

City of Brownsville
Minutes of June 7, 2023 Regular Monthly Council Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Brownsville City Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Jean Meyer. Council members present were Barb Hurley, Pam Walhovd, and Tim Klug. Jacob Danielson was absent. Also attending were City Treasurer, Jenna Knight and City Clerk Steve Schuldt. Guests in attendance were Brandon Frank, Anthony Krenzke, Niki Paisley, Sonja Burkhart, Angie Bissen, Sylvan Fix, John Heintz, Virginia Heintz, Ben Virock, Chelsey Leis, Shawn Colsch, Mike Puetz, Craig Schroeder and representing Fillmore County Journal, Kaitlin Longhauser.

ROLL CALL of council was taken with a quorum being present.

MINUTES of the May 2, 2023 LBAE meeting, May 3, 2023 regular council meeting and May 16, 2023 emergency special bid acceptance meeting were reviewed. Barb Hurley moved, second by Pam Walhovd and the motion passed to approve the minutes.

AGENDA: Tim Klug moved, second by Pam Walhovd and the motion passed to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING: The time being 7:02 pm, Jean Meyer called to order a public hearing for consideration of a building permit application submitted by Saxon Hall 2.0, LLC to construct a 9' X 25' addition to the bar and restaurant. The addition is for a walk-in cooler and more storage space. Sylvan Fix explained that the compressor will be inside to prevent noise to neighboring property owners. It was also explained that there won't be reduced parking at the rear of the building and no additional truck traffic. Neighboring residents also raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of the alley. There being no further questions, Jean Meyer closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm. Tim Klug moved, seconded by Barb Hurley and the motion passed to approve the zoning permit.

FLOOR CORRESPONDENCE: Shawn Colsch requested consent to add lime screenings to a gravel area between the ballfield and the concession stand. Barb Hurley explained that the Brownsville Lions Club favors leaving the area grassy and to put off a decision until next year. Tim Klug moved, second by Jean Meyer and the motion stalemated at 2 and 2. No action was taken. Shawn Colsch informed council that the bleachers at the ballfield are in bad condition and should be repaired or replaced. He suggested renting bleachers from the Houston County Agricultural Society for events. Chelsea Leis stated that the dugout seats are also in poor condition. Pam Walhovd moved, seconded by Barb Hurley to consider repairing or replacing the bleachers following Brownsville Days.

PRESENTATIONS: Brandon Frank expressed his concern regarding excess speed on Main Street and possibly consider purchasing an electronic speed sign to slow traffic when entering town. Council discussed getting approval from Houston County for installation of traffic signage and painted crosswalks on Highway 3. Council also considered adding signage to its own streets to improve safety. Brandon informed council that he spoke with County Commissioner Bob Schuldt regarding traffic sign installations on county roads which will be ultimately denied by the county which will then make the city eligible for grants for improving safety on the city's streets. Council agreed by consensus that signage is needed to make drivers aware of pedestrian safety. Pam Walhovd moved, seconded by Barb Hurley and the motion passed to contact the Houston County Highway Department for assistance providing signs and painted crosswalks on County 3.

Council reviewed a building permit application submitted by Craig Schroeder living at 281 North Marina Drive for a 24' X 30' extension to his existing garage. The extension will provide additional storage and will not be used as living space. Tim Klug moved, seconded by Pam Walhovd and the motion passed to approve the building permit.

Council reviewed a building permit request submitted by Michael Puetz living at 310 S. Marina Drive to install an inground 10' X 12' or 10' X 16' swimming pool. Mr. Puetz said that a 12' length may not be available. Mr. Puetz requested that a fence requirement be waived because he will be installing a power cover which other communities have adopted as an alternative to fencing. He added that he has no problem installing a fence if required. It was explained that the city ordinance requires fencing regardless of a cover. Mr. Puetz also explained that the pool will not need to be drained. Council members were unsure if the 16' length would leave a satisfactory setback from the river. Pam Walhovd moved, second by Barb Hurley and the motion passed with Tim Klug casting a dissenting vote, to table a decision on the application until the July meeting to allow a second site inspection.

Tim Klug introduced John Heintz to discuss issues he has with Hamilton Street. Mr. Heintz disagreed with trees being removed from the Hamilton Street road side and the brush being piled along the road rather than hauled to the brush site. Mr. Heintz also requested that chloride be applied to Hamilton Street to control dust. Council informed Mr. Heintz that city maintenance staff will address the issues.

OLD BUSINESS: Council addressed a letter submitted by residents along the east dead end of Clay Street requesting removal of a tree stump and installation of pavement. It was explained that street paving will be a future project along with other streets needing improvements. Pam Walhovd moved, seconded by Tim Klug and the motion passed to have the tree stump removed.

Council was informed that estimates for fire protection at Bluffview Manor have not been received. Pam Walhovd moved, seconded by Barb Hurley and the motion passed to table a decision to refurbish fire protection at Bluffview Manor until a third bid is received.

NEW BUSINESS: Council reviewed a revised city building/zoning permit application which requires more information than the prior document. Following discussion, Pam Walhovd moved seconded by Barb Hurley and the motion failed to pass due to an even split of votes and no majority. No action was taken.

Council discussed the city ordinance prohibiting fires within the city and the use of fire pits. Council's understanding of the ordinance is that fire pits are not allowed. The issue is to be taken into consideration as an ordinance amendment.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT: Council reviewed a written maintenance report submitted by Dean Twite, who was unable to attend the meeting. The report updated council on issues at the waste water treatment plant and lift stations. Street projects and maintenance were reviewed. Updates and repairs at Bluffview Manor were reviewed. Jenna Knight informed council that calls are being made to people on the Bluffview Manor waiting list. Tim Klug inquired if Dean has the capability to apply chloride on Hamilton Street or if it should be contracted. He also questioned if there should be guard rails along Cork Hollow where Shawn Colsch is developing a building site. Tim also suggested we not forget to complete a stormwater project affecting Tim Serres and culvert repair on Hamilton Street. No action was taken.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Brandon Frank informed council that Crook Creek Township has not paid a fire protection fee for the past two years. It is understood that Crook Creek Township will pay when billed. Mr. Frank intends to meet with the Crook Creek Township board to discuss a contract. Mr. Frank informed council that Brownsville Township refuses to sign any kind of agreement or contract because it was never needed in the past. Following discussions, Council agreed by consensus to inform the Brownsville Township Board of a proposed joint meeting to discuss providing emergency services. The proposed meeting should take place in August or September.

CITY CLERK: Council was informed that Habitat for Humanity will be using the community center front room on July 12 as a water station for a bicycle fund raising event.

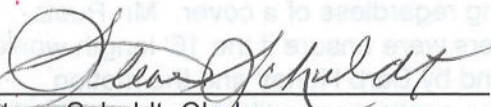
Council was informed that the \$7,000.00 received from selling the 1992 fire truck has been applied to the 2009 Ford Mini-pumper loan at Merchants Bank. Council was informed that \$9000.00 is being transferred from the fire department capital fund to the Ford Mini-pumper loan at Merchants Bank.

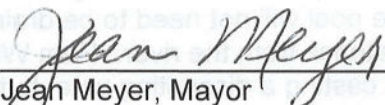
Council was asked to place an insurance value on the Veteran Memorial at a cost of \$.73 per hundred dollars coverage. Pam Walhovd moved, second by Tim Klug and the motion passed to insure the memorial for \$10,000.00.

Council discussed a bill from RCT Sewer & Vac for their additional work required to locate and chisel out manhole covers which had layers of seal coating and gravel. The work required 9 hours more work than estimated. The RCT billing for the additional hours is \$1,350.00 which reflects a discount of \$1,795.00 from their normal charge. Council agreed by consensus that Scott Construction should be contacted regarding the covering of manholes while seal coating.

CLAIMS LIST: Council reviewed claims payable. Barb Hurley moved, second by Pam Walhovd and motion passed to pay all claims.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Tim moved, second by Pam Walhovd and the motion passed to adjourn at 9:40 pm.


Steve Schult, Clerk


Jean Meyer, Mayor