

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on April 7, 2011, beginning at 1:00 p. m. in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members present:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix
Council member Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Charlie Pyle
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager Kyle Dannhaus, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Debbie Gaffey, Adam Griffin, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Rex Phelps, Assistant Police Chief Jay Petrash, Chris Jackson, Todd Jacobs, Billy Rich, Public Works Director Doug Baker, Leslie Kelm, Casey Redman, Public Utilities Director Lowell Ogle, Assistant Public Utilities Director Dane Rau, Community Services Director Wesley Brinkmeyer, Jamie Maurer, Lin Hartstack, Jennifer Eckerman, Charles Seussmuth, Tammy Jaster, Kevin Boggus, Angela Hahn, Pam Ruemke, Janie Mehrens,

Citizens present:

Clint Kolby, Teddy Boehm, Zeb Heckman, Mary Whigham, E. J. Schumacher, Merlene Schumacher, Cathy Lewis

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press

- 1. Mayor Tate called the meeting to order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Councilmember Danny Goss**
- 3. Proclamation – National Public Safety Tele-Communicators Week**

Mayor Tate read a proclamation designating April 10-16, 2011 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. It was accepted by Pam Ruemke.

4. Service Recognitions

Service Recognitions were presented to the following employees:

Tammy Jaster	Aquatics	5 Years
Robert Lawrence	Police	5 Years
Curtis Schoen	Police	5 Years
Everett Schumacher.	Communications	10 Years

5. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments

WORK SESSION

6. Update on GovDeals, the City’s Online Auction Service

Adam Griffin Presented this item. He gave a brief update on the items recently listed and sold on GovDeals. One hundred percent of the items have been paid for and picked up. After paying GovDeals their 7.5 percent commission, the net received was still about \$43,000. They are planning to have one more auction before the end of this fiscal year.

7. Presentation by the Library Board on the Library Feasibility Plan

City Manager Terry Roberts led into this presentation. He said he would turn it over to Librarian Charles Suessmuth, followed by Board Chairman Teddy Boehm. But first, he wanted to say up front that this money is not City money. It is money the Library Board deposited with the City to keep for the designated purpose of library improvements. He also recognized that there were other members of the Library Board in attendance.

Mr. Suessmuth said he was present to present a case for a new library. He said they have absolutely come to the extent of the physical capabilities of the library. Just this year, they have already shifted the books in the adult collection two times; they have no more linear footage to put more books in. Mr. Suessmuth stated that the City, the library, and the citizens are very fortunate to have the supportive Board that they have. He presented circulation figures and accreditation information. There are other things they need to do but they are stymied for space.

Ms. Teddy Boehm, Library Board President, also addressed Council. She stated that the Nancy Carroll Roberts Memorial Library Strategic Plan, as well as the advisory board, recognizes that Brenham and Washington County have developed and changed; the library’s offerings and programs have had to change in order to remain relevant and useful to the community.

Due to changes in needs, services and size, the Library Board would like to begin the process of examining the future. After receiving feedback from architects, library design specialists, Central Texas Library System, and other recently developed libraries, the Library Board determined that a new library design, concept, and proposed uses would best be derived from a community driven process. The goal of the study is provide, through library, staff, and citizen input, a community driven blueprint in terms of uses, needs, size, and cost. The design of the facility should reflect the community’s values and priorities. They also feel the product of this study will prove very useful in future fundraising efforts.

The Library Advisory Board has determined that up to \$25,000 of funding could be set aside to provide such a study for the future library. The \$25,000 would come from a fund previously donated to the Library 501c3 Board which, in turn, turned it over to the City of Brenham to be kept in a designated donations account for the use of the development of the library.

The Mayor inquired about the timetable for this study. Ms. Boehm replied that they are hoping to begin in the near future. They will be sending out Request for Proposals in the next month or so. Once they select a company, it will take some time for them to do the study.

Mr. Roberts stated that one of the things he thought was very appropriate about this process was that it would not only identify the true needs of the library in the future but they would also end up with a product that can be a very helpful tool when it comes to fundraising.

Mr. Suessmuth stated they have been visiting with different architectural firms; they have also visited numerous other cities with new libraries, bringing back information to help in this discovery process.

Mary Whigham addressed Council briefly, stating that she would hope in the next month or two, before embarking on this formal study, they would sit down with local people and get a feeling for what they feel we need and then pass that information on to the firm doing the study.

Mayor Tate stated he felt the Council would like to see them move forward with this and look forward to seeing the results.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a One Year Contract Renewal with Proline Materials Inc. for Street Paving Materials for 2011-2012 in Accordance with Bid No. 10-009 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute any Necessary Documentation

Leslie Kelm presented this item. He stated that they did not go out for bids for hot mix and cold mix this year. Proline has agreed, in writing, to keep the pricing as it was in 2010-2011. Considering their good working relationship with Proline, staff recommends approving this one-year renewal for cold mix and hot mix.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Pyle to approve the Contract Renewal with Proline Materials Inc. for Street Paving Materials for 2011-2012 in Accordance with Bid No. 10-009 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute any Necessary Documentation.

Councilmember Goss asked the City Attorney if, due to the rising cost of fuel, there was anything in the contract with Proline that would allow them to discontinue delivering product at this price. Mr. Bovey stated that there was a provision in there that would allow Proline to come back to council and ask for an increase due to increased fuel costs. In addition, there is thirty day termination allowance so, if they ask for an increase and the City denies it, they could terminate their contract.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Bid No. 11-010 for Work on the Cistern Project at Toubin Park and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Jennifer Eckermann presented this item. She stated that Toubin Park was designed to be a pedestrian park that is centered around the history of our downtown and its main feature will be a recaptured cistern water feature.

In June of last year, the City advertised for bids for the cistern project at Toubin Park. Questions concerning the design arose at that time, and it was determined to have the structure redesigned for easier maintenance and increased safety. The redesign ended with a larger structure – growing from a 13’ to 17’ diameter – that is safer, and one that is easier to clean and maintain.

The project was advertised in February. At a pre-bid conference later that month, three companies were in attendance - two construction companies (one from Austin and one from Brenham) and a local landscaping company. When it came time to open bids, only one of the three had responded – Glasco & Co. Landscaping, Inc.

They are asking that Council approve the bid by Glasco’s for \$94,447.60 to complete the cistern project at Toubin Park.

Ms. Eckermann advised that the Toubin Park project is a downtown project that is being funded through several sources, including BCDC, LCRA, private donations, and funding from downtown community events. The cost is higher than anticipated, due to the redesign, but savings in other areas, along with an increase in contributions, will enable the completion of this project.

Mayor Tate asked if this would complete the project. Ms. Eckermann responded that it would complete everything except some awnings that were listed as an alternate. These would be added as funding is received.

A motion was made by Councilmember Pyle and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve Bid No. 11-010 to Glasco and Co. Landscaping in the amount of \$94,447.60 for Work on the Cistern Project at Toubin Park and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation.

Councilmember Goss asked Ms. Eckermann about the funding; if any of it would come from City funds. Ms. Eckermann advised that they have received funding and pledges to cover

the cost of the project. Other than BCDC funds, there are no city funds coming from the city's tax base.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on its First Reading Authorizing the Placement of a Stop Sign on Hasskarl Drive at its Intersection with Eleanor Drive

This item was presented by Doug Baker. He stated that they had received a request from Nelda Wells, on behalf of the Brenham Housing Authority, to place a stop sign on Hasskarl Drive at its intersection with Eleanor Drive, for the safety of the area residents.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve the Ordinance on its First Reading Authorizing the Placement of a Stop Sign on Hasskarl Drive at its Intersection with Eleanor Drive.

Councilmember Williams asked about putting a stop sign there where people are going up the hill. Councilmember Herring advised that he had sat and watched the intersection for awhile. He said people are coming up that hill and make a pretty quick turn and there are a lot of children in that area.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

11. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

- Mr. Roberts reminded everyone about the groundbreaking at the Amphitheatre at 4:00 p.m.
- At the pre-construction conference earlier in the week, TxDot announced that they would start on the 290 Project on April 25th
- Council update – the Railroad Quiet Zone will be on the next agenda

- Wesley Brinkmeyer advised that they been contacted by Brenham Middle School to have a Leadership in Action program. The time has been tentatively set for April 21st at 4:00 p.m. for about 45 minutes if any of the Council would be interested in visiting with them.
- Mr. Roberts invited Council to go by the All Sports Center to see how the inside is going. Since it is a construction site, they are requested to let someone know so they can have someone accompany them.
- Doug Baker advised that, on the 290 project, the contractor is going to try to finish this project in 26 months, rather than the 33-36 months that is allowed in the contract. He went over some timetables with Council.
- Mr. Roberts advised that the Stringer project is not part of the Webber contract but they will be letting the Stringer project contract in July and it will be done in conjunction with the overall 290 project.
- Fire Chief Boeker mentioned that you would not be able to turn left towards Houston from 577; you will have to go all the way down to 36 and make a u-turn and come back.
- Fire Department fish is Friday, the 15th.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeanne Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary