

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on September 16, 2013 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
Councilmember Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Members absent:

None

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager Kyle Dannhaus, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Amanda Klehm, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Stacy Hardy, Kaci Konieczny, Rhonda Kuehn, Susan Nienstedt, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Deputy Chief Alan Finke, Heath Mahlmann, Jeff Daniels, Josh Vandever, Brian Scheffer, Doug Maurer, Ronald Bentke, Billy Ruemke, Aaron Markesier, Police Chief Rex Phelps, Dant Lange, Billy Rich, Development Services Director Julie Fulgham, Kim Hodde, Public Works Director Dane Rau, Public Utilities Director Lowell Ogle, Gary Jeter, Angela Hahn, Pam Ruemke, Stephen Draehn, Richard Magjarevich, and Grant Lischka

Citizens present:

Randy Parkison, Jay Petrash, and Otto Hanak

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn and Caitlin Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Frank Wagner, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Mayor Tate**

3. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2013 and Ending September 30, 2014

This Budget Will Raise More Total Property Taxes Than Last Year's Budget By an Estimated \$497,035 (9.02%), and of That Amount, \$104,859 is Tax Revenue To Be Raised From Estimated New Property Added to The Tax Roll This Year.

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller stated during Council Budget Workshops, Staff presented the proposed budget to Council and all Council directed changes have been made. Miller explained in compliance with the Local Government Code, the proposed budget has been filed with the City Secretary and all required notices have been published. Miller stated additionally, the Local Government Code requires a governing body to hold a Public Hearing to receive citizen comments on a proposed budget.

There were no citizen comments.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Ratification of the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2013 and Ending September 30, 2014, which Raises More Revenue from Property Taxes than the Previous Year's Budget

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller stated that in compliance with the Tax Code, if a municipal budget raises more property taxes than in the previous year's budget, City Council must formally ratify a property tax increase. Miller explained the FY2013-14 budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$497,035 (9.02%), and of that amount \$104,859 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. Miller explained a vote must be taken to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget, which is in addition to and separate from the vote to adopt the budget or a vote to set the tax rate.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Goss to move to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014, which raises more revenue from property taxes than the previous year's budget.

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 Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2013 and Ending September 30, 2014 and Take Record Vote

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller stated the proposed FY2013-14 Budget has been developed in compliance with the property tax code, local government code, and City Charter. Miller explained a property tax rate of \$0.5632 per \$100 valuation is necessary to fund the proposed budget. Miller stated the proposed budget is on the City's website, on file with the City Secretary, Washington County Clerk, and at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library.

Miller explained with the passage of recent legislation, the City budget process has been impacted. Miller explained Senate Bill (S.B.) 656, which became effective September 1, 2013 and applies to a budget adopted for a fiscal year beginning on or after September 1, 2013, requires the City Council's vote to adopt a budget be a record vote.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goss and seconded by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley to approve an Ordinance on its first reading adopting the budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014 and take record vote

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 Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Levying Taxes for the Tax Year 2013 for the City of Brenham at \$0.5632 per \$100 Valuation and Take Record Vote

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller stated the Proposed FY2013-14 Budget includes a tax rate of \$0.5632 per \$100 valuation which has two components:

maintenance and operations (M&O) and interest and sinking (I&S). Miller explained the proposed tax rate of \$0.5632 will allocate \$0.3579 to the General Fund for maintenance and operations and the balance of \$0.2053 to the Debt Service Fund for interest and sinking. Miller explained the City has complied with all of the notices, publications, and public hearings as required by the Tax Code.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nix to move that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5632 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 7.28% increase in the tax rate.

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 Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

Mayor Tate skipped to Item #13.

- 8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County Related to the Operation of and Improvements to Linda Anderson Park and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County for Animal Control Services and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County for Animal Shelter Services and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County for Fire Protection and Rescue Services and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 12. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County Related to the Jail Services and 9-1-1 Emergency Communication Services and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**

13. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Exchange of Services Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County For the Comprehensive Exchange of Services and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

City Manager Terry Roberts presented this item. Roberts went through the ILA to discuss all changes made to the document since the last distribution. Roberts explained most of the changes to the ILA were clarifying and grammatical changes. Roberts reminded Council that the current ILAs will expire on September 30th.

Councilmember Goss stated before the Council takes action, he would like to know how many personnel are transitioning to the County if the Exchange of Services ILA goes through. Roberts stated they are unsure of a number of employees that plan to transfer. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley stated they are concerned about the personnel issue and need to know the number that plan to transition. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley explained the Communications Department is not a department that can manage without a full, experienced team like other departments.

Citizen Joshua Vandever stated he works at Washington County EMS, Communications department, and is a volunteer firefighter. Vandever stated he is opposed to the Exchange of Services ILA. Vandever stated he does not think that people will transfer to the County, which will greatly hurt the department as well as compromise the safety of first responders. Vandever stated it is an improper comparison to use EMS as an indicator as to if the County would be able to handle Communications. Vandever explained the success of the EMS department is because of Kevin Deramus, not the County Judge or County Commissioners. Vandever stated the lives of all first responders would be put in jeopardy if the County were to take over Communications. Vandever explained the City has a first class Communications department that the City of Austin modeled their Communications department after. Vandever stated you get what you pay for and this department cannot be compromised by cutting corners like the County is known to do historically.

Councilmember Barnes-Tilley thanked everyone for coming and voicing their concerns and opposition because the Council has not been made fully aware of the opposed feelings of the citizens. Barnes-Tilley stated the Council is facing challenges because they have put good faith to compromise with the County and taken their word that the level of service will remain the same if the transfer takes place.

Volunteer Fire Chief Randy Parkison with Latium/Salem Fire Department stated he is a concerned citizen and also opposed to the Exchange of Services ILA. Parkison stated his opposition is based on the life safety of first responders. Parkison explained that he was in a bad situation recently and due to the knowledge and experience of the Communications' staff, they were able to get him help without him asking for help. Parkison stated that the lives of all first responders would be in trouble if there was an inexperienced staff in the Communications department. Parkison explained the money that the volunteer fire departments save due to the level of standards held by the City's Communications' department will falter if the level of service is compromised.

Mayor Pro Tem Nix stated the Council needs to search their souls before making a decision.

Councilmember Herring thanked everyone for coming and stated he appreciates the comments. Herring stated he cannot support this Exchange of Services ILA because the City will be forced to incur the costs of the new animal shelter, library, fire equipment/apparatus, and fire substation. Herring explained to put City money into the County is wrong. Herring stated he is worried because the County does not have an IT department currently in place now. Councilmember Goss stated he will not support the Exchange of Services ILA either.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nix to not approve an Exchange of Services Interlocal Agreement between the City of Brenham and Washington County for the comprehensive exchange of services.

Councilmember Goss stated the Council cannot make a decision on the Exchange of Services ILA until they have a better handle on the personnel issue and how many plan to transfer. Goss would like this information before the Council makes a decision.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goss and seconded by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley to table Item #13.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion to table this item 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	No
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

A motion was made by Councilmember Goss and seconded by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley to table Items #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion to table this item 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 Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

14. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

- No administrative reports.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary

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