

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF McCULLOCH

CITY OF BRADY

The City Council of the City of Brady, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday October 3 2023 at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Aaron Garcia presiding. Council Members present were Missi Elliston, Larry Land, Gabe Moreno, Felix Gomez, Jr. and Jeffrey Sutton. City staff present were Public Works Director Steven Miller, Police Chief Randy Batten, City Attorney Sharon Hicks and City Secretary Tina Keys. Also in attendance were John Quinn, Ed Hernandez, David Brown, Angie Turner, Paul Willis, Karen Jacoby, Shiela Hemphill, Gregg Smith, Charles Bush, Julia McAnelly, Jan Tindol, and Jimmy Tindol.

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

Mayor Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Council quorum was certified.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Land gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes for Regular and Work Session Meetings on September 19, 2023

Council Member Sutton moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Elliston. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 5 – 0 vote.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- Domestic Violence Awareness proclamation – Mayor Garcia reviewed

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS ON PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings.

7. INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS

- A. Discussion, consideration and possible action on authorizing the city manager to enter into agreements with Utility Services Co., Inc. of Perry, Georgia for ten (10) year tank maintenance contract as identified in FY2024 Budget Operations & Maintenance for Fund 30 Division 31 or Water Distribution. Steven Miller presented and introduced Greg Smith who told Council about the history of the company. Miller said TCEQ requires inspections of the tanks on an annual basis. Shiela Hemphill asked for a confirmation that fluoride will not be added to our water. Miller confirmed we do not add fluoride. Shiela wanted to refresh where we are on our radon situation. Mayor Garcia said that's not our agenda item so we cannot discuss. Shiela thought we could talk about a water issue. Council Member Ellison moved to authorize the City Manager to execute thirteen (13) – Service Contracts and Master Service Agreement with Utility Service Co., Inc., Perry, Georgia in an annual amount of \$114,147.00 for establishing a ten (10) year tank maintenance service agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gomez. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 5 – 0 vote.

- B. Discussion regarding concerns about drug issues in Brady as requested by Angie Turner. Angie Turner said she was raised in Brady and is blessed to be in this community. There has been a decline in our community due to drugs and destruction. Her house is on the edge of town, not in the city limits, and doesn't have close neighbors. There was a man with no shirt on staring at her when she went out to feed chickens. She called the law. Another time she found a man passed out in parking lot outside 7-11. She called the law. There was also a lady walking down highway 190 past the schools, they took her some water. It was clear she was on drugs. They found her later lying in a bar ditch and they called the law. Her father owned a rental property on W. White St. There was a major drug bust at that house made by DPS task force. There were a number of people squatting in the house. They finally got them removed and spent months cleaning up. Her parents sold rent houses. She has never seen activity like she is seeing by her place of employment. They use their hoses to bathe. They have found drug paraphernalia in the alley and around dumpster. Several times, Misty Boggs was found asleep on the steps of the episcopal church. Every day it's something. Shady people up and down the streets and diving into dumpsters. A man was sent from homeland security to look at the issues. They installed additional locks and lighting. She almost ran over Kaitlyn Flynt. This child needs help. She can't even hardly speak. Our system is so crazy that she cannot be put somewhere. She has pulled into Sonic and is stared at by Gerard waving his hands, swatting in the air, and shooting the middle finger. Everyone says he's harmless, but he makes her uncomfortable. A neighbor spotted someone in the backyard. It was Misty Boggs. She had been asleep in the pasture and was probably headed to the park for her morning shower. The last thing happened at Goat Cook-off. She was up early getting the fire started when she heard a scream. She ran over. It was a young man convulsing and violently flopping all over the ground. There was a young woman trying to hold him down. She told Angie to back off and turn off the flashlight. That man died in front of her. He had ingested a large quantity of drugs, and nothing would have saved him. People will not continue to attend or participate in our events if this is what is happening at our Goat Cook-off. We did have tremendous law enforcement there. They would be willing to pay extra to bring in law enforcement to bring in dogs out there. Thankfully the motel across from Sonic was shut down and that will help, but they moved to Willie Washington and Richards parks. It's an eyesore. It needs to be torn down. This is not what we want in our community. It's not acceptable and it's not ok. She has friends who wanted to move here but now they're not going to because of the drug issues. Her sister comes here and is appalled. This didn't used to happen and there's no reason for it to happen. It's a vicious cycle. Very few do any time, and it's not enough. We have to provide legal services and psychological evaluations. Our DA needs to be replaced if she's not going to do anything about it. It doesn't do any good if they're on probation and still do drugs. It costs our county money and destroys our community. We need to stop the drugs from coming into our community. It can be stopped. We need to hire additional law enforcement and patrol those roads 24/7. We can get a lot of them. Stop them, pull them over. The word will get out that McCulloch County has zero tolerance. Ms. Turner asked council to please help do something. She knows they can't do everything. She's going to talk to the county commissioners as well. She wants to come together as a community and work on this. It's only getting worse. Mayor Garcia thanked Ms. Turner for sharing with us and said there's not anything we can tell you today other than we want to make this right. Our town does have a problem. We do have great police officers and a great police chief that all of us will stand behind. Mayor Garcia said he has spoken with Chief Batten and the City attorney and we're going to work on figuring out ways to get a handle on empty homes and issue criminal trespass violations. We want to make that standard. Shiela Hemphill said in 2003 we

had a death and the biggest thing was pot plants. They put together a cleanup in 2003 and put together a protocol to clean up the community. When people live amongst trash they're going to feel like trash and act like trash. In 2008 there was a successful effort to clean up the community. It was so effective. Mayor Garcia asked why it stopped. Shiela said the city needed marketing. James Stewart said what halted a lot back then was with the landfill, we got very close to overfilling the landfill and had to shut down. It was a massive, concerted effort that had a great impact. It can be done again. That was also the beginning of a big code enforcement effort. It can be resurrected but will take a legitimate community effort. Mayor Garcia said we want to attack this monster from trash to drugs. Chief Batten said this year we've had 150 arrests for narcotics, 536 disturbances, 160 mental health cases, 1511 verbal warnings..... over 600 suspicious persons and vehicles calls. We see it. They're out there, they're working. Angie Turner said we need more. The police department needs more help. We need more resources. PR bonds are too lenient. The paperwork isn't even finished, and the people are back on the street. Council Member Elliston said the laws on the books are actually impeding it too. They don't allow us to move people out. Angie said she hopes she didn't come across that she thinks the police department isn't doing their jobs. They are. Angie said there are people who need help but there are also people who refuse to work. Council Member Gomez thanked Angie. He said they fought against the problem with Bombay Street and they won. If every neighborhood and citizen continue to keep up the fight, we can clean up one neighborhood at a time. But PD can only do what they can do. Council Member Gomez said he reached out to the District Attorney but hasn't heard back. Angie said she also tried to call the District Attorney, twice,, but hasn't received a call back. Mayor Garcia said Council will discuss it and work with the judges and county commissioners and work together. Mayor Garcia said he would love to see something like a community clean-up day. Jimmy Tindol asked if Brady has considered using inmates for cleanup. Mayor Garcia said the City of Brady doesn't have inmates; the County has them, but they have used them. Council Member Elliston said it's not as big as it used to be. Jimmy Tindol said we could use them to clean up the roads around the lake. Attorney Sharon Hicks said the problem is there is no mental health program, there is no detox program. Mrs. Hicks said it's encouraging when citizens do call, but we don't have any mechanisms to deal with addiction. We need to work on changing state laws to make it to where we don't have to go through these rules when someone is living in your shed. Sharon Hicks also said the recent legislature took away curfew laws. Jimmy Tindol asked who do we need to contact to address it? Sharon said the state legislature. Mayor Garcia said we will do workshops with police department and see what we can do, and we will meet with city attorney to see if there are any laws we can work with to help so hopefully we can get something done. It takes all of us. Council Member Land said Angie did the right thing by coming in. He helps at the resource center and there is a flow through there. Council Member Elliston said she lives in that area too and sees it too.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Upcoming Special Events/Meetings:

October 9	Columbus Day Holiday, City offices closed, altered trash schedule
October 17	City Council Work Session – 5:00 p.m.
October 17	Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00
November 7	Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00
November 10	Veteran's Day Holiday, City offices closed, altered trash schedule

November 21	Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00
November 23	HAPPY BIRTHDAY JEFFREY SUTTON
Nov. 23 - 24	Thanksgiving Holiday, City offices closed, altered trash schedule

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcement.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council of the City of Brady adjourned into Executive Session for the following:

- Pursuant to Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), the City Council will consult with the City Attorney about pending or contemplated litigation or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act:

There was no Executive Session

11. OPEN SESSION ACTION ON ANY ITEMS COMING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.



Aaron Garcia, Mayor

Attest: 

Tina Keys, City Secretary