

**REGULAR CALLED MEETING  
City Council  
March 14, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Brownwood, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 501 Center Avenue, Brownwood, Texas, with the following members present:

<b>Stephen E. Haynes</b>	:	<b>Mayor</b>
<b>HD Jones</b>	:	<b>Councilmember Ward 1</b>
<b>Ed McMillian</b>	:	<b>Councilmember Ward 2</b>
<b>Melody Nowowiejski</b>	:	<b>Councilmember Ward 3</b>
<b>Walker Willey</b>	:	<b>Councilmember Ward 5</b>
<b>Pat Chesser</b>	:	<b>City Attorney</b>
<b>Emily Crawford</b>	:	<b>City Manager</b>
<b>Christi Wynn</b>	:	<b>City Secretary</b>

with no members absent, constituting a quorum of the City Council.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Haynes called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Jones.

**INVOCATION:** Invocation was given by Councilmember Willey.

**ITEMS TO BE WITHDRAWN:** None

**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND RECOGNITIONS:** City Manager Crawford introduced Jill Ruder as the new Executive Assistant for the Brownwood Municipal Development District and the City Manager.

**CITIZENS PRESENTATIONS:**

Harold Stieber asked the Council to consider the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Monument located at the Brownwood Coliseum to be moved by the 111<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion to the Central Veterans Memorial and allow the Central Texas Veterans Committee to refurbish the monument. The monument weighs approximately 26,000 pounds and can be moved on June 1, 2023. This will be added to the next agenda for consideration.

Nimitr Weropas expressed his concern about the noise that will come from pickleball courts and was not in favor of converting the two tennis courts to pickleball.

Steve McCrane stated that the addition of pickleball courts is a positive step in our community and something that has been needed as this is a popular and growing sport. He stated that this is a win for our community.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Jones, to approve the minutes of the Regular Called Meeting on February 28, 2023, as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Chief Accountant, Leah Thomas, was available for questions regarding the checklist. A motion was made by Willey, seconded by Nowowiejski, that the Claims and Accounts dated through March 10, 2023, be approved for payment as submitted. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**Consider authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement and any subsequent addendums, amendments, and acceptance of additional funds during the term of the contract between the City of Brownwood and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for \$5,000 to build the capacity of the local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) beginning upon signing of the agreement through September 29, 2023.**

Brownwood/Brown County Health Department Coordinator, Lisa Dick, stated that this is a grant funded through NACCHO from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response to build local Medical Reserve Corps units. Funding provided from this grant will provide support to the MRC unit and promote regular programs, and activities in the MRC. This grant has been received in the past.

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Jones, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement and any subsequent addendums, amendments, and acceptance of additional funds during the term of the contract between the City of Brownwood and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for \$5,000 to build the capacity of the local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) beginning upon signing of the agreement through September 29, 2023. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Consider authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement and any subsequent addendums, amendments, and acceptance of additional funds during the term of the contract with the National Council on Aging's Community Action Grant for \$150,000.**

Brownwood/Brown County Health Department Coordinator, Lisa Dick, stated that this is a new grant from the National Council on Aging that will provide \$150,000 to implement a campaign to ensure older adults and people with disabilities have the opportunity to receive updated COVID and flu vaccines. The Health Department would provide tailored outreach, host vaccine clinics, and offer other services that older adults or people with disabilities may need to be vaccinated, such as transportation and assistance in scheduling appointments. These services would be magnified during the grant period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. This grant can also be used towards employee salaries. Mrs. Dick recognized her staff and thanked them for finding new grant opportunities.

A motion was made by Willey, seconded by Nowowiejski, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement and any subsequent addendums, amendments, and acceptance of additional funds during the term of the contract with the National Council on Aging's Community Action Grant for \$150,000. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Consider and take action on authorizing the opt-in of the City of Brownwood in the settlements reached by the Texas Attorney General with Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documentation necessary to participate in the settlements, including the execution of the Subdivision Participation Forms.**

City Attorney, Pat Chesser, stated that the Office of the Texas Attorney General announced proposed settlements have been reached with Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, with Allergan paying \$135 million, CVS paying \$304 million, Walgreens paying \$340 million and Walmart paying \$170 million (collectively the "Settlement Amount"), to Texas and its political subdivisions. Of the Settlement Amount, the vast majority is earmarked for use by Texas and its political subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis. The City of Brownwood will receive the following direct allocation of money in the four settlements: \$157,966. The direct allocation can be spent on any use that has an "Opioid Nexus". The City of Brownwood will be eligible to apply for grants for regional monies allocated to Region 11 in the total amount of \$7,694,214. The deadline to opt-in to the settlement is April 18, 2023.

A motion was made by Nowowiejski, seconded by Jones, to authorize the opt-in of the City of Brownwood in the settlements reached by the Texas Attorney General with Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documentation necessary to participate in the settlements, including the execution of the Subdivision Participation Forms. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Consider an ordinance on first/final reading ordering a special election to be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, to elect a Councilmember for Ward 4.**

Mayor Haynes stated that due to the passing of Councilman Draco Miller, we must call a special election. The special election will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Order of Election must be called for by the Council. The filing period is after approval today, March 14 – April 6, 2023. The dates for a write-in candidate are the same.

Mayor Haynes asked the City Secretary to read the ordinance. After the reading of the ordinance, a motion was made by Willey, seconded by McMillian, to approve the ordinance on first/final reading ordering a special election to be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, to elect a Councilmember for Ward 4. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-02**

**AN ORDINANCE ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF BROWNWOOD, TEXAS, ON JUNE 10, 2023, TO FILL THE VACATED SEAT OF COUNCILMEMBER WARD 4.**

**Consider approval or disapproval of the resolution by the Brown County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the purchase, renovation, and financing of certain property for an office for the Brown County Appraisal District.**

Chief Appraiser of the Brown County Appraisal District, Brett McKibben explained that the Appraisal District has been in this location for around forty years. They do not own the building, it belongs to the School District, and they rent parking at the back for staff as there isn't adequate parking. There is only one handicapped space at the side of the building. Currently, there are around 375 disabled and elderly citizens that make quarterly payments. The tall curb and parking issues are difficult for these individuals. Also, there isn't adequate space for employees as they are outgrowing the building. The Brown County Appraisal District Board of Directors is proposing to buy a building located at 3804 Highway 377 South in Brownwood. The building currently houses Accel Health and is owned by Pro-Med Properties, LLC. A feasibility study conducted by Quorum Architects was finalized and delivered to the Board of Directors. After the feasibility study, several locations have been considered and either rejected as not meeting their needs, were sold to others, or were deemed to be too expensive. This location addresses all concerns raised in the feasibility study and will best allow the District to continue to offer efficient and convenient service to the taxpayers. Mayor Haynes asked how this will be funded. Mr. McKibben explained that the Board of Directors has included a line item for the purchase, renovation, and/or financing of an office building since 2018. The current budget already includes funds sufficient for the annual maintenance of debt associated with this purchase. Thus, there will be no impact on the Appraisal District budget owing to this purchase. Mr. McKibben explained that the City of Brownwood pays just over 11%, Brownwood ISD pays almost 28%, and the County pays almost 28.5%. They have \$1 million to put down on the purchase price and will finance the remaining balance.

A motion was made by Willey, seconded by Nowowiejski, to approve the resolution by the Brown County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the purchase, renovation, and financing of certain property for an office for the Brown County Appraisal District. Upon vote, the motion carried with Councilmember McMillian abstaining.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-23-04**

**RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF BROWNWOOD APPROVING THE PURCHASE, RENOVATION, AND FINANCING OF CERTAIN PROPERTY FOR AN APPRAISAL OFFICE FOR THE BROWN COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT.**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Consider an agreement and the appointment of a new Health Authority. Following the appointment, the new Health Authority may be sworn in.**

Brownwood/Brown County Health Department Coordinator, Lisa Dick, stated that the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 121 establishes the appointment of a Health Authority to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the appointing body's jurisdiction. The appointment is for a 2-year term. This Position has been held by Jason Hubbard, D.O. since 2020. Mrs. Dick introduced Tom Byrd, MD, and gave his curriculum vitae.

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Nowowiejski, to Tom Byrd, MD as the new Health Authority. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously. The oath of office was administered by City Secretary, Christi Wynn.

**Consider ratification of Mayoral appointments to the Brownwood Housing Authority Board and the Brown County Appraisal District Board.**

Mayor Haynes presented the following appointments:

Brown County Appraisal District - Councilmember Ed McMillian has agreed to serve on the board as a replacement for Councilmember Miller.

Brownwood Housing Authority Board - Resident board member, Christy Habekott, is now employed by the Housing Authority and is no longer qualified to serve on the board. The Executive Director, David Long, recommends resident, James Deshields, as her replacement. According to their bylaws, they are required to have a resident board member.

A motion was made by Willey, seconded by Nowowiejski, to ratify the Mayoral appointments as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

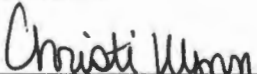
**Council may view new heavy equipment for the Sanitation Department.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Mayor Haynes declared the meeting adjourned.

  
STEPHEN E. HAYNES, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
CHRISTI WYNN, City Secretary