

BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Board of Public Affairs Chairman Tom Sprow opened the meeting of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs at 5:00 p.m. with the following members participating via teleconference: Karen Ford, Annette Schreiner, Richard Long, and Jim Salisbury. Also participating via teleconference were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, Director of Utilities Nathan Gardner, City Attorney Rhonda Fisher, Electric Superintendent Al Sullivan, Communications Superintendent Joe Ferrell, Human Resource Director Jacqueline Schlachter, Water Superintendent Derek Schultz, Power Plant Production Superintendent Jim Coressel, Local Programming and Production Lead Eric Herman, Videographer Kristopher Bryce, and City Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Ford seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 2, 2021, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Ford moved, Mr. Salisbury seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's report as of January 31, 2021, as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Rode. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 8, 2021, titled,

AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR LEASE OF THE CITY OF BRYAN'S NORTH INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

was presented and read by title only. Water Superintendent Schultz requested the Board's approval to solicit proposals and enter into a three (3) year agreement for lease of the City of Bryan's North Industrial Park for agricultural purposes. He advised that approximately 75 tillable acres are available mostly west of Johnson Drive and that the agreement has provisions should the property be sold. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to pass Resolution No. 8, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Communications Superintendent Ferrell advised the Board of the possibility of discontinuing the digital cable offerings from Bryan Municipal Utilities due to the 5G mandate required by the government. To continue the offering would require extensive, costly new equipment and upgrades in a very short timeframe. It was further discussed that the number of digital subscribers was relatively low; however, the set top equipment failure rate and number of digital customer service issues were quite substantial.

Communications Superintendent Ferrell added that the upside to possibly discontinuing digital services was improved bandwidth for the future. Board members reminded the public that while this would be a difficult decision, other services were still offered along with the convenience of one (1) utility bill for Bryan utility services. In addition, it was noted that 85% of Communications customers would see no change in service. The Board agreed to move ahead with the reading of a resolution.

Resolution No. 9, 2021, titled,

**REVISING BRYAN COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT SERVICES FOR
ADDENDUM EXHIBIT A CABLE TELEVISION RATE SCHEDULE**

was presented and read by title only.

Ms. Ford moved, Mr. Long seconded, to pass Resolution No. 9, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Board Chairman Sprow requested that Director of Utilities Gardner be moved from probationary status to regular employment status effective February 17, 2021, with no change in pay noting that his leadership during the Covid-19 crisis has been invaluable as well as his open style of communication. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to move Director of Utilities Gardner from probationary status to regular employment status effective February 17, 2021, with no change in pay. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

A 2020 year in review financial presentation was given to the Board by Director of Utilities Gardner followed by Superintendents Ferrell, Sullivan, Coressel, and Schultz providing annual reports for the Communications, Electric, Power Production, and Water departments, respectively. Various projects accomplished in 2020 were reviewed as were future 2021 projects for the Board as well as power production results. Many shared their gratitude for the interdepartmental cooperation.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to pay the bills. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the 2020 year in review presentation.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Chairman of the Board

Clerk-Treasurer