

**BRYAN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2015**

A workshop meeting of the Bryan City Council was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the Bryan Municipal Building, a notice of said meeting having been posted at least 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code. Mayor Jason Bienski and Councilmembers Al Saenz, Rafael Peña, Greg Owens, Mike Southerland, Art Hughes and Chuck Konderla were present. Also present were City Manager Kean Register, First Assistant City Attorney Lauren Crawford and City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

**2. PRESENTATION REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU) AND BRAZOS TRANSIT DISTRICT**

Mr. John McBeth, Executive Director of the Brazos Transit District, provided the history of the District and its operations in the area. He reported Texas A&M University allows the District to use its radio tower and frequency, and that the two work together to coordinate stops and shelter locations. He reported the District operates 16 buses while TAMU operates 80. It was reported the TAMU bus system was a very important part of general mobility in the area, serving Blinn College, Texas A&M and the general public. Mr. McBeth reported that to extend the District's operations to later hours Monday-Friday and to add limited weekend service would cost an additional \$1,333,107.88. He reported the District operates on federal and state grant monies and does not receive funding from the local governmental entities. Mr. McBeth reported ridership drops significantly after 6:00 p.m., adding only one person on average was transported at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Peter Lange, Director of TAMU Bus Services, provided ridership data. It was shared TAMU buses frequency ranges from 5 minutes to 20 minutes, while the District stops on its routes every hour. It was also reported the District is adding new bus stop signs and shelters along its routes.

Mr. McBeth reported the District had contracted with the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to update its ten-year plan. He advised the MPO would complete a demographic study of the two cities to determine who is being served and needs to be served. After that, he said, the District will perform a complete bus route analysis and will redesign routes and time schedules. Mr. McBeth also advised a grant application for \$40 million had been submitted to the Texas Mobility Fund to purchase 60 buses for TAMU and 20 buses for the District. It was reported the District and TAMU allow free ridership on each other's buses by showing one of the system's identification cards. It was pointed out the District provides public transportation while TAMU provides mass transportation.

Mr. McBeth then listed the District's challenges: service in far south College Station between Rock Prairie Road and Tower Point due to the new Scott & White Hospital; service in west Bryan to connect the Health Science Center and Blinn College; and reaching a 30 minute service frequency. It was added funding was an issue because when a regular route is added, federal regulations require a disabled access route be added simultaneously. Mr. McBeth reiterated it was critical the MPO perform the update to the ten-year plan so that demography, routes, etc., could be adjusted as dictated by the needs of the community. He also opined there was not a demand for Sunday service. He said weekend routes had been offered in the past but had very low ridership. He also said evening service

had had very few riders and was not cost effective. He said it cost \$146,000 per year to run one fixed route bus and again stated when a bus route was added, a disabled access route must be added as well.

It was stated the study being conducted for the District would satisfy the collection of data the Council had previously asked the City Manager to perform. Mr. McBeth concluded the District was willing to change routes if a determination was made there was a better way to provide services where and when needed.

**3. PRESENTATION BY ROSE ROCK CAPITAL GROUP REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR THE RONNIE JACKSON TRAIL AT HOPE CROSSING AND OFFICE SPACE FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN**

Mr. John Jordan of Rose Rock Capital Group presented information regarding the proposed Ronnie Jackson Trail at Hope Crossing and office space for the City of Bryan Community Development Department. He advised his group had purchased the old Carver Elementary School property, about 14.35 acres, from Bryan ISD. He said two organizations that provide a variety of services to the community were occupying the larger facility and that he hoped the City's Community Development Department and the Bryan Housing Authority would eventually occupy the other building. Mr. Jordan said his group hoped to develop a community park and athletic fields. He asked for support in two areas: a trail system throughout the property at a cost of \$142,544 to be named the Ronnie Jackson Trail at Hope's Crossing in honor of his legacy; and partial funding for the Community Development office space of \$32,257, which would reduce their rent \$9,000 annually. A desire to connect this trail to a trail through the wooded area next to Forest Park Apartments was expressed. It was pointed out that was private property and not a part of Mr. Jordan's property. The City Manager was asked to look into this possibility and report back to the Council at a future meeting. Support of the trail in Mr. Jackson's memory was expressed.

**4. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING THE BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES DEPOSIT ORDINANCE**

BTU Group Manager David Werley presented information regarding the proposed BTU deposit ordinance. He explained the various provisions of the ordinance as it related to electric, water, wastewater and solid waste. He explained why the changes were needed and answered questions posed by Councilmembers.

**5. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY REGULATIONS AND OTHER UPDATES TO THE VEHICLE FOR HIRE ORDINANCE**

Assistant City Secretary Christina Cabrera and Assistant City Attorney Jonathan Koury presented a proposed transportation network company ordinance and proposed changes to the existing vehicle for hire ordinance. Questions were answered for the Council.

**6. PRESENTATION BY THE DOWNTOWN BRYAN ASSOCIATION (DBA) REGARDING THE 2015 TEXAS REDS PROPOSED BUDGET**

DBA Executive Director Sandy Farris reminded Council the Texas Reds Steak and Grape Festival was scheduled for September 26-27, 2015. She advised scholarships for Bryan ISD students would be awarded beginning with the 2015 festival. She said steak dinners would again be featured at the festival due to requests from 2014 festival goers. The proposed format of the festival was laid out and questions were answered. Mrs. Farris advised DBA was requesting \$110,000 from the City's hotel occupancy tax fund to help fund the 2015 festival.

**7. PRESENTATION BY THE DOWNTOWN BRYAN ASSOCIATION REGARDING THE BRICK PAVER QUEEN THEATER FUNDRAISING PROGRAM**

Mrs. Farris presented information for an engraved brick fundraiser campaign for the Queen Theatre. She advised engraved bricks would be sold and placed along Main Street in front of the theatre. Council indicated the program should move forward.

**8. DISCUSSION REGARDING CONSENT/STATUTORY AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2015**

Council briefly discussed agenda items 7 c, 7 d, 8 a, 8 b, 8 c and 8 d of the consent/statutory agenda for the regular meeting of March 10, 2015. No action was taken.

**9. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

---

City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta

---

Mayor Jason P. Bienski