

Front Porch Town



Town of Brantley

Steve Walker, Mayor

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## **COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 9, 2026**

The Town Council for the Town of Brantley met on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brantley Armory with the following members present: Mayor Walker, Linda Berry, Scott Beck, Charles Tompkins, Lorey Bogen and Alfredia Wiley. 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 town residents.

Mayor Walker said prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by Mayor Walker. All council members present (5).

**Motion was made by Councilman Bogen and seconded by Councilwoman Berry to approve the May 12, 2026 Minutes with amendment (Councilman Bogen stated that Betty Pruitt had complained for years about White property behind her residence). Approved 5-0.**

### **MAYOR WALKER & COUNCIL COMMENTS & ACTIONS:**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Mayor Walker stated that Bernard Sullivan has agreed to assist the Mayor in introduction to necessary people regarding grants and to assist in obtaining same.
- Council agreed to the asphalt/stripping project; can begin obtaining estimates; locations are: Railroad Ave., Dixon Mill, W. Mill Ct., Elm St. (leading to well), Allen St., Mildred Dr., BHA parking lots on E. Emmett (both sides); Post Office drive thru; striping later.
- Recreation Grant (July).
- Well Grant (Troy working on).
- Brantley Food Mart Liquor License; leave decision to Planning Committee (meeting on Tuesday, June 23);
- Councilman Bogen asked what council member was on Planning Board (Linda Berry) and how many council members should be on the Planning Board;
- Annexation – no activity;
- S&P and status of repeater; suggested contact with Scott Strickland (E911) and Jay Spurlin;
- Naming Armory – **Motion was made by Councilman Bogen and seconded by Councilwoman Berry to name Armory - “Town of Brantley” “Roland H. Jones Municipal Complex”;** Approved 5-0.

- Mayor Walker stated that the Line of Credit has been reduced to \$400,000, thus lowering interest rate. **Motion was made by Councilman Beck and seconded by Councilwoman Wiley to authorize Mayor Walker signatory rights without having to obtain approval from council for all future banking transactions. Approved 5-0.**
- Councilman Beck asked about the drainage problem on School Dr.; Jim Majors cleaned out the drain and thus far water has drained correctly.
- Wiregrass Grant has not been completed; Councilwoman Berry stated that funds will be used to refurbish murals and install lighting at park; deadline is June 30.
- **Motion was made by Councilman Beck and seconded by Councilwoman Berry to change the police schedule from 24 hours to 12 hour shifts, unless an emergency, effective July 1, 2026; Approved 3-2; Council members that approved – Beck, Berry, Tompkins; council members that did not approve – Wiley and Bogen (strongly object);** Discussions: Councilman Bogen stated that the officers on the 24 hour shift were “on call” and did not get paid (??); Mayor stated that they did get paid full hourly rate; Titus stated that officers were to be paid for every hour on duty; if a change is made, we will probably lose some of the part time officers; Officer Peek stated that Chief Titus and Asst. Chief Morgan were full time and that he (Peek), Mike Davis and Lee Simmons were part time; stated that Lee went full time with Luverne PD; Peek stated that EMS/Firemen worked 24 hr. shifts; Councilman Beck asked as a trooper “how many hrs. did you work?” Peek replied that his shift was 16 hrs., however there were additional troopers on duty; would need about 12 additional police officers to work Brantley; Chief Averett continued to discuss what would happen if forced to change to 12 hr. shifts. Peek stated that Brantley pay scale is about \$2.00 less than other places. Councilman Beck stated that salary would be discussed at next Police Committee meeting. Motion was again stated. Councilman Tompkins stated that an overall structure change needs to be made with the police department and finance committee will discuss subject also; stated also that Luverne was strongly advised (from a liability viewpoint) to NOT have a shift longer than 12 hours. Councilman Bogen said a job posting should be done for a police officer; that former council persons (Elliott and Stewart), were a part of the hiring process; Bogen and Averett seemed to remember this, however Mayor and others did not recall such action.
- Mayor asked Chief Averett for shift reports; Chief replied that those reports cannot be given to the public; only law enforcement can view.
- Mayor stated that Chief Averett was on a leave of absence – “Unable to Work” due to medical reasons dated May 26, 2006; Councilman Beck asked if the Asst. Chief Phillip Drew Morgan should be made Chief for the interim; Mayor stated that the Asst. Chief Phillip Drew Morgan would take over with Chief duties until further notice;
- Mayor stated that the SRO position needs to be decided on as the School Board would be meeting in July; Mayor stated that Averett is not interested in being SRO; Mayor would like to keep a local SRO at school and maybe we can advertise for that position since we will be looking for additional officers;

- Ordinance – “Abolish Municipal Court” – Mayor stated that there is little activity to continue with the court system (paying Judge/Prosecutor); Councilman Bogen asked how often they were paid; Bill Rayborn said he would continue however Brandon Coots would not if court was changed to quarterly; Mayor stated that we could always start court again if necessary; also stated that Judge Coots had suggested this action several months ago due to lack of activity; Councilman Tompkins had the same conversation with Judge Coots; to abolish you draft an Ordinance and forward to several court systems (see Ordinance), same way to reestablish.
- Councilman Bogen asked about Redflex; Atty. Rayborn replied that it would remain the same due to that violation was a civil matter; Mayor stated that we would continue to get a small portion of officer written citations but a majority goes to different state/county programs; Mayor ask for a vote on Ordinance to “Abolish Municipal Court” with approval at next council meeting – (4-1); Councilman Bogen abstained.
- Speaker – Adrian Daniels – Citizens had approached him regarding the salary of Chief Titus Averett; the Chief’s salary has not been adjusted and reasons why; other towns have chiefs that are also SRO; need to know what obstacles exist that prevented a raise as of yet.

**Councilwoman Berry:** No Comments

**Councilwoman Wiley:** Council members need to respect Chief of Police; Councilwoman Wiley said that Councilman Beck said in regards to Chief Titus that “you need to get your forgetter together”; need to speak in cordial manner with respect to everyone; petty – why is name plate (Wiley) different from others? Clerk replied that the new name tags for Beck, Berry and Tompkins were ordered after they were elected, thus same name tag style; Wiley was appointed two or three months afterwards and tag was ordered at that time; if noticed, Bogen’s name tag is the same as clerk’s name tag because they were ordered at the same time several years ago. Chief should have gotten a raise as everyone else.

**Councilman Beck** – Apologized, did not mean to disrespect Chief Averett.

**Councilman Tompkins** – No comment

**Councilman Bogen** – When are we getting reply from Attorney General regarding fee to attend committee/other meetings? Atty. Rayborn stated that salary that is set by the council 6 months prior to election, is the salary that is “locked in”. Councilman Beck stated that there were two types of meeting expenses that were stopped (“liason” and committee).

Mayor final comments – Gear Drive is needed for well; cost is app. \$18,000.00; using a tractor to operate water supply; a generator would have been at a cost of \$ 50,000.00; The new well grant would include a generator. Councilman Tompkins stated that Jim had said that the new well would need to be north of town due to expansion through annexation.

Councilman Bogen reminded Mayor of festivities on June 20 and need for streets to be blocked.

**Motion was made by Councilman Tompkins and seconded by Councilman Bogen to go into executive session.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Tompkins and seconded by Councilman Beck to adjourn. Approved 5-0.**



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Mayor Steve Walker

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Date:

**NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING: JULY 16, 2026**

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