

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF McCULLOCH

CITY OF BRADY

The City Council of the City of Brady, Texas met in a Special Session Meeting on Friday, August 25, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. with Mayor Aaron Garcia presiding. Council Members present were Missi Elliston, Gabe Moreno, and Jeffrey Sutton. City staff present were City Manager Erin Corbell, Finance Director Lisa McElrath, City Attorney Sharon Hicks and City Secretary Tina Keys. Others in attendance was James Griffin and Lynn Farris.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. Council quorum was certified.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation and pledge were not recited

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

4. INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS

B. Discussion regarding fee schedule changes not previously reviewed in budget work sessions. Erin Corbell presented. Council Member Moreno asked about our code enforcement officer being our building official. Erin said it will be a few years before she can be certified. We are working on that. Lisa McElrath said Sylvia at the front desk will be point of contact regarding permit. Sylvia will contact Bureau Veritas to engage their services. Bureau Veritas will charge the city and we are responsible for charging customer through our permit fee. Council Member Moreno asked if using Bureau Veritas would be a lot higher than we are paying now. Erin Corbell said she couldn't imagine it being much higher than we are now because their fees are comparable to our fees. Council Member Sutton said he is displeased with the junky houses and asked if we can give them a fine to straighten them up or put it against their taxes. Erin said we have been working on cleaning up junky properties, but doing that takes our street department off the street work they should be doing. City Attorney Hicks said it matters if a property is occupied or not occupied. There are different rules. Sharon said if we ask them to make changes and they are unable to, if we go in and clean up, we have to house them somewhere else. We can't tell somebody to paint or fix a broken window if they don't have the funds. Council Member Elliston said people get citations, but they don't have the means to pay so the fines keep getting bigger. You can arrest them and put them in jail, but then you have to pay to house them in the jail. Sharon said we don't arrest citizens for code violations. If they cannot pay, we have to request a hearing to abate and issue a seizure warrant. Erin Corbell said these are pass through fees. We will collect what we are paying to Bureau Veritas plus our admin fees. Council Member Moreno asked if fees are going to go up because of this. Erin said no. Council Member Moreno asked if we could find someone to do both code and inspections, then that would be better. Sharon said we can terminate the agreement with Bureau Veritas at any time. Erin said these fees will be in a final ordinance to vote on.

A. At 2:30 p.m. REMOVE FROM TABLE: Council Member Elliston moved to remove item from table. Seconded by Council Member Sutton. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding the City's employee insurance benefit package for FY 2024. Brett Bowers presented and reviewed the different options. Bowers said when Blue Cross Blue Shield rates were so high, he recommended plan a based on options available since it was better plan at lower rates. Mayor Garcia said we don't understand how you came back with better rates and asked if it is it truly comparing apples to apples. Mr. Bowers referred council to slides that will answer a lot of questions. Council Member Elliston said it's wasted money to pay for a high premium with a low deductible when the deductible isn't being met anyway. It would free up money for other things. Brett said typically most cities want to take care of their employees who

are making \$13 an hour. Claims have been the number one driver of expense. Erin Corbell said any option presented is better than what we currently have. Council Member Elliston said it would be at a significant cost savings to the city with option 6. Council Member Moreno said he likes option 5. Council Member Elliston agreed. Option 6 is better than what they have now. What they have now isn't highly utilized, but we're paying for it. Erin said we discussed an Employee Assistance Program previously. It's available at no cost to employees and household. You get 6 visits per episode. Annual cost is \$4,500. Brett said they would train supervisors on how to use EAP and they would send somebody down to help if there is an incident. Council Member Moreno said he would want to monitor how many people are using that service. Council Member Elliston said we need to help our employees if we can. Council Member Elliston moved to go with option 6, add the life, vision, dental and health. Seconded by Council Member Moreno. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Garcia adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.



Aaron Garcia, Mayor

Attest: 

Tina Keys, City Secretary