

**REGULAR CALLED MEETING
City Council
March 9, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Brownwood, Texas, met in a Regular Called Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 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	:	Councilman – Ward 1
Ed McMillian	:	Councilman – Ward 2
Larry Mathis	:	Councilman – Ward 3
Walker Willey	:	Councilman – Ward 5
Pat Chesser	:	City Attorney
Emily Crawford	:	City Manager
Christi Wynn	:	City Secretary

with Councilman, Draco Miller 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 Councilman Jones.
INVOCATION: Invocation was given by Councilman Mathis.
ITEMS TO BE WITHDRAWN: None
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND RECOGNITIONS: City Manager Crawford recognized Pat Chesser for his birthday.

CITIZENS PRESENTATIONS:

Linda Heitman with Brown County Home Solutions thanked the City for the use of a generator during the Winter storm. She stated that the shelter has gas heat and did not lose water, but they lost electricity and the generator helped sustain them. Seventeen people came to stay the night as they did not have water, power, or heat. Connections were made with additional homeless people that would not normally use the facility. There were 116 bed nights used during the storm. Through February, there have been 414 bed nights. During the storm, food was brought by local companies, and needs were met for those staying by generous members of the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Jones, to approve the minutes of the Regular Called Meeting on February 23, 2021, as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Finance Director, Melanie Larose, was present for questions regarding the checklist. A motion was made by McMillian, seconded by Mathis, that the Claims and Accounts dated through March 5, 2021, be approved for payment as submitted. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**Consider authorizing City staff to seek sealed competitive bids for sidewalk construction and lighting in the 500 block of E. Baker through the Texas Department of Agriculture DRP Grant for sidewalk project #7219062.**

Assistant Director of Economic Development, Marshal McIntosh, stated that the City of Brownwood submitted a TxCDBG-DRP grant for sidewalk improvements in the Greenleaf/Baker Area on September 27, 2019. The City has since been awarded the maximum grant amount of \$350,000 for a Downtown Revitalization Program Grant from the Texas Community Development Block Grant program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The Community Development Block grant fund is for public infrastructure to eliminate deteriorated conditions and foster economic development in historic areas and rural downtown areas. The project and grant will cover the reconstruction/installation of sidewalks, curb cuts/ADA access, pavement repair, installation of 20 sidewalk street lanterns, and other improvements around the 500 block of E. Baker Street – the block around the Brownwood Coliseum. This project will be the first phase of construction related to the City's new event center project. Staff is asking for authorization to seek competitive, sealed bids for this project. The opening of sealed bids will be April 1st and awarding of the bid will be on April 13th if approved. Council asked why the sidewalks around the Timmins building were not chosen. Mr. McIntosh stated that the timeline on the grant would run out before we were able to get to the sidewalks around the event center, as that would be one of the last things done. Councilman Willey asked if the large drive-thru shed in front of the Senior Citizens building would be permanent and if it would interfere with the project. Mrs. Crawford stated that the shed is temporary and will be repurposed to another department once COVID restrictions are lifted. The Senior Citizens building has an old drive-thru window that was covered up when the building was remodeled that may be utilized at a later date if needed.

A motion was made by Willey, seconded by McMillian, to authorize City staff to seek sealed competitive bids for sidewalk construction and lighting in the 500 block of E. Baker through the Texas Department of Agriculture DRP Grant for sidewalk project #7219062. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:**Winter storm activity and damage**

City Manager, Emily Crawford stated that we have submitted \$62,400.63 on insurance claims. The museum was not added to this list and will add \$1,000 more in damages. Most of the damage was due to busted water lines. Parks suffered losses in restrooms and the Aquatic Center had damage to the plumbing. She stated that Water and Wastewater suffered losses totaling \$31,249, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant \$14,257.

Director of Utilities and Parks, Henry Wied, stated that the biggest problem they suffered at the Wastewater Treatment Plant was the dual feed power system. Both power feeds were out due to the loss of electricity. We do not have a back-up generator at the plant. The belt press – polymer feed unit froze up and was significantly damaged. The tower sights and the Roanoke pump station lost power. Diesel burners were set up to help defrost the lines. Mayor Haynes asked if everything was back functioning as it should. Mr. Wied stated no. The belt press is not running. Nothing that keeps us from operating is down. There is a lift station at the Airport that was out and could cost around \$12,000 to repair. A temporary pump is keeping it going at this time.

Mayor Haynes spoke about storm-proofing and preparing for future winter events. Mrs. Crawford stated that the City has a team working to plan for what is needed without overcompensating. In the process, we discovered some water lines at the Airport and Fire Station bay were not properly insulated and can be easily remedied.

Mrs. Crawford spoke about the numerous Fire Department calls. There were seven structure fires and seven sprinkler activation calls. There were two hotels and several commercial properties that had broken water lines in their fire suppression systems. She spoke about the Utility Department and stated that there were 22 main water line leaks and they performed 287 water cut-offs. Staff worked rotating shifts so that employees were able to get some sleep during this time and maintain a 24-hour shift.

Councilman McMillian stated that most people had problems due to the loss of electricity. He warned people of plumbers coming through town that are not bonded and insured.

Racial Profiling Report

Police Chief, Ed Kading, stated that in September 2020, after receiving numerous complaints regarding excessive speed and reckless driving on the roadways around Coggin Park, the Brownwood Police Department monitored and took enforcement action related to these complaints. Coupled with enforcement efforts, the Police Department command staff suggested alterations and further traffic control devices on First Street, Roselawn, and Parkway. He presented these suggestions to Council in October 2020. During the discussion, Mayor Stephen Haynes suggested we get input from the community directly impacted by traffic around Coggin Park. On January 15, 2021, a survey was mailed to 135 households surrounding Coggin Park. In the survey, they presented residents with six (6) options, and asked them to rank the options from (1), being the option they would most like to see occur to (6), being the option they would least like to see. There was also space on the survey for residents to add comments. The options were as follows:

- Add signage around Coggin Park alerting motorists to the presence of children and increased pedestrian traffic.
- Install digital radar speed limit signs on First Street at Coggin Park.
- Install speed bumps on Roselawn and Parkway.
- Install stop signs on First Street at Parkway, creating a four-way stop.
- Increase traffic enforcement by the Brownwood Police Department.
- Make no changes to traffic control devices around Coggin Park.

Of the 135 surveys that were mailed, he received 54 completed surveys (40%). Six surveys were returned as not deliverable.

The following table illustrates the results of the survey.

Respondents First and Second Options

Option	#1	#2	Total
Add signs around park	6	10	16
Digital radar speed signs	3	5	8
Speedbumps	17	12	29
Stop signs (four-way stop)	12	11	23
Increased enforcement	13	7	20
Make no changes	1	1	2

****Not every respondent ranked all six options on the survey****

As you can see from the results, 29 residents listed installing speed bumps on Roselawn Street and Parkway Drive as their first or second option they would most like to see occur. Three respondents wrote vehement opposition to installing speed bumps. Chief Kading also examined the option selected that respondents would least like to see occur. Thirty-six respondents marked “Make no changes to traffic control devices around Coggin Park”. Most residents would like to see some form of change in the area. Many of the respondents took the opportunity to add comments for consideration and raised other concerns in the area. He received positive comments regarding our law enforcement efforts in the area and appreciation for reaching out to residents seeking input. He also received other concerns. Many people expressed concern for excessive speed on Austin Avenue in front of the park. We responded to this by adding speed enforcement to the patrol’s action plan. Other comments involved excessive speed on Elizabeth Drive and Belmeade Avenue. Chief Kading proposed making the intersection of First Street and Parkway Drive a four-way stop. This is the least intrusive change to the area and would directly control the speed of motorists passing Coggin Park. Twenty-nine respondents were in favor of speedbumps on Roselawn Street and Parkway Drive to control speed in the area. However, the people that were opposed were strongly opposed. No one responded in opposition to a four-way stop.

Members of Council requested an ordinance be brought for consideration at the next meeting for both corners, First Street and Roselawn Street as well as First Street and Parkway Drive. Councilman Mathis suggested adding “Children at Play” signs around the park.

COVID-19 and Vaccination Update

Health Department Administrator, Lisa Dick, stated that there have been 4,156 total COVID cases in Brown County. This past week, there were 31 positive cases, 5 people hospitalized, and 3 deaths. That brings the total death count to 132 for Brown County. They have been receiving additional doses of the vaccine. There have been 3,672 people that have received their first round of the vaccination, and 1,282 second doses have been

administered. There will be another second dose clinic today of 600 vaccinations and 400 first doses. Next week's allocations look positive. She anticipates 400 second doses and 400 first doses to be here next week. The hospital is in receipt of 3,000 Johnson & Johnson vaccinations. These are the one-dose vaccinations. We will partner together to have them administered. They have now opened up the vaccinations to educators. She explained that they will be working with campus nurses to help get vaccinations to teachers that cannot leave during the day. There was a discussion about how to sign up on-line.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened into Executive Session at 10:05 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

Section 551.072 – Deliberation Regarding Real Property

- A. Consider ratification of action taken by the Brownwood Municipal Development District Board regarding property located at 2605 Morris Sheppard Drive to Lampasas Trucking & Redi-mix.

Council reconvened into open session at 10:32 a.m.

ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

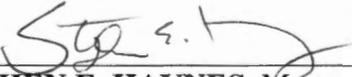
A motion was made by Willey, seconded by Mathis, to ratify BMDD board action to approve the sale of BMDD owned property located at 2605 Morris Sheppard Drive to Lampasas Trucking & Redi-mix through Brownwood Industrial Foundation and the Independent Foundation exception with terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

The terms are as follows:

- Transfer the property to the Brownwood Industrial Foundation (BIFI) who will subsequently transfer to Lampasas Trucking and Redi-mix subject to the following terms (subject to BIFI board approval).
- Lampasas Trucking and Redi-mix will use the property for a concrete batching business.
- Lampasas Trucking and Redi-mix will demolish the existing 32,000 sq. ft. structure at their own expense within 24 months from closing or ownership reverts back to BMDD. The demolition would be in lieu of a cash price.

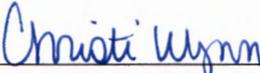
ADJOURNMENT:

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



 STEPHEN E. HAYNES, Mayor

ATTEST:



 CHRISTI WYNN, City Secretary