

# Regular Board of Directors MEETING NOTES September 8, 2025

#### Contracts Related to the Tabor Substation

The Board approved two contracts with Burns and McDonnell Engineering related to transmission engineering at the Tabor Substation.

# **Transmission Cost of Service Update**

Mr. Doug Lyles, Executive Director of Customer Operations, presented an update on BTU's upcoming Comprehensive Transmission Cost of Service Filing (TCOS Full Filing) at the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

#### **Updates to the BTU Energy Risk Management Policy**

Mr. Doug Lyles presented proposed updates to the BTU Energy Risk Management Policy that would refine approved and prohibited transactions, reflect organization changes, and improve nomenclature.

#### **Amendment of BTU Procurement Procedures**

Ms. Katherine Tapscott, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Bryan, presented a resolution to the Board, aligning the competitive sealed bidding threshold with Senate Bill 1173 and adoption of an electronic bid and proposal submission policy.

# **BTU BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS**

# **KIOSKS**

Locations accepting credit cards, cash and checks:

НЕВ	1609 N. Texas Ave.
HEB	725 E. Villa Maria
BTU Drive-Through Open 24 hours	205 E. 28th St.
BTU Drive-Through Open 24 hours	2611 N. Earl Rudder Fwy

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill, keycard or reminder letter.

# **OVER THE PHONE**

Payments can be made 24 hours a day via the "e-payment" option by calling 979.821.5700. Account number and credit card required.

# ONLINE

To register your account, view, and/or pay your bill online, visit:

btutilities.com



#### **BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**

2611 N. Earl Rudder Fwy, Bryan, TX 77803 email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

### btutilities.com

**Hours of Operation** 

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

#### **Board of Directors**

Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Chair

Mr. Paul Madison, Sr., Vice Chair Mr. John A. Bond, Secretary Mr. Andrew Nelson Mr. A. Bentley Nettles Ms. Rosemarie L. Selman Mr. Buppy Simank Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

Mr. Kevin Boriskie, Ex-Officio

#### **General Manager**

Garv Miller

#### **Executive Directors**

Doug Lyles Randy Trimble Wes Williams

#### **Division Managers**

James Bodine Meagan Brown Nick Cook Shawndra Curry Michele Kimich Ken Lindberg

# Clay Lindstrom City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager Katherine Tapscott, Chief Financial Officer

# **Important Numbers**

**Billing/Collections/Connects** (979) 821-5700

**Electrical Outage/Lines Down** (979) 822-3777

> Line Design (979) 821-5770

### **Social Media**

**BryanTexasUtilities** 



BTU\_BryanTX







Each November, Veterans Day provides us with an opportunity to express our gratitude for the men and women that answered the call to serve. From the battlefield to the home front, and from bases thousands of miles from home to the unseen essential work across a multitude of different fields, the selfless sacrifices of these real-life heroes make the freedoms we enjoy every day possible.

Our neighbors, friends, coworkers, and family members that have served deserve our utmost respect and appreciation for their defense of our liberties and the American way of life. As part of that appreciation, we recognize the intense struggles faced by so many as they adjust back to civilian life, and pledge to stand in support of the many wonderful organizations that seek to aid in that transition.

On Veterans Day, and every day, we extend a message of thanks from the bottom of our hearts for your service and sacrifice. You answered the call when most would not. You carried burdens most will never know, and your courage continues to inspire us all. May this day serve as a reminder that your dedication will never be forgotten, and your impact will always be honored.



"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."

Abraham Lincoln

# RESIDENTIAL SOLAR LEASING Pros and Cons

By Ken Dupré – Energy Accounts Manager at Bryan Texas Utilities

The residential solar photovoltaic (pv) industry is expected to experience a major shift in 2026 due to changes in the federal tax policies adopted earlier this year.

Beginning January 1, 2026, homeowners will no longer be able to apply for the 30 percent non-refundable federal solar tax credit, which was previously set to expire in 2023.

The elimination of this tax credit, along with rising prices of imported solar components, will have a significant effect on the overall cost of a residential solar pv system in 2026 and beyond. However, under the new federal tax guidelines, solar installation companies that lease residential solar systems can still claim the 30 percent tax credit for themselves for solar pv systems installed before January 1, 2028. Because of this tax incentive, we expect a greater push for residential solar leasing instead of sales.

BTU permits customers to have solar panels installed on their homes and businesses as long as they are up to safety standards and city codes, but it is important to consider the pros and cons of solar installation before receiving a full sales pitch.









# Here are some answers to common questions about the solar leasing process:

# How does solar leasing work?

A solar installation company installs a solar pv system at a home and contractually leases the system to the homeowner for a set monthly rate. This contract usually coincides with the lifespan of the solar panels, which is 20 to 25 years. During the term of the contract, the homeowner will receive all of the power produced by the system, reducing the amount of electricity purchased from the electric utility company. For the lease to benefit the homeowner, the new lower electric bill plus the lease payment should be less than the old electric bill (prior to the solar installation).

# What are the benefits to solar leasing?

- **Lower upfront costs** Homeowners who purchase solar pv systems can pay tens of thousands of dollars for a new installation. Because the leasing company owns the equipment, the homeowner does not incur this major expense and pays little to no upfront costs.
- **Homeowner is typically not responsible for maintenance** Under most agreements, the leasing company is responsible for monitoring the system for optimal output and typically covers the maintenance and repair of all system components.
- Less variability in monthly utility costs Because the monthly lease payments are consistent, the customer should see smaller peaks in energy usage throughout the year.

# What are the disadvantages to solar leasing?

- **Escalating lease payments** Many solar leases include an annual price increase, which will cut into the customer's savings over time and may result in monthly lease payments higher than energy savings.
- Long-term contracts Solar lease contracts are usually 20 to 25 years, meaning the homeowner has little flexibility to change. Lease buyouts can be very expensive.
- **Potential impact to home sales** If the homeowner decides to sell while the lease is in effect, the buyer must commit to assuming the lease, which can scare away a significant number of potential buyers. As an alternative, the seller can buy out the remainder of the lease, which may reduce the profit on the home sale.
- May be responsible for "detach and reset" fees If a customer's roof needs replacing within the lease contract term, the solar panels will have to be removed and then replaced once the new roof is completed. This is known as "detach and reset" and can result in a significant cost to the homeowner.

If you are a homeowner considering leasing a solar pv system, we advise you to get multiple quotes and fully understand all leasing costs and conditions. For information on what to do before you sign a lease, scan the QR code. If you have any questions regarding solar pv systems, email us at solar@btutilities.com.





# CHRISTMAS DECORATION SAFETY TIPS

# It's (almost) the most wonderful time of the year!

Whether you are someone who waits until Thanksgiving has had its time to shine or you are ready to put up your lights and trees as soon as the temperature drops below 90 degrees, it is important to remember that there are common hazards to avoid when decorating for the Christmas season.

# Here are some tips to help you deck the halls and celebrate the season safely:



# 1. Inspect Before You Connect

Chances are you have not laid eyes on your decorations since you hastily put them back in their box in January. While you're figuring out how to untangle the knot your lights inexplicably tied themselves into, take some time to check all light strings, extension cords, and plugs for frayed wires, cracks, or broken sockets before using them, and discard any damaged sets.

# 2. Use the Proper Equipment

If you are planning on adding lights to the exterior of your home, make sure you are using equipment intended for outdoor use. Lights, extension cords, and timers that are only intended for use indoors are not weatherproof and pose shock and fire hazards.





# 3. Avoid Overloading Circuits

Plug lights into different outlets to spread the load and prevent tripped breakers or overheated wiring. A good rule is no more than three standard light strings per extension cord, but consult the manufacturer's instructions to confirm this applies to the lights or decorations you purchased.

# 4. Secure Without Metal

Fasten lights with insulated clips or plastic hooks instead of nails, tacks, or staples, which can puncture wires and cause shorts.





# 5. Keep Connections Dry and Out of Reach

Elevate plugs and extension cord connections off the ground and protect them with weatherproof covers to keep them out of the elements. Always be mindful of children and pets, and keep electrical connections out of areas where they can be accessed by both.

# CHRIST ANNUAL CHRIST MAS LIGHT CONTEST

Do you have the best Christmas light display in the BTU service territory? Now you have the chance to prove it!

The First-Annual Powering the Holidays Christmas Light Contest, presented by BTU, is here and all BTU customers are eligible to enter!

# **HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

- 1. Visit **btutilities.com/christmaslights** to view the contest rules, prizes, and to sign up.
- 2. Have your lights or displays up and running by Dec. 5, and make sure they are running the evenings of Dec. 8-12 for our judges.
- 3. Follow BTU on social media to see who wins!

**Visit btutilities.com/Christmaslights** 

for more information!



The City of Bryan is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to shape a bright future for our community, and we want your input every step of the way.

# What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan serves as the city's roadmap for navigating the next 10-20 years. The plan establishes priorities for development and investment in Bryan, guiding decisions about land use, housing, transportation, parks, economic growth, and community services. Updating the plan ensures it reflects current conditions, changing needs, and the community's long-term vision.

#### Why Update Now?

The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2016. Since then, Bryan has experienced major changes in population growth, economic development, and infrastructure needs. Comprehensive Plans should be updated every 10 years and allows us to:

- Listen to the community's ideas and turn them into clear goals.
- · Plan how land will be used in smart and balanced ways.
- · Support business development and jobs.
- · Enhance parks, mobility, and quality of life.

#### Your Voice is Needed

Your expertise as a resident is needed to help shape Bryan into a city where you want to live, work, and raise a family. This process is your chance to influence the future of Bryan. We need to hear from you about what works well and where improvements are needed.

- **Streets and sidewalks** improving safety and connectivity throughout Bryan.
- **Housing** providing options for all stages of life.
- **Economic development** supporting business and strengthening the workforce.
- Parks and open spaces creating spaces for recreation and gathering for all ages.

#### **Process and Timeline**

The planning process will take place over approximately 12-18 months.

#### **Phases:**

- Project Kickoff & Data Collection Fall 2025
- Community Assessment and Online Survey Launch
   Fall 2025
- Vision, Goals, Objectives and Strategy Framework
   Winter 2025/Spring 2026
- Analysis and Policy Development Summer 2026
- Public Draft Plan Released Summer 2026
- Final Draft Plan and Adoption Fall 2026



Learn how to get involved: bryantx.gov/CompPlan





# **Lights On!**

## Friday, Nov. 21 / 5 - 10 p.m. / Historic Downtown Bryan

Free activities: a Christmas tree lighting countdown (starts at 6:30 p.m. at Gloria Sale Park), holiday photo backdrop stations, live entertainment, fun activities hosted by local businesses, and a special appearance by Santa Claus.

# **Holiday Magic**

## Thursday, Dec. 4 / 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. / Sue Haswell Memorial Park

Free activities: photos with Santa and holiday characters, snow hills, train rides, inflatables, face painting, arts and crafts, a holiday scavenger hunt, hot chocolate and cookies, Bryan ISD choir performances, door prizes and more!

## Winter Wonderland at Travis Fields

# Saturday, Dec. 6 / noon - 3 p.m. / Travis Fields at Midtown Park

Free activities: meet Santa, holiday character scavenger hunt, petting zoo, holiday train rides, toy drive giveaway, shop from local vendors and more!

# **Senior Social: Holiday Craft Day**

## Tuesday, Dec. 9 / 1 - 3 p.m. / Neal Recreation Center

\$5 admission. Ages 55+ invited to craft ornaments and snow globes while enjoying festive music and refreshments.

# **Holiday Stroll & Lighted Parade**

# Thursday, Dec. 11 / 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. / Historic Downtown Bryan

Free admission. Stroll around downtown for an evening of holiday cheer, merriment, shopping, and to view the only lighted parade in the area. Lighted Parade starts at 7.

# **Merry & Bright Marketplace**

Saturday, Dec. 13 / 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Legends Event Center

\$5 admission. \$2 off with a donated canned food item. Children 11 and under are free. Sip and shop from over 80 vendors.

Learn more and view other events at: Bryantx.gov/calendar

