will draw more outsiders.

David Scott - Are we talking about travelers coming through.

an attractive nuisance or something like that, if you invite people to come over here and start using it and then they end up getting hurt or something like that.

Clabe F. Webb - OK, so is this something I need to talk to the judge about over at the courthouse or do I need to talk to the county commissioners? Or who would be the people to talk to?

Mayor Gohman - We just need to investigate.

Ricky Royall - No, the county would not have anything to do with this.

Clabe F. Webb - They know how much they are insured for, wouldn't they?

Ricky Royall - We can call risk pool and just give them our ideals where they can shoot something back at us on that piece of property.

Mayor Gohman - And we can come back and say there is no gotchas here if it falls within our umbrella policy and that is all we are doing is we are just saying put some picnic tables under a tree.

Zach Davidson - You could call around like Ballinger or call around the small towns and just see how they went about it. Information like that with some of us just discussing it. We all have our own opinions, about liability or no liability and just see what they say. Find out more information about it.

Ricky Royall - I know one thing they are going to ask, will there be any playground equipment? That is going to be the first question and from what I understand, there will not be any playground equipment.

Clabe F. Webb - And the picnic tables, what I have been thinking about are solid concrete with a base so that nobody must mow under the tables but just like right now, they go there with the right lawn mower, and they do not have to get off and move anything, you know just the base of it.

Mayor Gohman - You can talk to other municipalities. Yes, we will contact TML.

David Scott - Made the motion to table.

Clabe F. Webb – I have one more thing. What do you folks think out there? Because I would like to hear from the folks in the audience too.

Steve Hines - Well, I am a veteran, and I do not want to see the Veterans Memorial torn up, and I do not know how you are going to keep those kids off that gun? How are you going to keep them from it? Do you put a fence around it or just make it a playground out of it.

Brenda Hines - The city or somebody is going to be responsible for mowing all around it and weed eating.

Clabe F. Webb - But they already mow there.

Ricky Royall - No, it is not much. I do not know so much about the city wanting to invite some vendors to come in because that gets a little sticky.

David Scott - With your actual restaurants in town. Is that what you are trying to say?

Ricky Royall - Right. Yes, we just never have let vendors set up on city property to sell out of their trailers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey -Is there anything restricting them now from operating.

Clabe F. Webb - I am thinking about them setting up at the Depot.

Brenda Hines - Well, if they come, they are not going to just drive over there with their food truck unless they know there is going to be a crowd of people there and I mean, you know, just one little car, one little family with three kids and they are going to want to charge them huge prices.

Zach Davidson - We could just vote as a city that the Red Barn must stay open all week.

Brenda Hines - And now they are all trying to close on Saturday afternoon at 2:00.

Clabe F. Webb - Well hopefully they will be opening over at the Longhorn BBQ next month, hopefully they will be open on Sundays.

Mayor Gohman - And if you are interested in what that cost, it is on the front page, seven.

With no more discussion we will move on.

9. **Discuss - Water**: Clabe f. Webb discuss CCR Report

Discussion:

Clabe F. Webb - I wanted to thank Ricky for taking such good care of our water so well. I have gone over the water report that was sent out to everybody in the community and looked over the other material at the office. We must cover for the unregulated contempt monitoring rule. Now they wanted to not regulate stuff, but they wanted us to monitor it, and this notice was at the back of everybody's water bill last month or whenever it came out. But. It seems like they just keep increasingly into our responsibilities. I think some of it is good that you know we ought to be aware of it. You got fluoride only, yes, we have better water than almost any place. You know, it still bothers me that the government wants to stick their nose into the naturally occurring elements such as lithium in our water but Ricky, keep up the good work. I appreciate all that you do for us in the water department. I wanted you to know that I appreciate it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey - I would say one good thing that has come from this nonregulated element they are monitoring is that it is in a way, considered getting our water plant paid for so, I mean that is a real boom to across Texas and coke county.

Clabe F. Webb - Something I did not notice on the agenda that I thought I had requested to be on the agenda, was the grass growing in the streets of our city and destroying the pavement. I would like to make sure it is on next month's agenda to discuss.

Clabe F. Webb - The next thing is, does anybody know about giving permission by the city council to use our heading in their mail. It is from a pact of political action committee. I do not know of any of us that have said that any political committee that makes XYZ could use us.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey - Do not ask me for my phone number either.

David Scott - And they call me all the time.

Clabe F. Webb - Yes, but these are asking for money and on our heading. The letter came from someone else. But guys, be aware somebody is sending stuff out that says Bronte City Council is doing it and we are not doing it.

Mayor Gohman, with no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.



Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tara Robinson, City Clerk

