

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF McCULLOCH

CITY OF BRADY

The City Council of the City of Brady, Texas met in a Work Session Meeting on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the City of Brady Municipal Court Building located at 207 S. Elm Street, Brady, Texas with Mayor Tony Groves presiding. Council Members present were Jeffrey Sutton, Jim Griffin, Missi Davis and Jane Huffman. City staff present were City Manager Kim Lenoir, Public Works Director Steve Miller, Community Services Director Dennis Jobe, Police Chief Steve Thomas, Finance Director Lisa Remini, Compliance Coordinator Loye Young and City Secretary Tina Keys.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Certification of a Quorum

Mayor Groves called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Council quorum was certified.

2. Discussion regarding economic impact of Sand Plant Closures on City of Brady and McCulloch County

Kim Lenoir presented and handed out slides showing services provided by the City of Brady to Hexion, Pioneer Sands and the amount of revenue that the City will lose with the closing of the plants. Lenoir also handed out and went over a 20-year history of sales revenues. Council Member Huffman and City Manager Lenoir discussed that this is not the first time this has happened and we've rebounded before and we can rebound again. Today, staff was told that the railroad has decided to shut down operations and sell the rail for scrap, so if the sand plants come back, they won't have heavy transportation to take the sand out of the county. Council Member Sutton said he has seen the ups and downs in other communities but they survive. Mayor Groves said he talked to previous and current mayor of Eden about closing of detention center. Eden added \$20 to everybody's water meter cost to cover their utility loss. The workforce of the detention center didn't have a big impact on the city of Eden. Additionally, the company that had the prison gave them \$25,000 a year for a set number of years. Mayor Groves talked about opportunities now to look at the big picture – something we haven't thought of before. Look at where we might go for other opportunities that would give us the possibilities of being better off 5 years from now. Council Member Griffin talked about other communities who have lost major industries but were able to survive. Griffin thinks the City needs to make a statement on where we stand. Council Member Huffman said we need to concentrate on what are we going to do today. What can we do. She doesn't feel like we can burden our taxpayers and add more on them. We need to focus on what is our plan moving forward. She fully expects and intends for pay raises previously discussed to still go through. Council Member Griffin thinks budget and projects need to be looked at again. Mayor Groves thinks we need to make a statement saying we will evaluate the impact, look at continuing plans to keep them stable, and let the citizens know what we are doing. Mayor Groves said he wants us to look at new opportunities as well as talk to Railroad and TXDOT and the army. The army is looking at future trainings at our airfield. Mayor Groves suggested off Tuesdays, have an open forum for people to come and talk for whichever council members wanted to come along with EDC and county representatives meet with citizens to answer questions. Mayor also suggested talking to schools to visit with high school students to ease worry and concerns and to get input from them. After key players have met a few times, bring in a few citizens. City Manager Lenoir said she doesn't think other entities realize we really have a flat tax rate and don't have any options to increase revenues and looks forward to informing the other entities where we stand. Mayor Groves asked if we want to look for help from an outside entity; an agency that would be a good investment to come in and help us. Lenoir said Senator Perry and Governor's office representatives will be at meeting tonight. Mayor Groves would like to make contact with US Cement and see where they stand. Council Member Huffman thinks anybody who has shown interest in coming here should be contacted and we should be generous with tax abatements for folks who will be utility customers. Also said maybe we should not be so stringent with codes and permitting. Do whatever we can to make people feel more welcome. Council Member Davis said we need to work on

our customer service to try to help people any chance we can. Public Works Director Steve Miller said we should recognize how far we've come with the finances and went on to say we need to let people know we have been fiscally cautious and we have a plan. Mayor Groves clarified we need to let people know there will be no rate increases associated with the impact of the sand plants leaving; we find out what they're doing and assess impact and keep everybody informed. Miller said we need to get large business leaders involved. Council Member Huffman reiterated that we need to just say we've already done this year's rates, we're not planning on making any changes as a result of the sand plant closings. Remini confirmed said we do have reserves that will buy us some time. Council took a break at 5:19pm and continued discussions at 5:25pm.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.


Mayor Anthony Groves

Attest: 
Tina Keys, City Secretary