



**BRADY**  
THE CITY OF  
**TEXAS**

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### Meter Replacement for the City of Brady

The utility meters now in use in the City were installed 10 years ago and they are now at the end of their useful life. Repair and replacements of the current meters are difficult because they are outdated and not in production any more. For example, the City acquires parts and pieces from another city that has replaced its meters and is selling off the old parts to systems like Brady that cannot acquire parts through the market place. It is a matter of time before maintenance will be impossible.

The process of replacing the meters has been ongoing for over two years. The City staff has been meeting with representatives of various companies that manufacture utility meters and has travelled to other cities that have installed new meters. The proposal to replace the meters has been discussed by the City Council on several occasions during the budgeting process and public hearings on the budget. When the budget was adopted, the costs of the meter replacement program were included in the budget. The plan was to finance the cost of \$2.2 million dollars over 10 years. A presentation was made to the city council on October 15 that described the program in detail. Benefits of the new system were discussed and the city council voted to implement the program and acquire the financing for the meters and their installation. The financing has been settled and the meters have been ordered. The plan is to begin installation of them early next year.

In recent weeks, there has been some concerns expressed by some citizens about the new meters. The City Council voted to hold a town hall meeting on December 11 at 6:00 at the civic center to address these concerns and to answer questions from the public about the meters and the installation process.

The city council encourages all that are interested in this issue to attend this meeting, because there has been a great deal of misinformation that has been released about this issue. For example, it has been stated that there will be a cost of \$1,200 to individual property owners for the meter switch out. This is not true. In fact, effective November 5, the Council approved a one cent reduction in electric distribution rates to all rate classes.

It has been stated that the Radio Frequency or RF emissions of the meters are at an exposure level that is dangerous to the residents. This is not true. An independent study conducted on the meters that will be installed found that the meters “represent a calculated worst case RF exposure level at a distance of one meter that is 38 million times less than the limit set by the FCC and more than two hundred thousand times less than moonlight from a full moon. In normal operation, the likely exposure will be hundreds of millions of times less than the limits set by federal regulations.”

It has been stated that smart meters have not been tested and no one knows what the results may be. This is not true, as electric utility companies have installed smart meters all over the State of Texas. For example, Oncor has installed over 3.1 million meters and AEP has installed over 650,000 in Texas. Many municipally owned utilities like Brady have installed smart meters. Cities such as Arlington, Brenham, Bellville, and Goldthwaite to name a few, have all recently installed the Sensus brand smart meters. Sensus Metering Systems is one of the larger meter manufacturers in the world,

and their Flexnet system is already operational and field proven in over 200 utility service territories nationwide.

It has been stated that these meters will be able to monitor activities in the home that are not associated with utility consumption. This is not true. The only information transferred from the meters will be measurements of utility consumption for billing purposes only.

It has been stated that there will be radio signals transmitted 24 hours a day and seven days a week. This is not true. The radio will emit a signal less than a second every 24 hours.

Again, the city council encourages anyone who is interested in this issue to come to the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> and learn about what the meter replacement program is all about. Additionally, there is information about smart meters on the city's website. Go the [www.bradytx.us](http://www.bradytx.us) and look under the "News and Announcements" section on the home page. From there you can click on "smart meter information".