

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF McCULLOCH

CITY OF BRADY

The City Council of the City of Brady, Texas met in a Work Session Meeting on Tuesday January 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Aaron Garcia presiding. Council Members present were Missi Elliston, Larry Land, Felix Gomez and Jeffrey Sutton. City staff present were City Manager Erin Corbell, Police Chief Randy Batten, City Attorney Sharon Hicks and City Secretary Tina Keys.

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

Mayor Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Council quorum was certified.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS

- A. Discussion regarding Council items for Charter Review Commission. City Manager Corbell reviewed recommendations by Attorney Charlie Zech. Council Member Elliston said she thinks he had some great recommendations and thinks we should follow his recommendations. Council Member Elliston said she wants the charter cleaned up to make it easier for citizens to understand.

Mayor Garcia asked if there was anything about leasing G. Rollie White. Erin said under 12.01-12.21, Attorney Zech's recommendation is to remove the clause entirely because the contract negotiations should go to council. Council Member Elliston agrees that leasing should be tailored to community needs. Mayor Garcia said if that clause is removed, council could decide how long to lease out facilities. Currently our charter limits us to the 10-year lease. Attorney Hicks said there is an entire section in the Texas law regarding buying and leasing land; council could address specific needs. The legislature is looking at a lot of things that cities can do. If we limit ourselves in the charter, it could be obsolete when state law changes. It isn't necessary. State legislature is going to keep changing. Making your charter cleaner is the best bet. Council Member Land asked if there has been any movement with the Friends of G. Rollie White group. City Manager Corbell said she doesn't even think they've met. Attorney Hicks said she thinks it was shut down because of the limitations in the charter. Council Member Elliston said she thinks they originally wanted us to sell the facility to the county, but the county could make it a taxable entity. Mayor Garcia said he is looking at bringing things into G. Rollie White. Erin discussed the possibility of adding a venue tax, an add-on to the existing hotel occupancy tax, to a ballot to bring in some funding. Attorney Hicks said she will check into all the details. Erin stated that when the option was explored several years ago, it was estimated that the venue tax would create an additional \$50-\$60,000 in tax revenue to support the venues remodel/operations. Mayor Garcia asked if that was what it would take to get the facility running. Erin said no, but that it would be a good start toward making improvements to get the facility usable. Mayor Garcia said that he had already raised more than that amount from people that were interested in the facility from Fredericksburg.

City Manager Corbell said there was talk of increasing council salary, but the Charter Review Commission feels it will get turned down at the polls. Council can always increase salaries, but it wouldn't be effective until after their term has expired. Council Member Elliston said we might get more people interested if we increase the salary. Mayor Garcia said you have to be in it for the betterment of Brady. Council Member Elliston said around 10 years ago, a handful of citizens did everything they could to close businesses because they didn't like decisions council was making. Luckily, we don't have an abundance of

that type of people, but our city was ripped apart during that time. When you own a business, you do have to still provide for your family. Your heart might be in the right place, but you still have to provide for your family. There are people who don't want to get involved because of those types of things. It can deter other people from running. Council Member Sutton said it takes a special person. It's those that want to step up and can step up. Council Member Sutton said he has been in public office for 41 years and has had the book thrown at him. Council Member Land said he spoke with somebody who served for approximately 13 years. His business depended on local people. They had a good council. Council Member Elliston said she agrees you have to have the heart to serve. We're here because we have a desire to have a better community. We want good things. This is our home.

Council Member Sutton said the mayor has to have experience. He thinks the mayor should not have a term limit. Once he's elected, he should have to be recalled or elected out of office. He thinks they should be able to keep serving. Council Member Elliston asked why he would you not support that for every seat on council. Council Member Elliston said she understands, if the citizens continue to elect that person, why limit how long they can serve. Mayor Garcia said if any one person could sit on that seat, unless opposed, at some point it would dissuade anybody from running. Council Member Elliston said what if we make it 4 consecutive terms before you have to sit out. Erin said term limitations brings in opportunities for fresh ideas. Council Members Land and Elliston said to leave it as is.

City Manager Corbell said Attorney Hicks found out you have to issue debt for a particular project before you can pursue the venue tax. City Manager Corbell asked Mayor Garcia if he could get letters of commitment from the individuals wanting to donate to the facility, so the city could start working on plans. Mayor Garcia said that he could.

B. Discussion regarding Personnel Policy Manual changes.

City Manager Corbell said we made the changes requested at the last meeting. Council Member Elliston said she doesn't want "current employees may be grandfathered". She doesn't want it to say may be Council Member Elliston said current employees who were allowed to live outside the county should be allowed to live outside the county. We can state that for new employees. City Manager Corbell said it's going to be difficult to make all fire/EMS employees live in the county. Mayor Garcia said he understands EMS working 48 hours, but our supervisors should live here. Mayor Garcia said if somebody is not being held to a standard, then how can we hold new employees to a standard. Council Member Elliston said her preference is grandfather current employee. She wants to make sure everybody understands this will push current employees out. Mayor Garcia said a standard should be held. Council Member Elliston said she wants a motion to be made to remove "may be required to relocate". Attorney Hicks said to clarify, Council Member Elliston wants it to say current employees are grandfathered.

Erin said all other recommendations from last meeting were included.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.


Aaron Garcia, Mayor

Attest: 
Tina Keys, City Secretary