

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on July 5, 2012 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.
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley
Councilmember Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Members absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix

Others present:

City Manager Terry K. Roberts, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Jennifer Salsgiver, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Rex Phelps, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Stacy Hardy, Wende Ragonis, Public Works Director Doug Baker, Leslie Kelm, Kim Hodde, Assistant Public Utilities Director Dane Rau, Thomas Gooden, and Janie Mehrens

Citizens present:

Clint Kolby, Wesley Brinkmeyer, Mike Haywood, Darren Heine, and Bob Springer

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Ed Pothul, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – City Attorney Cary Bovey**
- 3. 3-a. Service Recognitions**

William (Charlie) Bentke – Parks Department	26 years (RETIREMENT)
Thomas Gooden – Street Department	10 years
- 3-b. New Employees**

Wende Ragonis – Purchasing

Mayor Tate presented Thomas Gooden with a service recognition award and Street Superintendent Leslie Kelm expressed his appreciation for Gooden.

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller introduced Wende Ragonis to the Mayor and Council as the new Purchasing Manager. Mayor Tate welcomed her to the City.

4. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Statutory Consent Agenda

5-a. Second Reading of Ordinance O-12-015 for the Creation of Reinvestment Zone Number 34 Requested by Longwood Industries, Inc. for Commercial-Industrial Tax Phase-In Incentive on a Certain Tract of Land Containing 27.325 Acres, More or Less, Being Located at 1901 Longwood Drive, Brenham, Texas, with Boundaries Further Described in Exhibit "A" of Said Ordinance, and Designating This Property as Qualifying for Tax Phase-In

Mayor Tate stated that there was some confusion regarding the definition of retained jobs. He directed City Manager Terry Roberts to work with City staff and the Economic Development Foundation (EDF) to define retained jobs and furnish this definition to Council. Mayor Tate asked Council to consider passing the second reading of this Ordinance with the understanding that staff will work out the issues.

EDF Project Manager Clint Kolby requested that Council consider Longwood Industries, Inc. tax phase-in application in order to contribute to Brenham's economic development. Kolby explained that Longwood proposed an expansion for its newest product group and this tax phase-in will help them invest in necessary equipment and human capital.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve the Statutory Consent Agenda Item 5-a. Ordinance O-12-015.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution R-12-012 Authorizing the Execution of a Tax Phase-In Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Longwood Industries, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve Resolution R-12-012 authorizing the execution of a tax phase-in agreement between the City of Brenham and Longwood Industries, Inc.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Audit Engagement Letter from Seidel, Schroeder & Company to Perform an Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2012 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute any Necessary Documentation

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented the proposed audit engagement letter from Seidel, Schroeder & Company for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. Miller stated that the audit fee estimate, which remained the same as last year, is a reasonable amount due to the complexity of the City's financial activities.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve an audit engagement letter from Seidel, Schroeder & Company to perform an audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012 and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Abstain
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Recommendation from the Library Advisory Board Regarding the Selection of an Architect to Design the New Library and Authorize the Mayor to Sign Any Necessary Documentation

Human Resource Manager Janie Mehrens presented the Library Advisory Board's recommendation to engage Komatsu Architect to design the new library and noted that the needs assessment and library master plan scope of work is included in Council's agenda packet. Mehrens explained that the library capital fund will cover incurred expenses and undesignated donation funds will be used if necessary.

Mayor Tate asked if the board recommends building new or redesigning what is already there. Mehrens explained that the Library Advisory Board and the Library Building Committee were clear with Komatsu that the current library building and site must be looked at closely to determine if it will meet the needs of the new library before recommending another site.

Councilmember Barnes-Tilley asked if the architect will consider the public's input. Mehrens confirmed that the public will be surveyed and the contract includes a building evaluation, a site evaluation, and a needs assessment such as community or individual meeting facilities.

Councilmember Herring explained that Komatsu Architect will study soil for a potential underground water source and expressed his appreciation for Komatsu Architect's communication strength.

Mayor Tate advised Council that the final contract is still being reviewed by the City Attorney.

A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley to approve the recommendation from the Library Advisory Board and select Komatsu Architect to design the new library and authorize the Mayor to sign any necessary documentation once the final contract, subject to the Mayor's approval, has been completed by the City Attorney.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Request for a Noise Variance from the Washington County Tea Party to be Held at the Washington County Courthouse Gazebo from 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on October 20, 2012

Public Works Administrative Assistant Kim Hodde presented a noise variance request from the Washington County Tea Party for a rally, which will use amplification equipment, to be held at the Washington County Courthouse Gazebo from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 20, 2012.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley to approve a request for a noise variance from the Washington County Tea Party to be held at the Washington County Courthouse Gazebo from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on October 20, 2012.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Appointment of a New Member to the City of Brenham Board of Adjustment

City Manager Terry Roberts explained that Board of Adjustment member Greg Jerking resigned and Mike Haywood applied to fill his unexpired term. Roberts advised Council that Mr. Haywood is currently an active member in the community.

Mayor Tate voiced his confidence in Haywood's character and work ethic.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve the appointment of Mike Haywood to the Board of Adjustment to fill the unexpired term of Greg Jerking that will expire in December of 2012.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Amending Chapter 25, Traffic, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brenham, to Amend Article III, Stopping, Standing and Parking Inside the City Limits

Police Chief Rex Phelps explained that the Ordinance’s language mandating a 24-hour notice allows violators to repeatedly violate the Ordinance, despite numerous notifications by his officers. Phelps recommended amending the Ordinance to enable the police to effectively enforce the Ordinance’s intention regarding to parking or storing certain types of vehicles and trailers on public streets.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goss and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve an Ordinance on its first reading amending Chapter 25, Traffic, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brenham, to amend Article III, Stopping, Standing and Parking Inside the City Limits.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

12. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

Mayor Tate reported on the following:

- Wal-Mart re-opening July 6, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- Mr. Nix is not doing well so keep him and Mayor Pro Tem Nix in your prayers.
- Budget Workshops are scheduled for July 25- 27, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.
- New librarian, Kathy Bell, is scheduled to start on July 30, 2012
- TxDOT has already put traffic over the Highway 290 double overpass at FM 577 going in a west bound direction. He reminded Council that six months after traffic can travel east bound over FM 577, TxDOT will start paying the City back three million dollars a year for five years. The contractor was conservative on their completion date estimates, so it appears that they will finish the project six months early.
- Collier Construction will start the Westwood Drive improvements soon.
- O’Malley is finishing up on the Stringer St. realignment design.

Fire Chief Ricky Boeker reported on the following:

- Paperwork is being submitted to FEMA for the Grimes County fire that happened two years ago so the City should receive reimbursement of \$38,000.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary

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