

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**COUNTY OF BRAZORIA**

**CITY OF BRAZORIA**

The City of Brazoria convened in Regular Meeting, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the following to-witt:

Roger Shugart	Mayor
Marcus Rabren	Councilman Position #1
Gail Logsdon	Councilwoman Position #2
Gary Kersh	Mayor Pro-Tem
Frank Quinty Jr.	Councilman Position #4
Susan Parker	Councilwoman Position #5

City Personnel Present:

Mike Collard	City Manager
Sheila Williams	City Secretary
Neal Longbotham	Police Chief
Duane Stahl	Fire Chief
Cadie Davis	PW Admin
Glenna Makovy	AP/Payroll Clerk

Others Present:

Jesse Knight	BWA Representative
Roschelle Hicks	Business Owner
Ken Corley	Business Owner
Tina Watts	Citizen
Diana Segler	Citizen
Carol Gerard	Citizen
Murray Underwood	Business Owner
Cheryl Reed	Former Employee
Nick Irene	The Facts
Sandra Husband	Citizen
Haley Wall	Citizen
Kevin Sepher	Business Owner
Vickie Sepher	Business Owner

A. Call to order Regular Meeting.

Mayor Shugart called to order Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

B. Invocation to be given by Pastor Greg Smith of First Baptist Church, Brazoria and the pledge to the American and Texas flags by all.

Pastor Greg Smith of First Baptist Church Brazoria was not able to attend. Councilman Rabren gave the invocation and Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh led the pledge to the American and State Flags.

C. Reserved

No item to report.

D. Citizens Communication.

Haley Wall apologized for the way she left the city employment. She explained the items that she was unhappy with that made her decision to leave. She felt bullied and shown no respect. She explained when someone calls with concerns after the ice storm, she was told to say I don't know to the citizen's questions. She took pride in her work. She said when she was asked if she wanted the opportunity to put in extra hours to help hand out water and when she put on timesheet she was told it was volunteer work. An employee timesheet was marked out for overtime pay and banked for comp time. That employee couldn't afford to not be paid overtime. An employee cell phone was read by the City Manager and questioned about what was written on the text message. I was under the impression everything that goes on behind those walls are transparent. I was told I couldn't speak to the council members or Mayor about any city business. I was under the impression everything that goes on behind those walls are transparent. I was often shooed away when needing to talk to him. Irene from Aqua Metric came at no additional charge to the city to determine the issues with the water meters. I and another public works employee rode around with Irene fixing the meters. The Public Works employee was told the meters did not take top priority. The security cameras were removed from the vault and side door. They were put on the employees. As if we are no longer trusted or safe. I am here today because I wanted people to know a little more about our City Manager. The City Manager has some great ideas but she wonders at what cost.

Cheryl Reed explained she loved and respected the Mayor. I enjoyed working here. I spoke individually to some of you as my concerns as a city employee. She asked at what cost you let someone run the city and break apart every part of its operation. To alienate us and prevent us from speaking to any of you. We were forbidden to speak to each other because it made too much noise. If we whispered that also was wrong because then we were talking about him. You have the worst moral in the city that I have ever seen in my life. You have employees that have been here for years. They are capable of doing their jobs. Sheila Williams is a fantastic City Secretary and boss. She can be nice but also firm with her employees. She is very trustworthy. She is questioned on every move she makes. When she records the minutes tonight he will make her go back and change them to make him look good. It is stated to make it look good on him. We weren't allowed to speak to council and it was so bad that he thought we were talking to Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh that he looked through an employee text message. He called each of us individually to question us. It was not a city cell phone. The other employees won't say anything because of their job so I will say it for them.

Roschelle Hicks wanted to address council to consider after talking to City Manager Collard she would like to see about finding out during this recent storm how many people live below poverty level. This is not what anyone expected and it is not the cities fault. It would give the opportunity for the city to shine. What are we going to do about the water situation and all the broken pipes?

City Manager Collard got back to me very quickly and have a state representative meet with the citizens explaining what paper work they need to file. As a city we might need to think of some other things we can do. Jones Creek got together with the Fire Dept. and had a Bar B Q to replace people's pipes. City of Angleton is saying if you can prove you hired a plumber and present a bill then they are giving some relief on the water bills. This is an opportunity to take a bad situation and have the city come out shining.

Councilwoman Susan Parker said with the information presented recently to bring attention back to the evaluations we talked about doing. I took the liberty to put together some forms. We want the evaluation to be fair and on the table and up front. We can get the city employees input along with council input.

Murray Underwood owner of Brazos Tractor and Brazos Motorsports explained he was moving his business to Angleton. He has a sour taste in his mouth. My business has been broke into twice. He has spent \$15,000 on lighting and security cameras. They came by with a spot light and I had a hole in my fence. The next time they had been in our building for 4 hours. He doesn't have a problem with Neal. He thinks Neal is a good guy. Communication is a problem since there is not any. He personally went to the individual's house in Rosenberg that robbed me the first time. If you want people to thrive in this town you need to protect them. Having alone officer on at night you are asking for a law suit because that officer is in grave danger. People can't afford to invest in this town and investment not be protected. WE cleaned up the business from the previous owners. The back side was flooding because I had a drain plugged. I waited 8 months but when the City Manager walked into my office after raising hell it got fixed. There is no better place to be here in Brazoria. It is a great community but the system is broke. The straw that broke my back is I had the top two employees that I have ever had in my life. I catch someone in my office and a month or two later I lost them. That doesn't set well with me. Ya'll gained one heck of an employee. She will do this town great. We bent over backwards to help the city but I don't feel that has been repaid. He said he was going to put another business back into his building. He can't because he doesn't know if he will have anything the next morning. From a financial stand point it doesn't work to have a business in town.

Carol Gerard explained her working life. She gave a rundown of every place she worked. She worked for Brazosport Facts twice so she knows about credit. She worked for Walter Krause and when they put in courthouse they were so honest nothing went up for bid. She worked in Houston for a major manufacturer undercover. She was responsible for watching everything and making reports. In church I was a friend of the pastor and I learned there is a whole bunch you don't talk about. There is no gossiping and when you come to work you come to work. When you go to work you go to work you go to earn your pay and not gossip because that will tear a company apart faster than anything.

E. Reserved

No item to report.

F. Consideration/Action to approve Re-Plat for Diana Segler at 318 Red Oak St., Brazoria TX.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh asked Ms. Segler if the other person on the deed is in agreement with the re-plat. Ms. Segler said she has not been able to get in contact with her. Motion was made by Councilman Rabren to table re-plat for Diana Segler at 318 Red Oak St., Brazoria, TX until Ms. Segler can get the signatures needed. A second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration/Action to approve Variance on size of sign at Mr. Bees Furniture at 1009 N. Brooks.

City Manager Collard explained the variance is for size of sign and placement. They would like to place the sign 5 ft. from the curb. It will be out of city right-of-way. Motion was made by Councilwoman Parker to approve variance on size and placement of sign at Mr. Bees Furniture at 1009 N. Brooks, Brazoria TX. A second was made by Councilman Quinty. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Consideration/Action to approve Aerial Spraying over City of Brazoria.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Logsdon to approve Aerial Spraying over City of Brazoria. A second was made by Councilman Quinty. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Consideration/Action to discuss and approve Ordinance #21-003 amending the Ordinance #19-005 for reconnection fees and security deposits.

City Manager Collard explained this item is going to be moved to the March 18<sup>th</sup> workshop. Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh to approve taking no action on Ordinance #21-003 amending Ordinance #19-005 for reconnection fees and security deposits. A second was made by Councilman Rabren. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Consideration/Action to approve Ordinance #21-004 cancelling the May 1, 2021 General Election.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh to approve Ordinance #21-004 cancelling the May 1, 2021 General Election. A second was made by Councilwoman Parker. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Consideration/Action to approve payment to Mercer Construction in the amount of \$101,915.00 for Market Street Lift Station Improvements.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh to approve payment to Mercer Construction in the amount of \$101,915.00 for Market Street Lift Station improvements and at later date City Manager will let us know where money is coming from. A second was made by Councilman Rabren. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Consideration/Action to discuss Individual Assistance for Brazoria Citizens due to ice storm related damages to their homes in February.

Mayor Shugart explained we had Mike Jones and Michelle Ellis visit today so we have changed from discussing this tonight and we will have a meeting on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. They will be told how to fill out the forms to get reimbursed from FEMA. It will not be a council meeting. It will be more of a FEMA meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said Houston announced they are averaging people's water bills so they don't have to pay the loss of the water where their pipes had broken. If you have insurance you need to claim on your insurance. FEMA will not help if you have insurance. He would like to look at people without insurance where the city can help in some way. If the city can afford it we try to adjust those bills or let them pay in 3 months instead of all at one time. If renters do not have renters insurance they can apply for FEMA. City Manager Collard explained that we have been adjusting bills already.

M. Review of bills paid in February 2021.

Mayor Shugart asked about the deposit for election. Will we get that back since we cancelled the election? City Secretary Williams said yes. He also asked about the check to Cherokee Painting if that was paid already. City Secretary Williams explained we are holding the check. Mayor Shugart asked about the payment to Strand. City Manager Collard explained that was for the inspector.

N. City Department Heads Report.

1. Court Department – report in packet
2. Police Department – Police Chief Longbotham explained the report in packet. He also said we hired a new ACO/Code officer. The burglary suspect that First Baptist Church had is in county jail here awaiting trial. Councilwoman Logsdon said she appreciates the police, EMS, and first responders.
3. Public Service Department – City Manager Collard explained the ACO/Code will be given over to Police Dept. next month. He read the information from the report in packet. Councilman Quinty asked about fire hydrants being flushed. City Manager Collard explained they were done a few weeks ago. Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said he would like to see the report of grease traps being in the report next month.
4. Fire Dept. – Fire Chief Stahl explained since the grass has died due to the winter ice storm they have had many grass fires. People using Bar B Q pits and fire pits outside the fire can get away from you.
5. BWA Report – City Representative Jesse Knight gave an update on the County Road 400 project of moving the water lines from next to the river. The start date is March 10, 2021 and should finish in 45 days. He also explained that the demand for water was around 315,000 gallons of water a day. There was a demand on the water system. It wasn't until Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. that the generator failed. There is a decision that needs to happen with the board after a water study. We are looking to see what the future needs for the city. They are looking to do some workshops to look at what can be done in the future.
6. City Secretary Report- City Secretary Williams explained the Oath of Office for the new Council will be on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The city representative for the Library board has resigned

and the council needs to decide on who to appoint to that position. The meeting for the individual assistance with FEMA will be at the American Legion Hall at 6:00 p.m.

O. City Managers Report.

City Manager Collard gave his report on the sales taxes collected, Certificate of Obligation, Brazosport Water Authority letter, Generaotr replacement, audit, Interlocal Agreement with West Brazos Drainage District, Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> for Individual Assistance, Market Street Lift Station, Ground Storage Tank, Trunk Line delays due to weather.

P. Reports from Mayor, City Council and City Attorney.

Councilwoman Logsdon said it was an interesting meeting. Thanked everyone for the flowers that were sent.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh thanked everyone for coming and he would like to address the evaluation of Mike. The county is taking tires again.

Councilman Quinty said he appreciates everyone coming.

Mayor Shugart said he was continuing the mask order and following the CDC guidelines. There are 20 – 25 cases a week still in this area. He told about the Vessel turn in program the county is doing. He explained the city received 14 pallets of water to give out from the ice storm and we only gave away 10 pallets. WE are saving the other for hurricane season. He reminded people of the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Hall. We are planning to post the notice.

Q. Adjourn Regular Meeting.

Mayor Shugart adjourned Regular Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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Roger Shugart, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sheila Williams, City Secretary