

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, December 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Anthony Groves presiding. Council Members present were Missi Elliston, Terry Phillips, and Felix Gomez. City staff present were Interim City Manager Barbara Holly, Finance Director Lisa McElrath, Public Works Director Steven Miller, Police Chief Randy Batten, Fire Chief Lloyd Perrin, Golf Superintendent R. S. Bush, City Attorney Sharon Hicks, and City Secretary Tina Keys. Also in attendance were Marlina Brown, James Griffin, Charles Bush, Bubba Harkrider and Charles Hodges.

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

Mayor Groves called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Council quorum was certified.

#### **2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council Member Gomez said they had the drag boat races two years ago and are hoping to bring it back. There is new leadership under a new association. A lot of people enjoyed racing in Brady. They reached out to Councilmember Gomez, and they are hoping to get back on the schedule for next year. The lake has been low, and ramps are out of the water, but we could work on getting grants or funds to help extend ramps. Council Member Gomez said he reached out to the PPM manager with the City of Paris who had the same issue. They built new ramps and now have two events a year. The last drag boat event at Brady Lake brought about 80 boats, and they sold 600 wristbands at the gate. It's a great opportunity for our community. He also reached out to the Brady Bass Club to possibly help contribute funds. Mayor Groves said we will put this on a future agenda for further discussion and said when we were doing a lot of work at the lake, part of the contract included extending ramps, but it turned out they couldn't really do that, and they were allowed to drop that from their contract.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes for Regular Session Meeting on December 3, 2024.

Council Member Elliston moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Phillips. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 3 – 0 vote.

#### **5. PRESENTATIONS:**

End of the Fiscal Year 24 Budget Reports – Lisa McElrath presented to Council. Every fund balance exceeds its City Council required minimums.

#### **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS ON PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no public hearings.

#### **7. INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS**

- A. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding approval of increasing the EMS capital budget to purchase (1) Physio-Control LifePak 35 Monitor/Defibrillator & AED and ProCare Products from Stryker Sales Corporation, and the 5-year payout contract with Flex Financial at 6% interest, a division of Stryker Sales Corporation, for a total amount not to exceed \$55,482.83. Lisa McElrath presented and said Council

approved purchasing a LifePack 15 monitor for \$44,000 and a Lucas Compression device at \$30,000. Our Regional Advisory Council was able to provide the Lucas Compression system free of charge. Therefore, Chief Perrin would like to upgrade to a more state-of-the-art LifePak than originally requested. Financing this for five years is an option. Initially, the city expected to finance the Lucas compression system so that money now can be used for the monitor. There's no cash impact to our budget if approved.

Council Member Elliston asked if we could use excess funds to pay for the item and save the 6% interest. Ms. McElrath said it can be done via a Council approved budget amendment. Chief Perrin handed out paperwork showing the pros of the item and highlighted important features. It would help tremendously out in the field because the medics can transfer the EKG lead information directly to the hospital. The more advanced LifePack has 15 leads rather than 12 leads which allows the back side of the heart to be seen. EMTs are allowed to use this as an AED.

Council Member Elliston said she doesn't have a problem purchasing the equipment. Charles Hodges asked if there is an additional service fee to transmit information. Chief Perrin said no. Mayor Groves asked for a motion to increase the EMS capital budget by \$11,483 and approve the purchase of (1) Physio-Control LifePak 35 Monitor/Defibrillator and AED and ProCare Products from Stryker Sales Corporation for a total amount not to exceed \$54,572.11 plus freight of \$910.72 to be paid over 5 annual payments of \$12,875.87 each at 6% interest to Flex Financial. Interim City Manager Holly asked if the council's goal is to pay rather than finance. Council Member Phillips asked if we have the money. Lisa said yes, but she will have to come back with a budget amendment. If the motion is amended and approved, she should still be able to make it work. Attorney Hicks said the motion can be amended to take out financing. Council Member Phillips said if we can save the 6%, he thinks it's worth paying cash if we can. Motion was amended to purchase at a cash price in lieu of financing and bring back a budget amendment to finalize. Motion was made by Council Member Elliston and seconded by Council Member Phillips. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 3 – 0 vote.

- B. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding comparison cities for compensation rates. Interim City Manager Holly presented 12 communities and requested Council guidance on which ones would be the most appropriate to choose for future comparisons for insurance, compensation rates, etc. She thinks Boerne would not be a good one. She put them in because they are a gas provider. Mayor Groves asked what a reasonable number of cities would be for the comparison. Council Member Elliston said Boerne, Hearne and Hondo are near large cities so they would not be comparable. Council Member Gomes said Caldwell is also. Mayor Groves said he looked at Brady's numbers and which cities are within a 1,000 (+ or -) and population difference is within 5%. Alpine, Giddings, Comanche, Hearne and Hondo matched more than one. Mayor Groves proposed making them the comparable cities. Council Member Phillips moved to use Alpine, Caldwell, Giddings, Comanche, Hearne and Hondo and Coleman as comparison cities. Council Member Elliston would like to add Coleman. Seconded by Council Member Gomez. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 3 – 0 vote.
- C. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding City of Melvin EMS. Interim City Manager Holly presented and said Melvin provided a resolution stating that Melvin can't pay the EMS services. The County

has said they will not pay even though the county tax rate is twice what Brady's is. All residents in the county pay county taxes regardless of whether they reside in an incorporated city or not.

It makes sense for the county to support all county residents. Council Member Elliston said we would probably have to bill the county for services in Melvin. Interim City Manager Holly said she feels like we should meet with the county. Council Member Phillips said we have had several meetings with them, and asked if there is anything we can say that can change their mind. Mayor Groves said he has been part of the discussions. They have said they will not pay for Melvin. We can try but his impression is that they won't give in. Council Member Phillips said we care about our neighbors and the citizens of Melvin. It's a shame that we can't find a way to come to a resolution with the county based on the fact that the citizens of Melvin are paying taxes to the County.

Council Member Elliston asked Attorney Hicks, since Melvin is in the county, if we bill the county with Melvin cost included in that, they wouldn't have an option to pick and choose what they pay. Attorney Hicks said if you look at the formula that was agreed to, that formula carved out the Melvin portion. The amount they agreed to pay did not include Melvin. We look at whether Melvin should disincorporate but that's not an option. We can bring it up again, but she doesn't think we will get very far. We can look at what Melvin is paying for County taxes, but the current formula has Melvin carved out. Melvin Mayor Marlina Brown said there are several different state statues that show that the county can pay for emergency services and she has shown the commissioners but they were not responsive. Melvin is very small and are trying the best they can to raise monies. They don't want anything free. They pay over \$40,000 a year in county taxes.

Mayor Brown asked Council to look at Melvin and see what they get. A human life is more important. Attorney Hicks asked if the Melvin county commissioner is supportive. Mayor Brown said their commissioner is the one who refuses to pay. Mayor Groves said his impression is it's a point of honor for the commissioner who objects. They don't want to pay for anything they don't have to, and they don't have to on this one because they are incorporated. Council Member Elliston asked if the citizens of Melvin attended any commissioner meetings to voice their opinions. Mayor Brown said no. Council Member Phillips asked the actual cost. Council Member Elliston said \$14,000. Council Member Gomez asked what do other communities do. Interim City Manager Holly said counties usually take on EMS. The Brady residents are paying for city and for county. Council Member Elliston said that's why we tried to get bare bones back from the county. We're just trying to get enough to cover operations. It's a constant fight.

Charles Hodges asked what it is about incorporation that makes a difference. Attorney Hicks said if you're incorporated you have a taxing jurisdiction, so the County feels like Melvin should have enough to pay for emergency services, but clearly they don't. Mayor Brown thanked Council for bringing it up to discuss. The extension they were given is up the end of this month. They can't pay it. Council Member Phillips asked how many calls are made out there. Chief Perrin said 4 to 6. Council Member Phillips has comments he would like to make in Executive Session. Council Member Elliston moved to table. Seconded by Council Member Gomez. All Council Members voted "aye" and none "nay". Motion passed with a 3 – 0 vote.

## **8. STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Upcoming Special Events/Meetings:**

Dec. 25	<b>Christmas Holiday, City Offices Closed, Altered Trash Schedule – see below</b>
Dec. 26	<b>Floating December Holiday, City Offices Closed, Altered Trash Schedule – Thursday and Friday route picked up on Friday (12/27/24)</b>
Jan. 1, 2025	<b>New Year’s Day, City Offices Closed – NO altered trash schedule</b>
Jan 7	Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Jan 14	Special City Council Meeting, 5:30
Jan 20	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, City Office Closed, Altered Trash Schedule Monday route picked up on Tuesday (1/21/25), Tuesday route picked up on Wednesday (1/22/2025)</b>
Jan 21	Special City Council Meeting, 4:45 p.m. – Comprehensive Plan – Fiscal Sustainability
Jan 21	Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Jan 28	Special City Council Meeting, 5:30

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Groves said the Friends of G. Rollie White committee will be meeting tomorrow, Wednesday at the Municipal Court building at 5:00 and have invited two council members to attend along with Mayor and City Manager.

**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:
- Pursuant to Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) City Council will meet to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee: City Manager

Regular Session was recessed at 7:07 p.m. Executive Session opened at 7:14 p.m. and closed at 7:30 p.m. Regular Session resumed at 7:31.

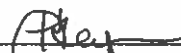
**11. OPEN SESSION ACTION ON ANY ITEMS COMING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Groves adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

  
Anthony Groves, Mayor

Attest:   
Tina Keys, City Secretary