



**BRYAN  
TEXAS  
UTILITIES**

## REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Meeting Notes*

### April 13, 2020

#### Purchase of 2021 Bucket Truck

The Board authorized the purchase of a 2021 Freightliner M2-106 AN67-E100 bucket truck from Altec Industries, Inc.

#### Approval of a Change Order for Underground Unit Services for FY20 with Bayer Construction

The Board authorized a change order to the underground unit services contract with Bayer Construction.

#### Approval of a Change Order for Overhead Unit Services for FY20 with Echo Powerline

The Board authorized a change order to the overhead unit services contract with Echo Powerline.

#### Approval of a Change Order for TxDOT FM2818 Underground Transmission Line West Loop Riser Relocation Project with Taihan Electric USA

The Board authorized a change order to the TxDOT FM2818 underground transmission line west loop riser relocation project with Taihan Electric USA.

#### Approval of an Engineering Services Contract for the BTU Wellborn TR-351 Addition

The Board authorized an engineering services contract with M&S Engineering for the design of the Wellborn Substation expansion.



**BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**  
205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803  
email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

**www.btutilities.com**

**Hours of Operation**  
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Flynn Adcock, Chairman  
Mr. Carl L. Benner  
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr.  
Mr. Paul Madison, Sr.  
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles  
Ms. Rosemarie Selman  
Mr. Paul Turney  
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio  
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Gary Miller

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Randy Trimble  
David Werley  
Wes Williams

#### DIVISION MANAGERS

James Bodine  
Shawndra Curry  
Ken Lindberg  
Clay Lindstrom  
David McIntyre  
Vicki Reim  
Will Smith

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer

#### CITY OF BRYAN

Kean Register, City Manager  
Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer  
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

#### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Billing/Collections/Connects  
**(979) 821-5700**  
Electrical Outage/Lines Down  
**(979) 822-3777**  
Distribution/Line Design  
**(979) 821-5770**

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

**KIOSKS**

**SAVE TIME, SKIP THE LINE.**

#### VISIT ONE OF OUR CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

BTU Drive Thru  
205 E. 28th St.  
Open 24 Hours

HEB Grocery  
Tejas Center on Villa Maria

HEB Grocery  
Texas Ave. & Hwy 21

#### WAYS TO PAY



CASH



CHECK



CARD

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

#### SOCIAL MEDIA



BryanTexasUtilities



BTU\_BryanTX



cityofbryan



cityofbryan

**BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**

# UTILITY EASEMENTS

At Bryan Texas Utilities, we understand that electrical equipment such as transformers, poles, and guy wires, aren't the most aesthetically pleasing items to have in your yard. However, these items are necessary to provide you with safe and reliable power. It is imperative that Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) have unobstructed access to repair and maintain this equipment. Residents should keep this necessity for access to equipment in mind when landscaping or constructing anything near electrical facilities. If access to equipment is blocked, it could require crews to remove the obstacles and prolong outages. Obstacles may include, but are not limited to, trees and shrubs, storage buildings, fences, and poured concrete.

Help us maintain safe and reliable electric service by adhering to utility easements and not placing any obstructions around electrical equipment. Please also remember that residents must call Texas811 to have underground utilities located prior to beginning any excavation work on your property.



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G-CON



BTU Spotlight

## G-CON *Manufacturing Inc.*

In this world, there are people who can look at a problem and find innovative ways to solve it. The founders of G-CON Manufacturing Inc. are some of those people. As therapeutic drug and pharmaceutical developers, the founders discovered it was difficult to acquire cleanrooms that were necessary to produce the therapies. "The only solution available then was to build from scratch. It was time consuming, unpredictable in terms of budget and time, and inflexible," G-CON Vice President of Business Management, Sid Backstrom, said. Consequently, as inventive Texans, they decided to create their own solution. In 2009, G-CON Manufacturing Inc. began constructing prefabricated, turnkey cleanroom PODs®.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that all pharmaceutical therapies be produced in a cleanroom. Cleanrooms are designed to be easily disinfected and washed. They typically have durable un-plasticized poly vinyl chloride (uPVC) walls and ceilings, and all joints where the walls, ceiling, and floor meet are coved, meaning they have concave arched molding, to avoid hard-to-clean areas. Most importantly, the HVAC system is designed to have a high air exchange rate. The air exchange rate is how often the entire volume of air is replaced inside a building. "In some POD® applications, the air changes per hour can be up to 50 times. The typical air change rate for a home is one air change per hour," Backstrom said. G-CON's self-contained cleanroom PODs® can be supplied in several standard configurations or can be custom made. The PODs® can be connected together to create a series, and because they are pre-fabricated, they are delivered in much shorter timeframes than traditional construction.

With customers such as Texas A&M University and the United States Government, G-CON has grown immensely since their inception. Starting out with just eight employees in 2009, they now have 140 people in well-defined roles. G-CON holds over 30 patents and a considerable amount of intellectual property across the globe. “We have in-house engineering, manufacturing, automation, quality and commissioning, purchasing, etc. Working together, we can lead a customer through the design, build, testing, and delivery process.” Backstrom said.



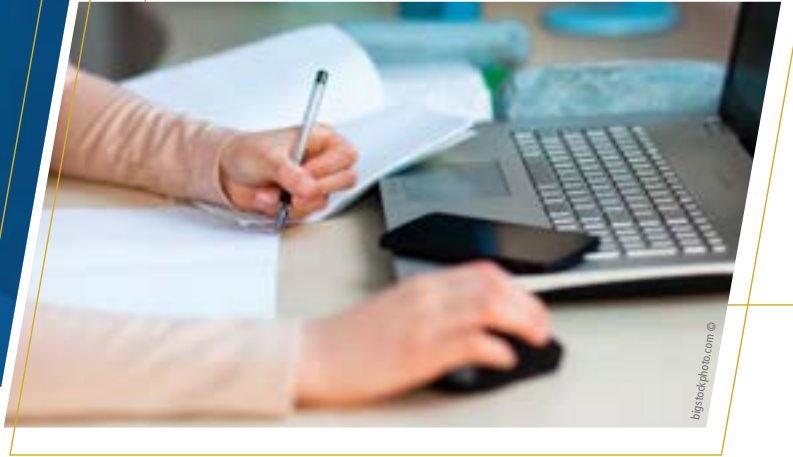
G-CON Manufacturing Inc. ©

**BTU** *Spotlight* **G-CON Manufacturing Inc.**


When G-CON first began manufacturing cleanrooms, they were housed in 12,000 square feet of rented manufacturing space. Now G-CON encompasses 200,000 square feet of manufacturing space across 11 buildings that the company owns. During this expansion, BTU and G-CON worked closely to get new electrical services, including 3-phase power, extended to those facilities. “BTU has always answered the call and met our schedule, which is really somewhat surprising to see a government entity work so hard to meet the needs of its constituency. If we had been in a larger market, that just wouldn’t have happened, so we are very thankful for the partnership with BTU,” Backstrom said. Backstrom also said that a reliable power source is vital to G-CON’s manufacturing process due to their customers’ needs to produce lifesaving materials on a short timeline.

When asked if the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting business, Backstrom said that while adjustments have been made to ensure good hygiene and social distancing amongst their employees, they are still manufacturing products as quickly as possible. Orders for additional cleanrooms have not spiked yet, but G-CON is prepared to answer the call as their customers react to combat this unprecedented pandemic. G-CON’s primary goal is to help companies develop lifesaving pharmaceutical therapies as quickly and safely as possible. “There is a serious global capacity problem facing the world today. Many pharmaceutical companies have lifesaving therapies that they cannot deliver fast enough. G-CON has simplified the entire design/build/validate process via our prefabricated cleanrooms so pharmaceutical companies can focus on what really matters, the patient,” Backstrom said.





## BRYAN ISD:

### *Staying Connected Despite Social Distancing*

Bryan Independent School District (BISD) students began spring break on Friday, March 6, 2020 expecting to return to school in a week's time after some fun times spent with family. However, the rapidly evolving situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted those plans. BISD delayed the reopening of classes for weeks to slow the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. On April 17, after more than a month without in-person classes, Texas Governor Greg Abbott ordered all public schools to remain closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

BISD's preparation and mobilization for remote learning started as soon as the district knew of plans to delay students' return to campus after spring break. BISD's Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Barbara Ybarra, said that their primary focus was to provide resources and enrichment to students while faculty and staff worked together to bring remote learning solutions to life. There were three major hurdles to achieving success via remote learning: equipping students with the computers they needed, ensuring they had access to internet, and launching an online learning management system (LMS). The district conquered them at lightning speed.

First, there was the issue of getting the hardware to students. BISD's Executive Director of Technology Services, Julea Johnson, spearheaded the effort to equip students with computers and internet access. The district first looked at how many computers they had in stock. They identified more than 9,000 Google Chromebooks. BISD has nearly 16,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. To identify which of those students had a need for computers and internet, the district sent out a survey. Efforts to get word out about the survey were coordinated by BISD Executive Director of Public Relations and Communications Matthew LeBlanc. After responses were evaluated and compared with students' registered addresses, it showed around 20 percent of students had

a computer and internet available for them to utilize for remote learning. BISD then began to identify households that had multiple children that could share a computer. After these categories were applied, the number of computers needed came out to just under 9,000. "It was a miracle," Julea Johnson said.



**BRYAN ISD:** *Staying Connected Despite Social Distancing*

Photo provided by Bryan ISD ©



Photo provided by Bryan ISD ©

Now that the district had identified computers needed by the students, the challenge became distributing them to families while maintaining social distancing measures put in place in response to the ongoing pandemic. BISD's technology team hosted several large drive-through distribution days in campus parking lots including the BISD Technology Building, Sam Rayburn Intermediate School, Arthur L. Davila Middle School, Anson Jones Elementary School, Jane Long Middle School, and Bryan High School. "We distributed over 1,000 computers the first day," Ms. Johnson said. The numbers tapered off in subsequent days as more and more students were equipped with computers. As the numbers dwindled, the technology department scaled back and handed out computers to students from the technology building from 12:30pm to 4:30pm each afternoon. The technology team also operated their help center from day one, troubleshooting calls from families and students from 8:30am to 4:30pm daily, and monitoring calls on the weekends. "I am very proud of our team for the coordinated efforts to provide equipment and support for our students," Ms. Johnson said.

During the time that computers and hardware were being distributed to students, the district was working with local internet providers to ensure that families could access the remote learning content that teachers and instructional coaches were working hard to produce. Local internet and cable provider, Suddenlink Communications agreed to provide students who did not already have internet access with 60 days of free internet access. "We are so grateful for our partnership with Suddenlink," Ms. Johnson said. This allowed families to continue their children's education without the financial hardship of paying for the additional service, especially in the wake of the financial strains that the pandemic has caused. "We also have a really good partnership with the City of Bryan. We have been working to build out the internet fiber throughout the city to increase access," Ms. Johnson said.

Simultaneously, faculty and staff were working to purchase, test, train, and roll out an online learning management system (LMS). Fortunately, BISD had already been exploring systems for a couple of years

prior. They ended up selecting Schoology, a LMS designed to enable the creation, management, and completion of academic content for kindergarten through 12th grade and on to higher education. "It usually takes around 18 months to review, test, and train for a new LMS. We launched everything in two weeks," Ms. Ybarra said. A feat nothing short of amazing, the district trained upwards of 1,200 teachers in one day via video chats. Online training content was also provided via videos for students and families. Many, many meetings were held to properly equip teachers and students with the knowledge, tools, and resources they needed to be successful. Teachers also hosted office and student support hours each day so that students could request help. Each course, whether it be a math, history, or English class was structured in the same manner so that the online atmosphere was easy to navigate. "Consistency is key to providing content for technology capabilities," Ms. Ybarra said.



Photo provided by Bryan ISD ©

As we all know, each person has individual needs, learning styles, and environments in which they prosper. There are students who are learning English as a second language, those who may have learning disorders such as dyslexia or dysgraphia, and those who are enrolled in special education courses due to speaking, hearing, or visual impairments among other conditions. These students need differentiated support in order to thrive, so BISD worked with special education coordinators to provide innovative

enrichment and extension tools. Gifted and Talented (GT) programs also continued despite social distancing. In addition, the unprecedented situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has put strains on many parts of life, including emotional and mental health. In response, the district also provided emotional support for families and students through school counselors. The counselors created weekly courses that families could use to help them through this difficult time. "We are proud of the staff working together to provide targeted and fulfilling content to all of our students," Ms. Ybarra said.

BISD has seen impressive success with remote learning, especially considering the speed with which it was implemented. According to Ms. Ybarra, 94% of all BISD students throughout the grade levels logged in to the Schoology LMS. While the future of next year's school year is uncertain at this time, BISD is confident they can continue to provide enriching remote learning content for all grade levels if need be. "A silver lining to all of this is that students learned a unique set of skills. Not only did they learn to navigate new technology, which is what the future is looking towards, but they also learned about time management by completing tasks without teacher supervision and to advocate for themselves as they needed to speak up and ask for clarification when needed to complete their assignments," Ms. Ybarra said. Ms. Johnson added that it is not just students who learned from this experience, but also staff and parents.

BISD praised their staff, the students, and the community as a whole for joining together during this challenging time to support the continuing education, enrichment, and growth of young people in Bryan. It is typically during times of struggle that one learns of what they are truly capable. Students, families, teachers, staff, and the community are discovering just how innovative and resolute they can be. BISD's journey exemplifies the community's endeavor to stay connected and flourish despite social distancing.



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