

*Front Porch Town*



# *Town of Brantley*

*Bernie Sullivan, Mayor*

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## **COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 13, 2025**

The Town Council for the Town of Brantley met on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brantley Armory with the following members present: Mayor Sullivan, Ashley Stewart, Darryl Elliott, Georgia Bush and Lorey Bogen. Council member not present was: Steve Walker. Notice of meeting was posted at Town Hall, U.S. Post Office and Brantley Library.

Others present were: Diane Mears, Bill Rayborn, Chief Averett, and several Brantley residents.

Mayor said prayer. Roll call was taken by Mayor Sullivan.

Motion was made by Councilman Bogen and seconded by Councilman Stewart to accept April 8, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes. **Approved (4-0).**

### Mayor's Comments:

- Mobile Food Pantry – Scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025.
- Paving Project has begun.
- 1.6 Million Water & Sewage has begun.
- Mayor signed final paperwork to complete the Light Industrial Park (\$417,000.00)
- Motion was made by Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Stewart to approve renewal of the Town's Line of Credit (\$600,000.00); **Approved (4-0)**
- Resolutions 2,3,4 will be discussed at next council meeting; no need to pass a resolution due to setting up steps for election;
- Speaker – Caitlin Money – spoke to the council; stated concern over possible liquor store being downtown; placing this type of business downtown would change character of downtown Brantley and concern for safety of the public. Councilman Stewart stated that a liquor store cannot be within 1,000 feet of schools and/or churches (2003 state law); Mayor stated that this can be challenged; Councilman Elliott stated that he has seen underage drinking every weekend at the Inland Store, especially on Football Friday; he would like to see more concern for this problem since there are package stores near the park; more privilege shown when it comes to alcohol; Councilman Elliott's opinion is that a liquor store would

- not hurt Ms. Money's business (restated "his opinion"); Attorney Bill Rayborn stated that all other establishments were established before 2024 Brantley's Zoning Board went into effect; Mayor stated that Brantley is now a Certified Community due to training of zoning board members and other local citizens which will assist in receiving grants; a Board of Adjustments has also been established to handle conflicts; Mayor stated that "everybody wants to come to council meeting when there is a problem"; this is the largest crowd we have ever had; many of you need to attend regularly and run for the various offices."
- Speaker – Scotty Abadilla – Two buildings in question (Bailey (x2) property); wanted to establish an office and a game room for the youths (at his expense); June 28 will be a Youth function and funds raised will go to youth sports; a group of citizens (Abadilla, Dr. Kilcrease) and several others will bring athletic sports back to Brantley (no cost to the town); Councilman Elliot praised Mr. Abadilla for his efforts; Councilman Elliott stated that he and Mayor had spoken before about the Bailey property before anyone was interested and that Tim Daniels had expressed interest; Councilman Elliott stated that the Byrd building was large enough to establish whatever Mr. Abadilla needed, plus Vance Bailey grocery store building (Dixieland). Mayor stated that the factory building was sold.
- Resolution 2025-5 will be revisited next council meeting when all council members are present.
- Mayor turned meeting over to Councilman Stewart due to his leaving for Huntsville.

Councilman Stewart asked if any of the council members had any questions. Councilman Bogen asked about the fire hydrant/meter. Councilman Elliott asked clerk if the fire hydrant issue was being enforced. The Clerk stated that a meter reader was purchased and kept by Fire Chief Keith Morgan, however the hydrant in question (near Lorey Bogen residence) has not been used. Councilman Bogen then stated "what about the Godwin fire hydrant" being used. Councilman Elliott said that this needs to be finalized at the next full council meeting - if the town was going to continue to let Godwin use free water (place on agenda) and that other items (2025-5) on the agenda need to be finalized.

Councilman Bogen asked Atty. Rayborn to explain the "Wendell Mitchell" rule; Atty. Rayborn stated his understanding is "your residence is where you have a home"; you can be domiciled one place but have two residences; Councilman Elliott stated that "this is in reference to me"; Councilman Elliott owns the residence in Brantley – get out of my business – if you want me off the town council, just state that".

Chief Titus Averett brought up the police finance issue; stated that expenses did not add up to what was on that paperwork (March 2025); has anyone discussed this issue?; also, the felon prisoner (food bill) that Sheriff's office was billing for (Sheriff's reimbursed town); Councilman Stewart stated that he had spoken with Sheriff regarding same. Chief Averett asked "when are we going to get it straight for expenses/receipts that don't add up to \$17,000.00?" Chief Averett also questioned writing with pencil/pen on time cards; "y'all jump on me about that but when I



come to you about money that we did not spend, what's the hold up?". At this point, Councilman Elliott suggested moving to **Executive Session**. Residents Dot Baugh and Scott Beck requested to speak but were refused. Councilman Elliott requested that Scott Beck leave (he did leave).

Motion was made by Councilman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Stewart to adjourn.  
**Approved (4-0).**



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Mayor Bernie Sullivan

6-10-25

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Date

**NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 10, 2025**