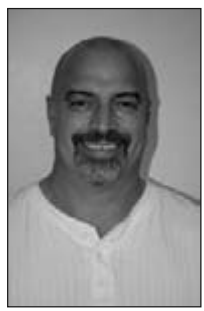


Viewpoints

Trying for a split body, personality included

Hear ye, hear ye lend me your eyes, ears and cell phones.

All Bullard athletic directors of schools or churches, head coaches of any level of play or sport, and just down right 'in the know' sports enthusiasts, please help.



Doc Smith

Just like James Brown used to say, "Good God help me..... I can't do it myself!"

I have got two really great schools, with unbelievable facilities at both. Great, very reachable coaches in every sport, with administrations and coaching staffs alike playing the true roles of what mentoring and teaching should be all about.

Problem is there are two schools and one of me.

Granted I will have some help from an already over-worked editor on some games, but there are gonna be those days, I just cannot get there.

Hopefully over the month you have found that I am all about the kid's, and wish we had endless pages to write all the laurels due individual efforts in games and in the classroom. Unfortunately, until we can grow, there is limited space don't you know.

What I need if you can help, is some e-mails, some phone calls, or stop by and give the play-by-play.....but I want to report for Bullard and The Brook Hill School.

Although Brook Hill may not include totally Bullard residents, the addition the institution has stimulated the Bullard economy and provided a Christian based education at one of the state's finest facilities.

So here it is.....

It's basic stuff. Please e-mail or call me with any sports feature ideas, scores, statistics and sports updates or registrations.

E-mail to bhsdoc@sudenlink.net or news@bullardnews.com will get to me. I just like the suddenlink connect because I thought I was pretty slick figuring out how to get Bullard High School and Brook Hill School along with an ID in.

I'm really trying to make it easy!!!!

I appreciate the warm welcome, and look forward to a great school year.

The Bullard schools are going to rule, just watch!

M..D. 'Doc' Smith
Bullard Banner Sports Editor



Letters

With respect to our citizens that participated in the petition process for a special mayoral election, I would like to explain the action taken by the City Council on August 12th.

Section 22.011 of the Local Government Code allows a County Commissioners' Court to call a special election for a city if: (1) the vacancy cannot be filled as provided by other law; and (2) 26 taxpaying voter residents petition the county. Our city

had two options for filling the vacant seat of Mayor; we could appoint a candidate that meets all necessary criteria for the position, or we could choose to take no action and allow the Mayor Pro-Tem to perform the duties of Mayor until the next regular election.

In the opinion of the Texas Municipal League legal counsel, the legislation concerning the petition for a special election was written for extreme situations such as when several positions become vacant and the Council

is left with less than the minimum number of members required to conduct business.

Choosing one of the legal options offered, the Bullard City Council assigned leadership to Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson for the duration of the unexpired term of Mayor AW Hines. There will be a regular election in May of 2009. Therefore, there is no need for our County Commissioners to take charge and call a special election.

With this information, it can

be clearly understood that the desire of our voters was not ignored in this situation, in spite of quotes given and statements written to the contrary. Your City Council has not lost sight of the definition of our job, nor have we forgotten about the people we represent. A seeming miscommunication or lack of correct information helped to create turmoil where it never should have appeared.

Thank you,
Pam Frederick
Bullard City Council

Dear Editor:

Tuesday's city council meeting decided if Bullard would officially have a mayor. Although all of the council did not agree on all issues, I believe, as does Rodger Johnson, that the council is unified. I disagreed with only three issues on a large agenda, which is still a pretty good ratio. I do not feel that we are a split council, though some may have a different opinion.

As I have always stated, I

represent the citizens of Bullard and I listen to their concerns. It was clearly expressed by the filing of a petition that the citizens wanted to choose their next mayor sooner rather than later.

An item to discuss a special election was stricken from the agenda by a majority vote, which meant we could not discuss the petition.

I voted to discuss the special election which would have given the council the opportunity to discuss the petition, but

Councilwoman Stacey Thompson and I were out voted. For me to have voted any differently than I did, would have gone against my conviction. My conviction is for our citizens to have a voice in this community.

We have a great council and I look forward to the next nine months as status quo. I am most willing to serve the citizens of Bullard in whatever position is best for our City and community. Leadership is not about rank, it is about relation-

ships and I am here to serve, not to be served. My responsibility is to the citizens of Bullard, nothing more and nothing less.

I have lived in this community for most of my life and there is no greater feeling than being able to give back to the community that has given so much to me and my family.

It is an honor to serve the people of Bullard.

Teresa Adams-Wilks
Bullard City Council

Council appears to have ignored voters, legality of action remains in question

In the last regular council meeting, the majority of city council members supported a motion to stay as status quo, meaning they were not going to fill the vacant position of mayor. This is a position many cities take whenever they are without a mayor, especially whenever they are so close to a general election.

Bullard's general election is in May.

It is in question whether the status-quo motion was actually legal because it was not on the agenda, even though the motion was voted on. Instead, what was on the agenda was to fill a vacancy by appointment and then to act upon a special election.

After Mayor Pro Tem Rodger Johnson failed to receive the majority of the vote

during the motion to elect a mayor, Councilwoman Pam Frederick made a motion to stay the same, to not make changes. Councilman Lindsey Bradley, Johnson and Frederick supported the motion.

The next motion was to discuss and act upon a special election. Frederick made a motion to strike it from the agenda. The same three voted to strike the special election from any discussion. Councilwoman Stacey Thompson and Teresa Adams-Wilks voted to keep the item on the agenda.

However legal it was for the council to pass the motion that was not on the agenda, it meant that a special election was out of the question. The only way a special election can be valid during a vacancy of

office is when the council cannot reach an agreement and when 26 voters sign a petition to call an election.

This is even up for debate. A representative from the Texas Municipal League said the call to special election during a vacancy is rarely used, because it can only be used when a city council is "paralyzed," or when they do not even have enough council members for a majority vote. However City Attorney Charlie Morton disagreed in a document circulated to the city council and staff. He said the law is clear, and if the citizens file a petition while the council cannot agree on a vacancy, then a call to special election is legal.

But let's be honest. What is in question is not whether a special election would be legal

under the circumstances. Nor is the question whether the council acted legally when they voted on the status-quo motion. The question is whether the council addressed voters' concerns.

The answer is no. The voters were ignored in the Aug. 13 meeting.

The city council had learned about the petition shortly after it was filed with the county. Johnson told the *Bullard Banner News* editor that he knew of the petition, as did the rest of the council. But yet, the petition signed by 30 or more voters was not mentioned at all in the city council meeting, nor was a special election.

The *Bullard Banner News* does not understand why a council would ignore voters. If the majority was scared a gener-

al election could hurt them in the long run, then that is a red flag that they need to reevaluate their relationships with voters.

Maybe the council wanted to prevent bad news from leaking to the press and the public. Maybe they did not think the petition was legal, therefore they did not feel the need to discuss it. Who knows what the reason is, but the fact remains that the majority ignored the petition.

The majority should have said publicly, which is what they could have done in the meeting, "We understand certain voters are concerned about the current track of the city, and we want to work with them. We want to find out what is bothering them, after all we serve them. And as the new leadership of the council, we will

work diligently to address citizens needs."

But instead the petition was swept under the rug. The majority acts like what they did was completely justified because they acted under the law. But following the law is not the only thing these elected officials do. They also represent you.

The *Bullard Banner News* strongly urges the community to call a Bullard city council person or city hall, and tell them your concerns about this issue and anything else you are facing. It is imperative that the council receives direct feedback from you.

Number to Bullard City Hall,
(903) 894-7223