

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**City Council**

**April 4, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Brownwood, Texas, met in a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at the Bennie Houston Center, 505 Cordell Street, Brownwood, Texas, with the following members present:

- Stephen E. Haynes** : **Mayor**
- Ed McMillian** : **Councilmember Ward 2**
- Melody Nowowiejski** : **Councilmember Ward 3**
- Walker Willey** : **Councilmember Ward 5**
  
- Emily Crawford** : **City Manager**
- Christi Wynn** : **City Secretary**

with Councilmember H. D. Jones absent constituting a quorum of the City Council. Other City Staff in attendance were Deputy City Manager, Marshal McIntosh, and Executive Director of the Brownwood Municipal Development District, Ray Tipton, and Parks Director, Roland Soto.

Mayor Haynes called the meeting to order.

**Discussion with BSW Architects regarding the Bennie Houston Center (BHC) facility and possible future uses and community needs for recreation and meeting facility space.**

BSW Architects representative, Stephen Springs, discussed options they could study and budgeting factors for the Bennie Houston Center. Earlier in the day, the City of Brownwood Parks and Recreation Board, the Boys and Girls Club, and representatives from the community met to discuss options for the BHC. The top-ranked uses from the previous groups were 1) After school / summer programs; 2) Multi-gym functions (two basketball courts, indoor walking track, and seating; 3) Indoor pool – this only received one vote for two groups. Council discussed the kitchen portion of the BHC. Mr. Soto stated that the kitchen is used on weekends only around 40% of the year. They discussed working with the Harden School to renovate the main school building to use as a rentable space with a kitchen so the recreation center could exclusively be used for recreation. This would reduce the cost of the recreation center and not create competition for space. They also discussed parking. If the center is enlarged, more parking will be needed. The Council discussed the option of going out for bid on YMCA or other organization to run the facility once it is complete. Mr. Springs suggested City officials tour other facilities comparable to our size to see what might work best for our community.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Haynes declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST: Christi Wynn  
**CHRISTI WYNN, City Secretary**

Stephen E. Haynes  
**STEPHEN E. HAYNES, Mayor**