

REGULAR CALLED MEETING**City Council****May 26, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Brownwood, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 501 Center Avenue, Brownwood, Texas, with the following members present:

Stephen E. Haynes	:	Mayor
HD Jones	:	Councilman – Ward 1
Ed McMillian	:	Councilman – Ward 2
Larry Mathis	:	Councilman – Ward 3
Draco Miller	:	Councilman – Ward 4
Walker Willey	:	Councilman – Ward 5
Pat Chesser	:	City Attorney
Emily Crawford	:	City Manager
Christi Wynn	:	City Secretary

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 Councilman McMillian.
INVOCATION: Invocation was given by Councilman Willey.
ITEMS TO BE WITHDRAWN: None
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND RECOGNITIONS: None
CITIZENS PRESENTATIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Willey, to approve the minutes of the Regular Called Meeting on May 12, 2020, as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Assistant Finance Director, Melanie Larose, was present for questions regarding the checklist. A motion was made by Willey, seconded by Mathis, that the Claims and Accounts dated through May 22, 2020, be approved for payment as submitted. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

SALSA will make a request to Council for improvements to Wiggins Park in the upcoming 20/21 fiscal year.

Jesse Laing spoke on behalf of the SALSA group. (SALSA – Strategic Alliance for Leadership and Social Action) He stated that they have donated over \$10,000 in trees and thanked the City for partnering with the installation of irrigation. Mr. Laing requested the City consider in budget discussions the following projects – Sidewalk – for a walking trail

estimated at \$45,000; An open-air shelter measuring 40' x 60' at an estimated cost of \$33,000; A multi-purpose wall for athletic and recreational utilization and entertainment opportunities – estimated at \$7,500; Pavilion renovations – at an estimated cost of \$9,500; Signage – he proposed a structure standing approximately 4' to 5' of colorful mosaic tile inset painted by local artists – estimated at \$2,500; and Other improvements including relocating a grill, a water fountain, and a second restroom.

Keep Brownwood Beautiful will report to Council about recent activities and their city subsidy.

Cary Perrin with Keep Brownwood Beautiful presented the City with a dog waste station to be installed at Riverside Park. She then reported items fulfilled under the Memorandum of Understanding. Those areas included the Martin Luther King Plaza, Leach and Main, the Downtown Gateway, and the Community Plaza. She stated that there are irrigation issues at the MLK Plaza. Ms. Perrin stated that they will also continue to focus on holiday decorations at the Traffic T, Main and Leach, and the Downtown Gateway sign. Ms. Perrin has spoken to several groups she has spoken to in order to promote and educate. KBB has also worked on litter prevention and has conducted two-per month in town recycling events before the Coronavirus. She hopes to resume those events beginning June 6. Ms. Perrin went over items for the Council to consider. She requested that mini plaques be placed on items that KBB has donated throughout the years. The plaques were provided by KBB as well. Ms. Perrin spoke about events that KBB helped with, including the Animal Shelter, Greenleaf Cemetery, among others. She noted that due to increased online water payments, there has been a significant reduction in the one-dollar donation given by customers to KBB.

Greenleaf Cemetery will report to Council about recent activities and their city subsidy.

Steve Harris, President of the Greenleaf Cemetery Association, thanked the City for the subsidy, brush and limb pickup, perimeter mowing, and road improvements. Mr. Harris reported that the previously lost non-profit status has been restored although the financial aspects of the Association remain critical. Fundraising events are being held and will continue. He requested an increase in the annual subsidy to \$50,000 and that GCA be thought of as a City Park when planning for funding. Mr. Harris introduced staff members Shane Aegean, Grounds Supervisor, and Janet Buras, Office Staff and Board Member. Mr. Aegean addressed Council and spoke about the dated equipment. Ms. Buras addressed the Council and requested help with a mapping system and showed deteriorated maps that are currently being used. She stated that a mapping system would cost around \$30,000 to \$45,000. Mr. Harris requested the City's help with the office building and repairs needed, above-ground irrigation, roads and drainage, fencing, a mapping system, a backhoe, and the need for additional restrooms.

Consider authorizing one change order for the Camp Bowie Family Aquatic Center to Commercial Swim and authorize the City Manager to sign any additional change orders within her realm of authorization.

Parks and Recreation Director, David Withers, stated that the original quote included approximately 15% surface area repair to hollow spots under the plaster. Once the contractor drained the pool, they started in the deep end of the pool which had some hollow spots but not anything close to the hollow spots that were on the floor of the lazy river and zero entry. They need to completely remove the plaster floor of the lazy river and make multiple plaster repairs to the zero entry. The cost of the additional labor is \$21,700. There was an additional change order that was within the City Manager's authorization to sign, so it was already approved. Commercial Swim Management brought it to our attention that the 16 drain covers are required by law to be changed every 10 years and the 25 suction outlet covers are to be changed every 5 years. Also noticed during the construction that the thick safety pad for the "boat slide" had sharp edges where it is coming apart and is not repairable. The total of Change Order #1 was \$8,888.68.

A motion was made by Mathis, seconded by Miller, to authorize one change order for the Camp Bowie Family Aquatic Center to Commercial Swim and authorize the City Manager to sign any additional change orders within her realm of authorization. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Consider approving a resolution and authorize the City Manager to apply for funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

City Manager, Emily Crawford, stated that Governor Abbott announced on May 11 that the state will be allocating federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to certain cities and counties of under 500,000 population who did not receive any funds directly from the US Treasury. The funds must be used for virus-related expenses or will be subject to claw-back. Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in revenue to cover expenses that don't otherwise qualify, and they must be used for expenses between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020. Staff has reviewed the guidelines and have attended a few webinars about the allowable uses. We have submitted questions to TDEM for clarification and have begun identifying ways to use the funds. We will not expend any of these funds until we have clarification that they are allowable uses.

A motion was made by Willey, seconded by Jones, to approve a resolution and authorize the City Manager to apply for funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROWNWOOD AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR GRANTS THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND ESTABLISHED BY THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT.

REPORTS:

Budgetary Control Report

Finance Director, Walter Middleton presented the City's Budgetary Control Report for the month ending April 30, 2020, 58.33% complete, which included: 1) Budget Summary --

surplus of \$3,791,054 and represents 65.46% of revenue \$22,820,018 and 55.01% of expenses or \$19,940,461. Last year we were at \$2,879,557 in surplus. 2) Summary of Revenue – Sewer Revenue is down a little at 55.27% and the Landfill Gate Revenue continues to outperform at 63.45%. 3) Expenditures – The City's operating expenses are at 55.01% of the budget. 4) Sales Tax Analysis through May - The City is down -.8% or (\$31,262) compared to budget. We are up \$78,121 compared to last year. 5) Water Consumption and Sales Analysis – We are over by 12.3% Units of Consumption sold compared to last year. Actual sales are up \$563,317 or 19.5%. 6) Comparative Investment Balance Analysis - There are 72 days in operating funds compared to 61 days last year.

COVID-19 City Response and Facility Openings

City Manager Crawford stated that the Lehnis Railroad Museum is preparing to open on June 6 with 25% capacity. This will include the mini train ride. She stated that City Facilities including the Coliseum, Adams Street Community Center, the Depot, Camp Bowie Gym, and the Bennie Houston Center are slated to open on June 15 with limited capacity currently 25%. The Governor may increase the percentage to 50% capacity soon. There was discussion about allowing weddings and other events to occur after June 15 with the most current capacity limitations set by the Governor.

Sports Coordinator, Roland Soto, addressed Council regarding Youth Sports. According to the Governor's order, youth sports practice may begin on May 31. Council had determined June 1 in a prior meeting. Mr. Soto requested it be changed to May 31 to be compliant with State Order. Games may begin June 15, which is the same as Council's prior direction. The target date to allow tournaments involving outside the local area teams was set for July 15 by Council in a prior meeting. Mr. Soto requested the target date to be moved to July 10 to give the opportunity to host State tournaments. Cleaning protocols were discussed for all ball play.

Parks and Recreation Director, David Withers, stated that splash pads were opened last Friday. Pools are slated to open on June 12 with 25% capacity or current order. Cleaning protocols were discussed. There was discussion about opening the Wiggins pool sooner if Lifeguards are available.

A motion was made by Willey, seconded by McMillian, to approve opening date changes as discussed. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Workshop

Pre-Budget Workshop Session, including, without limitation, projects review, goal setting, revenue and expenditure projections, and other related issues.

Mayor Haynes discussed the tax rate and his desire to keep the rate budget neutral. Mrs. Crawford discussed the reduction in Pilot Tax revenue to come. Hendrick Medical Center will be purchasing Brownwood Regional Medical Center that will become a non-profit corporation, lowering taxes an estimated \$31,476 for the first year and \$230,000 in future years. Hendrick Surgery Center will be the only for-profit facility.

Planning for future projects were discussed to include:

Timmins building project - needing to stay budget neutral due to budget constraints. BMDD funds may be spent with approval.

Coliseum - The continuation of negotiations with Howard Payne University regarding the management and operations. Council discussed the timeline for renovations to the Coliseum and how long they may take. Council requested no events be booked in 2021 to allow for renovation.

Ice House and outdoor stage – Demolition and clean-up to be paid for through the Brownwood Municipal Development District. Council expressed desire to begin Phase 1 of this project.

Adams Street Community Center – Council discussed foundation repairs. Councilman Jones expressed concern with moving forward with the repairs. Council discussed the amount of use the building receives and the fees. There was discussion about allowing the Senior Citizens Center or the Library to use the facility. Council did not see either plan working in the near future and expressed their desire to move forward with the necessary foundation repairs.

Fabis Park Fencing – Council discussed the deteriorated fencing at Fabis Park and the possibilities of future use as an Equine trail. Councilman McMillian reminded Council of a Fabis Park fund to help with repair costs, so it would be budget neutral.

Property accusation – Council discussed acquiring property along Washington to prepare for the event center in order to provide additional space and parking. Councilman Mathis asked City Staff to check the tax sale as he thought one of the properties was on the list. Council discussed how to budget for demolition and paving. Mayor Haynes requested staff determine how to fund in the coming year.

Dog Park – This project was put on hold due to concerns about the location. Mr. Harris with Greenleaf Cemetery stated that there is an empty portion of cemetery property located at Texas Avenue and Center Avenue that could be utilized for a dog park. He requested a restroom facility could be installed that would be multi-purpose.

Wiggins Park – Council discussed making a few upgrades at a time to the park. There was discussion about BMDD funds being used to help with improvements. Mayor Haynes asked if this would be a possible location for a dog park.

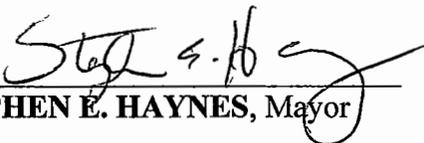
A project priority list was made if funding is available.

- 1) Coliseum renovations and negotiations – budget neutral with HPU.
- 2) Timmins Building – budget neutral with BMDD funds.
- 3) Fabis Park fencing – budget neutral with Fabis Park funds.
- 4) Wiggins Park upgrades – budget BMDD funds, SALSA funds.
- 5) Property acquisition around the Coliseum – to be determined.

- 6) Adams Street/Library renovations – long-term goal.
- 7) Street Maintenance budget – increase paving ability.
- 8) Trigg Park improvements – playground equipment.

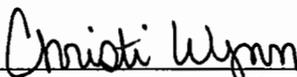
ADJOURNMENT:

It was after 12:00, which was when the workshop was intended to conclude, so Mayor Haynes declared the meeting adjourned. An additional workshop may be held in the future.



STEPHEN E. HAYNES, Mayor

ATTEST:



CHRISTI WYNN, City Secretary