

## Bronte City Council meeting minutes told

The Bronte City Council met in regular session on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Housing Authority Community Center.

Mayor Paul Gohman opened the public hearing for the stop signs to be placed at George and Southeast Railroad. There were no public comments, therefore the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Gohman called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm and a quorum was established. Those in attendance included Mayor Gohman; Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess; Council Members Mike Bailey and Clabe F. Webb; and Staff Teresa Ballard, Tina Smith, and Ricky Royall. Council Members Zach Davidson and RA Morris were absent.

Mayor Gohman led the pledge and Mike Bailey offered prayer.

Mayor Gohman addressed the local DPS Trooper for public comment. He gave a presentation on the golf cart laws.

There was no fire department report.

Steve Salmon sent in an EMS report. There were 20 calls for service, four wrecks, and four injuries.

There was no Municipal Court report.

Teresa Ballard gave the EDC report and stated that The Coffee Table was awarded a Loan Forgiveness Grant of \$7200. The public hearing is scheduled for June 16, 2023.

Ricky Royall reported that Bug Express came back out to re-spray the cemetery this week. They were going to try to burn last week but with funerals it was postponed. There is another spraying company interested in placing a bid for the upcoming budget year.

Teresa Ballard reported on the Depot Steering Committee and that San Angelo Gives gave EDC 4B a check for \$4500. This is start remodeling the depot.

Ricky Royall reported that three permits were approved in May.

Clabe F. Webb made the motion to approve a 3-month temporary RV permit with the restriction of taking photos on June 16, 2023, to see the progress of the building for three months. Gwen Dyess seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Gwen Dyess made a motion to approve a temporary RV waiver for one month to complete a caliche pad to move an RV to the backyard. Clabe F. Webb seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Mayor Gohman introduced Dale Gardner with AEL Green Logistics. Mr. Gardner spoke to the council that AEL is based out of Abilene and provides residential waste collection, concrete, tire recycling, and demolition.

Mike Bailey made a motion to replace the streetlight at Fayette and Jones and Gwen Dyess seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Mike Bailey made a motion to approve the executive staff to talk to a TxDOT representative about the area of Parkwood and Driftwood. The motion, seconded by Clabe F. Webb, carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Gwen Dyess made a motion to approve the firework celebration at Bronte Health and Rehab Center on July 2, 2023. Mike Bailey seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve the renewal of option

1 TX Health Benefits Pool for FY23-24. The motion, seconded by Clabe F. Webb, carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Mike Bailey made a motion to approve the renewal of the 2024 11.13% rate on the Texas Municipal Retirement System. Gwen Dyess seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Clabe F. Webb made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2023-2024

Workers Compensation declaration of coverage, rates, and contribution amounts. Mike Bailey seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Mike Bailey made a motion to authorize City Secretary Teresa Ballard to move the Water Debt Fund into three \$200,000 CDs for a 24-month period with Keystone Bank in Ballinger. Gwen Dyess seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Mike Bailey made a motion to authorize Teresa Ballard to move the WCC emails to keeping the two City emails with WCC and moving the remaining 10 to WAC Tech, LLC, for a yearly fee of \$450 and to look for internet services. The motion, seconded by Clabe F. Webb, carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

There was discussion on adding a hotel tax but no action was taken.

Mike Bailey made a motion to approve the consent agenda of May 18, 2023, minutes, May Aging report, and May financial preliminary report. Gwen Dyess seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

Mayor Gohman announced that they have been working on reviewing all ordinances and plan to present at the next council meeting. The Hospital Steering Committee met and worked out the details. He also announced

that budget workshops will be starting soon.

Utility Director Ricky Royall reported that the large generator is ready to ship and the small generator will be ready by the first week of July. They will be looking for additional citizens to join the Board of Appeals.

City Secretary Teresa Ballard asked the council if they would like a pay increase to be worked into the FY23-24 budget. The council asked to work up 3% and 5% pay increases.

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 them 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 ever summer potholes are patched and they are getting ready to do that now. There is a temperature that it needs to be so that the product will set up better.

With no further business, Mayor Gohman adjourned the meeting at 9 pm.

### Bronte athlete earns academic award

Eighty-seven Angelo State University student-athletes have earned 2022-23 Academic Achievement Awards from the NCAA Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2 ADA), including Katelyn Mykal Bohensky of Bronte.

To be eligible, student-athletes must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 and have completed at least two years of college-level work. The athletic director at their college or university must also be a member of D2 ADA.

Bohensky is majoring in Engineering Fundamentals CE

at Angelo State.

### Bill proposes to help preserve family farms, ranches

By Shelby Shank  
TFB Field Editor

Legislation was re-introduced to help family-owned farms and ranches continue on for future generations.

The Preserving Family Farms Act of 2023, which was introduced by U.S. Reps. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Mike Kelly (R-PA), would modify tax law, allowing farmers and ranchers to pay estate taxes based on the value of their land for agricultural use.

“Outdated provisions in our tax laws are punishing family farms and causing them to split up or sell the land upon which they have spent generations working and building up,” Panetta said. “The Preserving Family Farms Act would ease the burden on these operations by ensuring that farms are appraised by the value of their business rather than for development.”

A special use valuation in the tax code was created by Congress in 1976 to protect farmers and ranchers from excessive estate taxes. However, agricultural land values have increased by more than 200% since then. The special use valuation no longer meets its intended goal of protecting farmers and ranchers who are most vulnerable to estate taxes, according to the bill’s supporters.

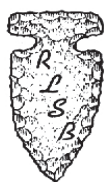
Estate taxes are a particular concern for farmers and ranchers because they are based on market value of the asset and not for the land’s agricultural use. Farms with assets above the estate tax exemption often must liquidate some of those assets to meet estate tax obligations, which can reach as high as 40% of the taxable amount.

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