

**BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**MARCH 15, 2022**

Board of Public Affairs Chairman Jim Salsbury opened the meeting of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Karen Ford, Tom Sprow, Annette Schreiner, and Richard Long. Also present were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, Director of Utilities Nathan Gardner, Operations Manager Derek Schultz, Human Resource Director Jacqueline Schlachter, Communications Superintendent Joe Ferrell, Bryan City Councilman F. John Betts, and Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 1, 2022, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Sprow moved, Ms. Ford seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's report as of February 28, 2022, as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Rode. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 16, 2022, titled,

**TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO THE BRYAN COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT EXHIBIT B – INTERNET ACCESS RATES TO UPDATE INTERNET SPEEDS**

was presented and read by title only. Communications Superintendent Ferrell discussed with the Board the need to replace Exhibit B Internet Access Rates as a result of the updated Internet speeds. Further discussion was held noting that this revision did not impact rates.

Ms. Ford moved, Mr. Long seconded, to pass Resolution No. 16, 2022. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Human Resource Director Schlachter requested permission to hire Megan Wiler as a probationary Account Clerk II at a rate of \$17.50 per hour effective April 4, 2022. Further discussion was held noting that over 30 applications were received.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to hire Megan Wiler as a probationary Account Clerk II at a rate of \$17.50 per hour effective April 4, 2022. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Human Resource Director Schlachter requested the Board's permission to post for the Water Superintendent position.

Mr. Sprow moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to allow the posting for the Water Superintendent position. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Gardner began the Communications Department annual review with a financial presentation. Communications Superintendent Ferrell followed by presenting the Communications Department operational activity in 2021 as well as plans for 2022.

Communications Superintendent Ferrell led a discussion regarding the cable television services offered by Bryan Municipal Utilities. The decrease in the number of subscribers, rising programming costs, competition, and technology advancements have all contributed to the declining revenues in the cable television sector of the Communications Department. Communications Superintendent Ferrell reviewed the rate history for basic and extended basic customers noting that the Utility is losing money each month on programming fees alone. He added that the system is 24 years old and would require extensive capital improvements exceeding \$600,000 to continue.

Communications Superintendent Ferrell then presented a few options for the Board's consideration including: continuing down the current path, investing in infrastructure and technology for the cable system as well as increasing rates, and/or suspending the cable television service offerings. It was clearly emphasized that Internet services are not impacted by this discussion – only cable television services. Further discussion was held noting that time is of the essence.

Mayor Schlade reminded everyone of the value that Bryan Municipal Utilities Internet services provides to Williams County – not just the City of Bryan. Communications Superintendent Ferrell concluded by informing the Board that this issue would be revisited at the next Board of Public Affairs meeting.

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

Director of Utilities Gardner updated the Board on the Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project.

Mayor Schlade informed the Board that she represented Bryan at the American Public Power Association legislative rally in Washington D. C. In addition, she stated that the March 21, 2022, Bryan City Council meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. However, she added that the public is encouraged to attend the April 4, 2022, Council meeting should they have concerns regarding the incoming refuse bids.

Board members thanked Director of Utilities Gardner and Communications Superintendent Ferrell for the Communications Department presentation and welcomed probationary Account Clerk II Wiler to the Bryan Municipal Utilities team.

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

---

Chairman of the Board

---

Clerk-Treasurer