

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 Tuesday, November 10, 2020 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 Missi Elliston, Jay May, Jeffrey Sutton and Jane Huffman. City staff present were City Manager Dennis Jobe, Fire Chief Lloyd Perrin, Asst Fire Chief Jeremy Ramon, Police Chief Steven Thomas, Community Development Manager Erin Corbell, Senior Center Manager Rosie Aguirre, Purchasing Agent Dorsey Bustamante, Electric Superintendent Joe Solis, and City Secretary Tina Keys. Also in attendance was Larry Land.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Groves called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council quorum was certified.

2. Discussion Regarding:

a. Animal Control Facility – Dennis Jobe said he and Chief Thomas went out to the facility and walked through it. There were some things they didn't like but we've pretty much done everything that Dr. Mays has asked. The lease on the facility is up for renewal this month. Jobe said he doesn't know how much they will charge this year. If we are interested in buying the facility, they are asking \$400,000 for everything. Council Member May talked to the agent who has it listed and told him the price was way to high. The listing broker told Council Member May to make an offer. Council Member May thinks maybe we need to make an offer and see what happens. He estimates we are paying \$1,000 now, and to purchase would be appx \$1,500 a month. He thinks it's worth the money. Council Member Huffman said we might be able to sell some of the land in the future. Chief Thomas let Council know the Animal Control officers have done a lot of work at the facility but went on to say that it's not ideal for animal control. There is a bunch of stuff at the facility that they neither need or use. Chief Thomas went on to explain that we're not a shelter, we're a 72 hour hold facility; a responsibility to hold an animal for 72 hours before it's adopted out. He said they do have a great relationship with doctors all over the country for sending animals out to be adopted. They just sent 28 dogs to Wisconsin. Chief Thomas said maybe Council Member May is right and that is the way to go. Council Member Elliston asked if we can find out what exactly our standards are. Council Member May again said our lease is up soon. Erin Corbell said they would consider extending the lease if we are interested in purchasing. Mayor Groves suggested putting this item on the next agenda and bring back answers.

Council took a break at 10:56 a.m. and resumed at 11:12

b. Fire and police building – Dennis Jobe said we know there are a lot of issues at the fire station and the repairs would be too high. And, it would be too expensive to build a new one. Jobe thinks we can take the police station and add a metal building and improve kitchen and sleeping quarters. Chief said there is no reason why we would need to keep the street next to the police station open to traffic and said we could close it off to gain access to the lot across the street. Chief Perrin said he doesn't think the area behind the police station will be any better. It used to be an EMS system that housed 2 people. Council Member Elliston said there is space to add on. Council Member Huffman said we can get a metal building and add bathrooms and living quarters. Chief Thomas said he tries to keep everybody out of that back part. Pretty much everything from the back door, Thomas looks at it like it's FD's. The police department doesn't use it at all. Council Member May asked what kind of problems we would have in closing the street. Council and staff left the building at 11:21 to go tour the area behind the police station and returned at 11:44 a.m. Council Member

Elliston asked if we ever got a listing of all the properties the City owns. Dennis Jobe said we are working on that. The City Manager recommend setting up a committee to discuss further. Chief Perrin said we need to decide where, and then he and Asst. Chief Ramon will build the building online but Dennis said you're going to have to have somebody to do the electrical, etc. Council Member Huffman said they need to figure out what they can do with what's already there. Jobe said we need to get measurements. Council Member Huffman said there is a volunteer fire dept who built a new building for less than \$100,000. Chief Perrin said there is a lot more involved than what we are considering. Jobe asked Chief Perrin to get everything together, get the square footage, then come back in December with a concept plan and go from there. Jobe said we will check vaults to see if there are any plans.

Council recessed at 12:17 for lunch and resumed at 1:04.

c. Senior Citizen building & Civic Center – Dennis Jobe said to use the Civic Center as the Senior Center, it would have to have fire suppression and a full kitchen. Mayor Groves has purchased dividing curtains so we could divide off the Civic Center, set up tables, it's a facility we can use. We would have to cut a hole through the roof for the vent in the kitchen. Dennis said we can probably get it done for \$20,000 - \$30,000. Rosie Aguirre commented the parking is good. Council Member Huffman said it already has bathrooms and everything we need. Aguirre said they could take most of their kitchen equipment with them. Council Member Huffman asked if the Sr. Center is part of the City or a separate entity. Erin Corbell suggested looking at something a little sturdier and taller than pipe and drape so the other part of the building is more useable and to help block sound from traveling. Corbell said tourism funds can help pay. Rosie Aguirre said the advisory board has some funds as well. Dennis Jobe said the deer trapper has brought in about \$22,000 in the past year so we could use that as well. Mayor Groves said the Senior Center doesn't belong to the City. We took operational responsibility for it and gave responsibility to the County for the library. Before that, it was shared. They are a tenant and not part of the City. The county owns the building, we own the equipment. Mayor Groves said we need to do it right the first time. All the information we initially got on the old cafeteria and assumed we could use the old equipment, but that was incorrect. Mayor Groves said it could end up costing more than we are thinking. Council Member Elliston mentioned finding another entity to take over the program. Council Member Huffman said if you are a non-profit, they are not going to be held to the same standard that the City is going to. Council Member Elliston would like to have some options like transferring to a non-profit. Council Member Huffman asked who the secretary of the board is. Aguirre said Mercy James is the secretary. Council Member Huffman asked for a copy of the organizational paperwork. Rosie Aguirre said she will send it to Dennis Jobe. Jobe will put a group together to start working on it and will bring back to Council to discuss again in another workshop. Mayor Groves asked all council members to think about it and get comments back to the City Manager. Jobe said we could schedule a visit to the Civic Center.

d. Christmas Lights – Joe Solis said every year we try to add to our Christmas lights and make it better than before. Dorsey Bustamante got some bids on some lighting. They have some ideas but want some input on what we want to put on the square. Dorsey said there is limited funds and Christmas lights cost quite a bit of money. They are asking for Council's input. Council Member Huffman said a few years ago Council approved the purchase of a tree. Joe Solis said two years ago they looked into that, but it wasn't approved. Jane said a bunch of scrap was supposed to be sold and funds to go to Christmas decorations. Joe said they do have money but Council has to approve. Jane said she had asked where that money went because it was supposed to be used for Christmas. It was specifically designated for the Christmas ornaments. Council Member Davis asked why the money isn't going where it is supposed to be. Jobe said it goes into General Fund. Jobe said Chief Perrin sold \$25,000 of old equipment and we need to make sure it's used for the fire dept. Council Member Huffman feels like we're the Heart of Texas; last year they took one of the old swags with the heart that was lit, and Huffman thinks it needs to be done on all four corners. Erin Corbell asked if a resolution can be passed stating the Electric Company scrap sales go to Christmas lights. Dennis Jobe asked Council to send

ideas to Erin Corbell. Council Member Huffman said department heads should be able to spend within their budget and not have to ask Council for things. The City Manager will put it on agenda for next week that departments can use funds when they sell things without asking permission. Council Member Huffman said we need to set a limit. Jobe asked everybody to send him an email to let them know what they want. Joe Solis reminded Council that there is a timeline to order. Dorsey Bustamante said they would look into ordering the Christmas tree.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the budget work session at 1:52 p.m.



Mayor Anthony Groves

Attest:


Tina Keys, City Secretary