

REGULAR CALLED MEETING
City Council
February 8, 2022

The City Council of the City of Brownwood, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 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	:	Councilmember Ward 1
Ed McMillian	:	Councilmember Ward 2
Melody Nowowiejski	:	Councilmember Ward 3
Draco Miller	:	Councilmember Ward 4
Walker Willey	:	Councilmember Ward 5
Emily Crawford	:	City Manager
Pat Chesser	:	City Attorney
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 Councilmember Jones.

INVOCATION: Invocation was given by Councilmember Miller.

ITEMS TO BE WITHDRAWN: None

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND RECOGNITIONS:

Project Manager, Deck Shaver

Director of Development Services, Tim Murray, introduced the newly hired City of Brownwood Project Manager, Deck Shaver.

CITIZENS PRESENTATIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Willey, seconded by McMillian, to approve the minutes of the State of the City, January 21, 2022, and the Regular Called Meeting on January 25, 2022, as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Chief Accountant, Leah Thomas, was available for questions regarding the checklist. A motion was made by Nowowiejski, seconded by Jones, that the Claims and Accounts dated through February 7, 2022, be approved for payment as submitted. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation of the Texas Department of Insurance / State Fire Marshal's Office (ISO) Public Protection Class of 02/2X.

Fire Chief, Eric Hicks stated that the Insurance Services Office (ISO) regularly performs surveys of all communities and fire prevention districts. The ISO rating is one of the primary elements used by the insurance industry to develop fire insurance premium rates for homes and businesses. The rating is based on a scale of 1 through 10, with 1 representing exemplary public fire protection and 10 indicating the public fire protection does not meet minimum standards. A lower ISO rating means the amount citizens pay for fire insurance may be less. In addition, the ISO rating reflects standards developed over many years from the study of pertinent fire protection conditions and performance standards. The City of Brownwood will become an ISO Class 2 effective March 1, 2022. Only 1,789 fire departments nationwide have ISO rating of 2, including just 322 of 2,844 fire departments in the State of Texas. ISO reviews over 39,200 fire departments across the country and this rating places the City of Brownwood in the top 7% of the country. The previous ISO review was in 2008 and the City's ISO rating was a 3. The review of the Fire Department is 50% of the total grading and reflects the Fire Department's response capabilities, equipment, and personnel. The water system within the City accounts for 40% of the total grading and reflects the Water Department's capabilities. ISO also reviews the dispatch center, which must meet or exceed nationally accepted practices and procedures as they relate to the Fire Department. There are 6.5 additional points available for Community Risk Reduction Programs and the Texas Addendum Credit CAFS. The total points possible are 106.5 and the City of Brownwood received 81.32 points, earning a Community Classification of 02/2X. The City's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Achieving a lower ISO rating is a difficult task that has taken several years to achieve. Cooperation and commitment between all City departments is and will continue to be, essential to maintaining the Class 2 rating. ISO's information plays an important part in the decisions insurers make affecting underwriting and pricing of property fire insurance. There are many variables involved in the calculation of a premium, but according to a local insurance broker, a typical homeowner could save 5% to 10% on their annual fire insurance premium. Therefore, as the City's ISO rating changes, residential and commercial property owners are encouraged to contact their insurance agent and ask for a comparison review on their fire insurance premium.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Consider a resolution to accept a donation of \$100,000 from Arc for accessible park improvements at Allcorn Park.

Executive Director of the Brownwood Municipal Development District, Ray Tipton, stated that the non-profit group Arc has been developing plans to create all-play or inclusive play components to Allcorn Park for the last few years. Because of limited personnel, they have decided to donate the funds for this project to the City of Brownwood. With this donation of \$100,000, they ask that the City develop these components and/or equipment for the park. Arc will provide the plans and renderings that they have developed, but the City is not required to use these exact plans or features.

Restrictions on these funds include:

- Funds must be used at Allcorn Park
- Funds must be used for all-play or inclusive play park features and equipment
- Funds must be used to construct a fence along the street sides for safety
- Funds must be used to develop a photo mural spot called “the Bright Spot”
- Funds must be used for signage that indicates “Allcorn All-Play Park” and some description of the equipment/features. (This is not a request to re-name the Park)

The City staff would like to explore other opportunities for improvements in Allcorn Park by leveraging additional funds in upcoming City & BMDD budgets as well as possible grant opportunities. Staff recommends that a plan be put into place over the next few months, and the project begin in the Fiscal Year 22/23.

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Miller, to approve the resolution accepting a donation of \$100,000 from Arc for accessible park improvements at Allcorn Park. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-22-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROWNWOOD, TEXAS, ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM ARC FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT ALLCORN PARK.

BIDS:

Consider awarding a contract for the rehabilitation and repairs of Wiggins Pool to Commercial Swim Management in the amount of \$164,128.43.

Director of Development Services, Tim Murray, stated that Commercial Swim Management submitted three bid proposals through the Buy Board Cooperative for the various segments of work at Wiggins Pool. Bid Proposal Estimate # 3415 for Pool Resurfacing including replacement of coping and expansion joint between pool and deck, sandblasting existing surface, repairs to damaged or rough concrete surfaces, and application of Ice Bay Eco Finish - \$134,486.94. Bid Proposal Estimate # 3416 for Pump Room Repairs including replacing Five Horsepower pump, replacing Three Filters and Media, plumbing and materials, and repairs to damaged concrete or rough surfaces - \$ 27, 891.49. Bid Proposal Estimate # 3441 for Leak Detection including pressure testing of Skimmers, Main Drains, and Return Lines - \$ 1,750.00 (Repairs to any leaks discovered will be quoted separately).

Commercial Swim Management advises they can start work in about a month, and the project will take approximately one month to complete. The total estimate is \$164,128.43 We budgeted \$150,000 for this project in the Parks budget, plus \$20,000 for other improvements at Wiggins Park. We can either use the total budgeted funds for the cost overrun, or we can approve a budget amendment at the end of the year for the additional cost. If approved, Commercial Swim Management plans to have the work complete before the end of May.

Councilmember Jones expressed concern regarding spending that amount of money on such an old pool. He asked if the City received quotes to replace the pool. Mr. Murray stated no. Mrs. Crawford stated that we have time to get cost estimates to replace the pool before these quotes expire. Council requested that no action be taken at this meeting to give time to review other options.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Consider a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to install Advanced Warning Signs on Coleman Avenue.

Public Works Director, Henry Wied, stated that the State Strategic Highway Safety Plans (SHSPs) identifies and analyzes highway safety problems and opportunities, includes projects or strategies to address them, and evaluates the accuracy of data and the priority of proposed improvements. The goal of the SHSP is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. TxDOT is proposing to install Advanced Warning Signs on Coleman Avenue from 150' west of Comanche Street to 1000' east of Comanche Street. This signage will warn drivers that the curve ahead is dangerous and requires a slower speed. The proposed project has an estimated cost of about \$6,000 and qualifies for 100% federal funds. The City will only be obligated to reimburse the State if there is an overrun.

Councilmembers did not see the need to expend funds for this project and requested that no City funds be spent for overages or for electricity for the light.

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Nowowiejski, to approve a resolution to enter into an agreement with TxDOT to install Advanced Warning Signs on Coleman Avenue with the understanding that the City will not spend any funds for overages or electricity. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-22-07

CONSENT AGENDA

There was discussion regarding this item, and it was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Consider authorizing the Mayor to sign FY2022 Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered meal Grant Program (HDM) agreement and the City Manager to sign any subsequent addendums, amendments, and acceptance of additional funds during the term of the contract.

City Manager Crawford asked the Council to authorize the City Manager to sign all of the documents related to this grant. Mayor Haynes expressed his gratitude as there are a lot of signatures required.

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Willey, to authorize the City Manager to sign FY2022 Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered meal Grant Program (HDM) agreement and the City Manager to sign any subsequent addendums, amendments, and acceptance of additional funds during the term of the contract. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

COVID-19 and Vaccination Update

Brownwood / Brown County Health Department Administrator, Lisa Dick, gave an update stating that in the recent past, there were over 1,100 cases reported in a week. There were only 291 positive cases reported last week. There were 5 deaths reported. Vaccination rates continue to increase at a slow pace. Those fully vaccinated are at 43.02% of the population. The Health Department is starting an Advisory Committee to make sure all the various groups of people in our community are being reached with vaccine information.

Police Department Annual Crime Stats

Police Chief, Ed Kading, reported 2021 crime in Brownwood decreased by 41% over 2020 crime statistics. There were significant decreases in violent crime, theft, and stolen vehicles. Clearance rates on reported crime rose to 47%; up from 31% in 2020. We experienced a significant increase in DWI cases with one officer making 38 arrests in 2021 for DWI. Problem oriented policing is working. Patrol shifts are sharing intelligence, a consistent shared action plan has been put in place. Focusing on problem areas, specific offenses, specific offenders, investigative technology upgrades, and enhanced communication between divisions has made a world of difference. We have improved our communication style with the community, listening to their concerns, building trust, and getting more cooperation by showing more compassion and empathy. Since the passage of the juvenile curfew, we have detained 12 juveniles violating the curfew and written 3 citations. All cases were initiated by a call for service, dangerous behavior, or suspicious activity.

Civic Ready Emergency Notification System

Fire Chief, Eric Hicks stated that the City of Brownwood has partnered with CivicReady to implement a new mass notification solution. The CivicReady system will enable the City of Brownwood to issue urgent notifications, emergency instructions, warnings, and routine communications to subscribed citizens via email, text message, and voicemail alert, to keep citizens safe and informed. In the event of a local emergency, residents subscribed to CivicReady will benefit from immediate, actionable information and instructions sent via their preferred notification channel. The CivicReady solution also integrates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). The IPAWS system leverages national emergency communication channels, such as the Emergency Alert System (EAS), NOAA weather radios, digital road signage, and television broadcasts, to provide area-specific alerts in times of emergency. By integrating its CivicReady system with IPAWS, the City of Brownwood will be able to reach even those who have not opted-in to text, phone, or email communications, including travelers in the area. Anyone who previously signed-up for these types of alerts through the former notification systems used by the City, known as CodeRed, will need to re-register as the data was not transferred to ensure proper functionality and that all contact information is up to date in the new system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m., in the Haynes Conference Room, pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Government Code Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, in accordance with the authority contained therein to discuss the following:

Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney

- A. Discuss possible cell tower lease option terms with Landmark Dividend.
- B. Discuss possible Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Early regarding land use.

Council reconvened into open session at 11:10 a.m.

ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney

- A. No action taken.
- B. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

STEPHEN E. HAYNES, Mayor

ATTEST:

CHRISTI WYNN, City Secretary