

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 April 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Aaron Garcia presiding. Council Members present were Missi Elliston, Larry Land, Gabe Moreno, Felix Gomez, and Jeffrey Sutton. City staff present were City Manager Erin Corbell, Police Chief Randy Batten, Fire Chief Lloyd Perrin, EMS Director Jeremy Ramon, Fire Administrator Ron Larson, and City Secretary Tina Keys. Also in attendance were Terry Phillips, Tony Groves, Jim Wilson, James Stewart, Dan Campos, Brad Isbell and Jim Wilson.

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. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

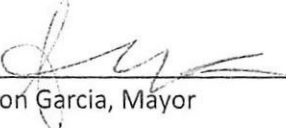
3. INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS

- A. Discussion with Eikon regarding Fire Department / Police Department plans – Jim Wilson said the white on the bar on the site plan is the existing building. Anything colored is new construction. They do intend to remodel some offices to get more offices. Mayor Garcia asked why there are 5 bedrooms, 30 parking spaces for 5 personnel. When we walked it, we discussed a million or 1.5 million and Mayor Garcia said he doesn't understand why it is so much. We would have a lot of empty rooms and Mayor Garcia said he doesn't understand. Eikon said they used the understanding of the building program which was done for this location. It's for growth. Erin Corbell said to prepare for future growth so you don't have to find funds down the road. Chief Perrin said there are times that we have 8-10 people bunked in an emergency situation. Right now, they sleep on couches or recliners. Mayor Garcia asked what would constitute that situation. Ron Larson said we're going to have it this weekend. Mayor Garcia said that won't happen for another 100 years; and we're not going to grow to that size. We can watch history and for the last 100 years and we haven't grown. Council Member Moreno said we're on a budget and we want to get them what they need. Let's get something done that's better than they have now and then eventually if we start growing, we can add on. We need to keep the total price now. The idea was to downsize but that wasn't made clear. Scale it down, but make it nice and workable. We can add on if we grow when we are more financially stable at that time. Council Member Elliston said our original plan would accommodate growth at well under the cost. Maybe we don't have to make it quite this big, but we need to accommodate some growth into the plans. Council Member Elliston said she is more in favor of this current facility and the cafeteria than this. Jim Wilson said there is a lot of concrete paving. Maybe we could reduce that on the back. Also, equipment storage area, even though we need it, we might be able to pull back. Dan Campos said everybody has good opinions, they are trying to come up with a plan with growth for 20 years. Growth may or may not come. People are moving out here and the fire department is going to have increased calls. History proves that. They are trying to come up with the most cost-effective option. Projects are not decreasing, costs are increasing. It spiked after covid and has not come down. we've looked at a lot of different options, properties around town. In hindsight, we could have built something years ago for less than we're considering now. They're trying to help the city make a good decision. They're not saying this is the answer. This is an option. They would work closely with the fire department to determine what would be best in a 20 year period. This is a feasible option. We can come up with phases to add on. When you go to add, you're going to be spending more money down the road. We've gone through this exercise so many times and Eikon doesn't really know where Council wants to

go. Council Member Elliston said we can get two facilities for the price of this one. Council Member Land asked how many people the fire department needs to sleep. Chief Perrin said on a normal day it's 5 – 6; Goat Cookoff they might have 8 – 10. We have extra people who come in and they stay at the station. Council Member Land asked if the fire department personnel are ok being out there. Chief Perrin said he likes the road situation. Council Member Land said he likes it as well and said he spoke with someone in the commercial concrete business and the concrete is pretty inflated. It could be less when we go out to bid. Dan Campos said they take an average of their jobs to figure the costs. They can look at several ways to save during the bid process. Mayor Garcia asked if they have to have concrete. Dan Campos said they have to prove an 80,000 pound fire truck can go over it and not make ruts. The parking lot can be asphalt or gravel. Anywhere the trucks are going constantly is going to have to withstand the load. Mayor Garcia asked if there is a state mandate to have separate bunk rooms. Chief Perrin said it's recommended. Jim Wilson said they tried to use existing walls as much as they could and went on to say you would have to lose a bay to include an exercise room. Council Member Gomez said we're hurting ourselves by not moving on this. Mayor Garcia said we don't have the money to do either option today and asked what would the phase process look like. Council Member Elliston said phasing over multiple years will end up costing more. Mayor Garcia said he was thinking of maybe over 3 years and asked what can we do with what we have, and then we can prepare for step 2. Mayor Garcia said we're looking at 6 months to get started and asked what does the construction look like. Eikon said they would go out to bid in the fall, giving us more time to recruit money, then 6 months then start with site work. Mayor Garcia said we have time to come up with money, if we can sell the properties we have to sell. We owe it to our firefighters and citizens to figure it out. There are routes to get that money in that time frame. Council Member Moreno asked why the volunteers don't like that area. Erin Corbell said they think the response time will be higher. Chief Perrin said the 2-3 minute response time won't make a difference. Erin Corbell said she is hearing if there is any way to get an updated cost estimate minimizing the paving, do gravel for now, a split bunk room between male and female. Chief Perrin said he feels like they're better off with individual bunk rooms. You have to be careful with people. Erin Corbell said she can work on what the cost savings would be. Council Member Elliston said she doesn't want to spend more money on new plans. Dan Campos said they can look at the costs too.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.


 Aaron Garcia, Mayor

Attest: 
 Tina Keys, City Secretary