

Bronte City Council meeting minutes told

The Bronte City Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the Housing Authority Community Center.

Mayor Paul Gohman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and a quorum was established. Those in attendance included Mayor Gohman; Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess; Council Members Zach Davidson, Mike Bailey, Clabe F. Webb, and RA Morris; and Staff Members Tina Smith and Ricky Royall.

Mayor Gohman led the pledge and Mike Bailey offered prayer.

Mayor Gohman addressed David Glenn for citizen comments. David Glenn spoke of the two RV ordinance. He said he was not aware of it until last week when he asked to be placed on the June agenda to discuss the matter with the Council.

Fire Department Report

There was not a report available.

EMS Report

Steve Salmon sent in a report of six ambulance runs in 16 days with limited or no daytime coverage due to staff shortages. There have been 12 runs in May so far.

Municipal Report

There was not a report available.

Economic Development Report

There was not a report available.

Cemetery Committee Report

Bruce and Stormy Vaughn addressed the Council that they are ready to burn the brush piles in the back of the cemetery. Ricky Royall said he would contact the fire department and see if they want to do fire training out there.

Steering Committee Report

There was not a report available.

available.

Permit Report

Ricky Royall reported of four permits.

Mayor Gohman reported to the Council Members that 20 bid packets were given out and two sealed bids were received. The bids were May 17, 2023, at 4:30 pm at City Hall. The bids were a difference of \$5699. A motion was made by Gwen Dyess to accept the higher bid of \$42,699, with Clabe F. Webb seconding. The motion carried with a vote of 5 - 0.

Dustin Bilyeu was unable to attend the meeting, therefore his item was tabled at this time.

Ricky Royall stated that the Dangerous Building Board met. The property owners of 124 S. Woods will remove the structure from the property and plan to have it completed by June 15, 2023. The board is still working on two other properties and plan to bring the documentation to next month's City Council meeting.

Zach Davidson made a motion to approve sending customers over 90 days past due on their utility billing to collections. RA Morris seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5 - 0.

Mike Bailey made a motion to approve Coke County Tax Assessor-Collector Josie Dean to calculate the City of Bronte Tax Rates for 2023. He was seconded by Clabe F. Webb and the motion carried with a vote of 5 - 0.

Clabe F. Webb made a motion to approve Commissioners to the Housing Authority of the City of Bronte. Zach Davidson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5 - 0.

Gwen Dyess made a motion to

approve the April Council minutes and aging report. She was seconded by Zach Davidson and the motion carried with a vote of 5 - 0.

Mayor Gohman announced that work has been done on the ordinance and plan on them being presented to the Council next month. The Hospital Steering Committee met and they are working out the details.

Utility Director Ricky Royall had nothing to report.

The City Secretary did not have a report.

Mike Bailey asked to consider a city tax ordinance on the hotel. Zach Davidson asked how the Galilee building is going. Ricky Royall responded that they may have to move the building a little closer to the highway because of the location of the electric poles. Clabe F. Webb brought up the maintenance of the city streets. Ricky Royall responded that every summer potholes are patched and they are getting ready to do that now. There is a temperature that it needs to be so the product will set up better.



FCCLA! Robert Lee High School student, Brewer Hood, has recently been working hard planning the next year of Texas FCCLA activities. Brewer is the Region 1 Vice President of Service Learning. He is pictured with his sponsor, Kacey Sellers.

With no further business, Mayor Gohman adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.

With 12 inches of rain total in 2022, he dry planted most of his cotton and irrigated some of the fields just to get the crop started.

"We don't need a whole lot of rain, but we need it at the right time. And that's the big thing here, and that's why West Texas works," Kristinek said.

The dry atmosphere was tough on many farmers, and the occasional moisture didn't leave farmers with much hope a seed would sprout.

"We plant no matter what the weather condition is," Kristinek said. "We kind of made a crop out here last year, but we should have let it go. That's the deal about farmers, we want to grow something."

Texas cotton farmers were hanging on by a thread last year, but this year's wet spring is weaving optimism for Kristinek and others.

Texas cotton farmers plant seeds of hope

By Shelby Shank
TFB Field Editor

Last year's drought led many cotton farmers to abandon their fields, but Walter Kristinek is hopeful for a better cotton crop in 2023.

Kristinek farms 5,000 acres outside of Littlefield with his son where they mostly grow cotton, but occasionally plant milo and corn.

Kristinek grew up growing cotton with his dad, following in his footsteps by raising his own kids on the farm. Now, Kristinek farms with one of his sons and has been able to expand his operation using modern

technology and equipment.

"GPS changed our farming completely, and it's really been a blessing," Kristinek said. "The way we're trying to farm now, it works really well for us."

The technology and newer equipment help Kristinek plant and harvest more efficiently.

But new technology unfortunately cannot control the weather.

In 2022, despite all the work farmers did, a record number of cotton acres were abandoned due to the ongoing drought.

Last year's rainfall was spotty, and it wasn't enough to grow a crop, Kristinek said.

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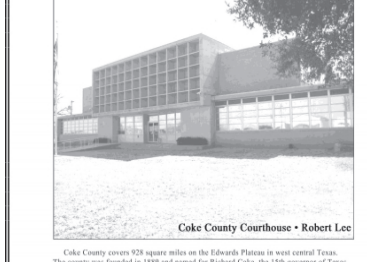
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Workover Rig Southeast of Robert Lee

Many Coke County citizens were the oil boom potentially causing the most costly and most contentious. We witness the economic benefits to both tax coffers and local businesses, while not being significant contributors down a hole.

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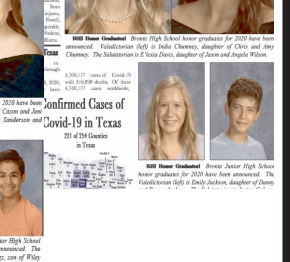
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2019 Year in Review Issue

By Melissa McCaskey, Publisher
The year began with a cloud over Robert Lee's City Hall. Mayor Andrew Davidson faced a tough election as the county's largest employer and the largest contractor, for seven and a half years, and a party wasn't held by Crystal Brinson, the former city manager, the longest-tenured...

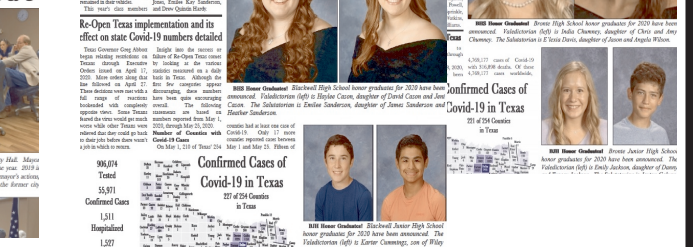
Saluting the Robert Lee High School Class of 2020



Saluting the Robert Lee High School Class of 2020

Final commencement exercises for the Robert Lee High School Class of 2020 were held on Friday, May 22, 2020. The ceremony was held at the Robert Lee High School gymnasium. The graduates were recognized by their families and friends. The ceremony was a memorable event for all involved.

Saluting the Blackwell High School Class of 2020



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