

CITY OF BREMEN

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

May 26, 2016

6:00 PM

City Hall

Officials Present:	Mayor Sharon Sewell, Council Member Dobby Harris, Council Member Salli Thomason, Council Member Jai Otwell, Council Member Terry Crawford
Admin Present:	City Manager Perry Hicks, City Attorney Sam Price, Operations Manager Mike Thompson, City Clerk Amy Ridley
Others Present:	Eric McDonald w/ Haralson County Development Authority

Purpose of Special Called Meeting

The purpose of this special called meeting was for Eric McDonald to provide an economic training session for the Mayor and Council Members. Mayor Sewell also wanted to discuss service delivery with the council and bring them up to date on where we are with the current Haralson County service delivery agreement.

Call to Order

Mayor Sewell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and turned the floor over to Eric McDonald to speak.

Eric McDonald / Economic Development

Eric McDonald addressed the council and stated that he would talk about economic development and stated that his idea of economic development is getting to the place you want to be. He stated that 80% of the people in this community travel outside of our county to go to work each day. They spend their time and money in other counties where they work and we need to come up with a way to get those people back to this county for work. Mr. McDonald stated that, because it is not costing the city any less money to operate, you have to do one of three things. (1) raise taxes (2) cut services or (3) grow. Growth is your best option. Mr. McDonald continued to discuss the topic with the Mayor and County and he talked about some of the things that he and the development authority are working with to try to help local companies expand here rather than outsourcing or expanding into another area away from our county. If we can get these companies to grow locally, that's more jobs that we're bringing back home.

The mayor and council discussed some of their ideas with Eric and there was continued discussion regarding growth in Bremen.

Mayor Sewell stated that

Eric finished his session and told the mayor and council that he would be happy to come back and speak again any time.

Mayor Sewell thanked Mr. McDonald for coming to speak to the council and told him that we may like to have him back some time in the future once we have discussed it and have an idea as to where we would like to be at in the community.

Service Delivery

Mayor Sewell stated that service delivery is one of those things that is complicated until you have dealt with it a while. Mayor told council that the service delivery strategy is an agreement of the services offered by the county to city residents. Since we have our own fire department and police department, the county does not provide those services to the citizens of Bremen as they do to Waco or Buchanan and therefore should not tax the Bremen residents for those services as they have always done. Mayor Sewell stated that we have been trying to get this right since before Haralson County had a board of commissioners. Stated that she would like to bring the council up to date on where we are with all of it and she asked City Manager, Perry Hicks to explain everything from the beginning.

Perry Hicks stated that 2006 was the first time the service delivery strategy was eligible to have any revisions. We went to the board of commissioners and got nothing. Then in 2010, the new census showed an increase of 35.8% in Bremen's population so then we had some numbers to take to the table.

Perry Hicks and Mayor Sewell began detailing everything that has taken place since 2006 with the meetings and Mayor Sewell stated that we have been in litigation and we have had to go to mediation, which cost the city money.

Mayor Sewell received a telephone call about her mom and had to leave the meeting at this point. She asked Perry Hicks and City Attorney, Sam Price to continue explaining the service delivery issues to the council members.

Perry Hicks told the council members everything that has taken place since 2010 with the service delivery strategy. He stated that we have to update the service delivery plan in February 2017 and he mentioned several things that he believes the county would come at us with. Perry stated that we should put a plan together so that we have something to take to them and let them know what we are willing to do and/or not do.

Council Member Harris asked if there is penalty for not having a service delivery agreement and Hicks told him yes.

Council agreed that there should be a plan put together.

Other Business

Sam Price gave each of the council members a proposed lodging ordinance for review and stated that this has to pass locally and then has to go to the state for passage. He said he would like to have a hearing on it in time to put it on the September or October agenda for the mayor and council.

Adjourn

Salli Thomason, Mayor Pro-Tem adjourned the special called meeting at 8:35 p.m.