

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, August 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Anthony Groves presiding. Council Members present were Terry Phillips, Curtis Owens, and Gabe Moreno. City staff present were City Manager James Stewart, Finance Director Lisa McElrath, Public Works Director Steven Miller, Police Chief Randy Batten, Golf Superintendent R. S. Bush, and City Secretary Tina Keys. Also in attendance were Charles Hodges, Phil Chavanne, Jim Griffin, Daniel Mendoza, Charles Bush, Casey Long, Bruce James.

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

Mayor Groves called the meeting to order at 6:00 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

Bruce James – behalf of the Reata River Ranch where he and his wife live on the San Saba River and they are asking for support to oppose, by resolution, any submitted application for proposed transmission lines along the San Saba river. Oncor and LCRA proposed three locations in McCulloch County, all which cross the San Saba. Their concern is the middle line it will run through the middle of the ranch and divide it by two. The northernmost line will come across the city of Brady. To see the ranch destroyed by these lines would be a horrible thing. It's going to knock out about 18 acres in the most pristine hunting acres they have. It will have an impact on the city revenues if the hunters don't come. The proposed route will clear massive amounts of trees and shrubs and will contribute to the possibility of future flooding. They believe further study is needed about the route including Hwy 190 route and I-14. We represent what is good about our lives in Texas. James said he can't believe Texas can't do better.

Phil Chavanne – representing the Friends of San Saba as a landowner on the San Saba River. The proposed transmission line starts in Eldorado and goes to East Texas and runs straight across the state with no considerations given for the river. We do have one of the three pristine rivers in Texas. It would make floods worse. They pay the highest taxes in the county. If his land value goes down by half, his taxes will go down by half. The budgets will remain the same. They could bump up a little north and go along a highway that has already been proposed. They have resolutions from the 4 counties that they are connected to. Reject the proposed route anywhere along the river.

Mayor Groves said our response is limited to factual statements and to cite existing policy or for a council member to make a request to put it on a future agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes for Regular Session meeting on July 15, 2025

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

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- FY 26 Proposed Budget – Lisa McElrath presented to council and said they have the proposed budget in front of them and it will be brought back in September for approval. Mayor Groves thanked Lisa for the great job that she does.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS ON PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings.

7. INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS

- A. Discussion, consideration and possible action approving interlocal agreement with McCulloch County for EMS services. Lisa McElrath presented. The required payment is \$303,685 that we are asking from the county, or 21% of the net expenditures for the 2023-2024 fiscal year operations. Council Member Moreno moved to approve an interlocal agreement with McCulloch County for EMS services from October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026. 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 approval of Resolution 2025-018 to consider and act on adoption of disaster declaration following July 2, 2025 extended weather event to facilitate formal application for state and federal funding for disaster relief. James Stewart presented and said this is a formality to allow us to act as our own entity and file for the assistance programs as an entity not underneath the county. Mayor Groves said James has done a spectacular job in all of this. Council Member Owens moved to approve the disaster declaration as presented. Seconded by Council Member Moreno. All Council Members voted “aye” and none “nay”. Motion passed with a 3 – 0 vote.
- C. Discuss and conduct a record vote FOR or AGAINST the proposed 2025 tax rate. Lisa McElrath presented.
Council Member Phillips voted For
Council Member Owens voted For
Council Member Garcia was absent.
Council Member Moreno voted For
Council Member Gomez was absent.
a proposed 2025 tax rate being the “voter approval rate” calculated by McCAD Chief Appraiser Zane Brandenberger. As of 7-29-25 at \$0.337476 cents per \$100 of value, which is the No New Revenue Rate at \$0.313861 plus 2.3615 cents. Motion passed with a 3 – 0 vote.
- D. Discuss cemetery rules and regulations and promote campaign to begin enforcement effective October 1, 2025. James Stewart presented. He would like to begin a publicity campaign and have it build up to October 1st enforcement including a day where we have an official cleanup and say what’s allowable and not allowable. It’s a maintenance issue enforcing rules and regulations. We made a punch list of items to give people when they purchase plots and will give to funeral homes too. We will keep items that are worthy of being kept for a certain amount of time. He would like to begin working toward that October 1 deadline. Everybody grieves in different ways so everyone will treat this differently. Choosing to ignore is causing problems. Council Member Phillips said when you buy a plot you don’t own the land, you own the interment right. We want to provide a beautiful cemetery that meets everybody’s need. We’re going to do our best

to get to that point in a loving and caring way. James Stewart said we want to respect everybody but it really hampers maintenance. Mayor Groves said if somebody objects to something that's removed, the process is not to make an exception but try to get the rule changed. Following the rules is important. Pursue changing the rules not the current situation. Council Member Moreno said if there is anything out there of value, make sure they have opportunity to pick it up. James said we will tag it and store it and leave a card on the headstone. Charles Hodges asked about some of the temporary marker that have been there for years, are you leaving those? James said he doesn't know why we would remove that. Council Member Phillips said there is not a requirement to place a granite or bronze marker. Mayor Groves said it is not unheard of for people to take things from cemeteries. There was a time when veterans plaques were disappearing. Don't assume that the city did it. Check with the city first. It's possible somebody else took it. James said he has a campaign set up with week-by-week social media posts to keep it in front of people to make sure the public is aware. This was a discussion item only. No action was taken

- E. Discussion of current status of Police and Fire/EMS building projects. James Stewart presented and said this is just an update. He provided documents in Dropbox. He did get copies of all versions the City has paid to Eikon. They are in the Dropbox by year and project. He also found the contracts that are also in Dropbox. The bids for the old cafeteria came in at \$1.97 to \$2.2 million. In March the council was in the process to reassign the direction to put police and fire on this lot. Council Member Moreno said they voted on it. They stopped because of the transition of city managers and were waiting on Eikon to give them plans that they asked for. They had these two buildings attached. The only alteration was to separate the two buildings. Then we had the situation with the landfill where we transferred funds to the landfill from the construction funds. Now that we have those funds back, we need to go forward. There shouldn't be any more hesitation. Council Member Phillips said based on evidence housed at the police station, they need to be separated. Eikon was never told to put the buildings together. James said when he came on, Barbara (Holly) was in the middle of that whole discussion. Council had approved \$80,000 in engineering fees to be allocated toward finishing that drawing and having the two entities on this lot. We wrote a check for \$30,000 and they requested another \$20,000. Since we had started on the EMS consulting project, we put a halt on it until we got their report. James said he doesn't see how you can build a fire department without touching this Council facility, and what do you do with police department. Council Member Moreno said we've had this discussion. Let's get this going then police department can go to old fire station. Mayor Groves said moving the police to a condemned building might not be the right thing. It's a tough spot and details need to be figured out. James said logistically speaking he's looking at other options. We're going to build a fire station. James said there wasn't even a survey done on this location. Randy Batten said with remodel of the current facility, they don't get any more square footage where they are. They can't get through the hallway right now. They have evidence in a back closet with a double lock on it. He would like to revisit the police department issue later. They are actually losing space with the proposed model. Charlie Bush said he has been to every city council meeting since April of 23. He has seen it kicked all around. You need to get together and get this done. The city has plans that they paid for the cafeteria. Taxpayers have that much vested in that building.

- F. Discuss the McGrath Consulting final report that evaluates the Brady Fire / EMS. James Stewart presented and said this is the final report. He and Jeremy Ramon will take the recommendations and make a plan and keep council updated.
- G. Discuss publicity campaign as follow-up for citizens' request and council's direction to implement public safety campaign for local parks and public spaces. James Stewart presented regarding the see something say something campaign. It's a rough draft of how they want to proceed. We want our folks to feel safe, and we want to do well by our community.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Upcoming Special Events/Meetings:

August 12		HAPPY BIRTHDAY CURTIS OWENS
August 19		Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
August 20		HAPPY BIRTHDAY TERRY PHILLIPS
August 21		HAPPY BIRTHDAY TONY GROVES
September 1		Labor Day Holiday – City offices closed, altered trash schedule, Mon. 9/1 picked up Tues. 9/2, Tuesday 9/2 picked up Wednesday 9/3
September 2		Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
September 16		Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
September 20		HAPPY BIRTHDAY GABE MORENO

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

10. COMMENTS ON FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Council Member Phillips said he would like the requested resolution to oppose the projected path of the transmission line brought to council for approval.

11. 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 contract & duties
- Pursuant to Section 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), the City Council will deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real properties of the City as the deliberation in an open meeting will have the detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third person: Police Station / Fire Station / G. Rollie White.

- Pursuant to Section 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), the City Council will deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real properties of the City as the deliberation in an open meeting will have the detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third person:

Regular Session was recessed at 7:41 p.m. Executive Session opened at 7:55 p.m. and closed at 8:45 p.m.
Regular Session resumed at 8:45

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

There was no action as a result of Executive Session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Groves adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.


Anthony Groves, Mayor

Attest: 
Tina Keys, City Secretary

