

## **BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**APRIL 6, 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, Human Resource Director Jacqueline Schlachter, Electric Superintendent Al Sullivan, Water Superintendent Derek Schultz, Videographer Kristopher Bryce, and City Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 16, 2021, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Gardner led a discussion with the Board regarding Automated Metering Infrastructure. He reviewed the timeline over the past several years regarding the steps taken toward possibly implementing Automated Metering Infrastructure. Recently, he was contacted by Eaton Corp. with a tax-exempt lease-purchase financing arrangement with two (2) years deferred payments from the contract date. He continued by noting that the installation work could now be performed using in-house labor saving approximately \$500,000 and that the project could be completed in approximately one (1) year versus the three (3) years originally anticipated. Director of Utilities Gardner continued by citing several reasons as to why now was the time to proceed with Automated Metering Infrastructure.

Further discussion was held with regard to the actual process of transmitting meter readings through the system, possible timelines, the number of meters required, and the longevity of the meters which is expected to be approximately 20 years. Board members expressed their willingness to continue moving forward with the project.

Human Resource Director Schlachter requested the Board reclassify Videographer Kris Bryce to the position of Local Programming and Production Lead effective April 7, 2021, taking him from a rate of \$16.48 per hour to \$21.25 per hour. She added that Videographer Bryce has a great work ethic and attitude. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Salisbury seconded, to reclassify Videographer Kris Bryce to the position of Local Programming and Production Lead effective April 7, 2021, taking him from a rate of \$16.48 per hour to \$21.25 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Human Resource Director Schlachter informed the Board that a letter of resignation had been received from Warehouse II Employee Lonny Wheeler with an effective date of

April 30, 2021. Board member Ford wished Warehouse II Employee Wheeler well in his retirement noting she appreciated his efforts at Bryan Municipal Utilities.

Ms. Ford moved, Mr. Long seconded, to accept the retirement of Warehouse II Employee Lonny Wheeler effective April 30, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Schlade informed the Board that the Council had approved the transfer of funds as requested for the Water and Communications Departments last evening.

Human Resource Director Schlachter requested permission to post for the Warehouse position.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to give permission to post for the Warehouse position. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Gardner, City Clerk-Treasurer Rode, Electric Superintendent Sullivan, and Board members expressed well wishes for both Warehouse II Employee Wheeler and Local Programming and Production Lead Bryce.

Water Superintendent Schultz gave a quick recap on the North Industrial Park farm lease noting that the best bid came in at \$225 per acre.

Director of Utilities Gardner reminded the public that Bryan Municipal Utilities would be returning to the 24 hour disconnect notice effective April 1, 2021. He continued by informing the Board of the high production at the solar field and the Auglaize facility for March.

Board member Long approached the question of possibly returning back to in-person Board meetings. Chairman of the Board Sprow suggested the Board members come in to see a possible layout of the Board room should the meetings return to in person; however, he noted that six (6) foot distance requirements and masks would be required if the meetings were conducted in person.

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

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Chairman of the Board

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Clerk-Treasurer