

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on March 19, 2015 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 Mary E. Barnes-Tilley
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Members absent:

Councilmember Keith Herring

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Kacey Weiss, City Engineer Grant Lischka, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Susan Nienstedt, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Rex Phelps, Public Works Director Dane Rau, Public Utilities Director Lowell Ogle, Development Services Manager Erik Smith, and Angela Hahn

Citizens present:

Perry Thomas, Lu Hollander, Page Michel, Clint Kolby, and Kevin Deramus

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; and Mary-Janet Reyes, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Councilmember Andrew Ebel**
- 3. Citizens Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Statutory Consent Agenda

- 4-a. Minutes from the February 19, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting
- 4-b. Ordinance No. O-15-008 on Its Second Reading for the Creation of Reinvestment Zone Number 40 Requested by Valmont Coatings, Inc. for Commercial-Industrial Tax Phase-In Incentive on Certain Tracts of Land Containing 34.106 Acres, More or Less, Being Located on Industrial Blvd., Brenham, Texas, with Boundaries Further Described in Exhibit A of the Ordinance Creating Reinvestment Zone Number 40, and Designating this Property as Qualifying for Tax Phase-In
- 4-c. Ordinance No. O-15-009 on Its Second Reading for the Placement of Stop Signs at Multiple Street Intersections within the Woodbridge Subdivision
- 4-d. Ordinance No. O-15-010 on Its Second Reading Amending Ordinance No. O-15-007 Ordering a Special Election on May 9, 2015 for the Purpose of Submitting to the Qualified Voters of Brenham Certain Proposed Amendments to the Existing Charter of the City of Brenham, Texas

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Andrew Ebel to approve the Statutory Consent Agenda Items 4-a., 4-b., 4-c. and 4-d. as presented.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

WORK SESSION

5. Presentation of the First Quarter Report by the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Lu Hollander, with the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, presented this report. Hollander stated packets were laid around the Dias with more information. She focused on the highlights featured in the *First Quarter Report – October – December 2014*, pointing out the visitor statistics, major tourism events, advertising placements, and editorial coverage.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. **Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-15-010 Authorizing the Execution of a Tax Phase-In Agreement between the City of Brenham and Valmont Coatings, Inc.**

Clint Kolby presented this item. Kolby stated the Brenham Economic Development Foundation (EDF) respectfully requests your consideration of an application for Tax Phase-In from Valmont Coatings.

Kolby explained that the EDF and City staff have been working with Valmont Coatings over the past several months in their site selection process to locate a galvanizing plant in Brenham to serve the local Valmont facility as well as secondary metal-based businesses in the region. Kolby advised that Valmont Coatings currently has an earnest money contract to purchase more than 30 acres in the Southwest Industrial Park – Section III; the use of the Tax Phase-In incentive will help Valmont Coatings invest in the necessary equipment and human capital to help offset the initial costs of locating this expansion project here. Kolby stated this project would also provide a substantial positive economic impact to the local Brenham economy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve Resolution No. R-15-010 authorizing the execution of a Tax Phase-In Agreement between the City of Brenham and Valmont Coatings, 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	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Request for a Noise Variance from Evelynia Graves for the Graves Family Reunion at 906 Armbrister Street to be Held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

City Secretary Jeana Bellinger presented this item. Bellinger stated that Evelynia Graves is requesting a Noise Variance for a family reunion gathering at 906 Armbrister Street on April 11, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. for DJ. Bellinger noted they will have speakers and a sound system, which requires a Noise Variance. Bellinger advised the Brenham Police Department and the Brenham Fire Department have approved the noise variance request; therefore, she asked the City Council to approve the noise variance request.

Mayor Tate asked if there had ever been any complaints in the past with this reunion. Police Chief Phelps stated that his department is okay with the noise variance and believes that 9:00 p.m. is a good ending time.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve a request for a noise variance from Evelynia Graves for the Graves Family Reunion at 906 Armbrister Street to be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. 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	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Two Percent (2%) Mid-Year Employee Pay Scale Adjustment

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller explained that in the FY14 Personnel Budget Priorities, the City Council approved a balanced budget that included a 2% mid-year Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all City employees subject to favorable General Government revenue and expenditure trends. Miller advised the COLA is conditional upon a mid-year assessment of economic conditions and must be approved by Council before initiated. Miller stated the 2% mid-year pay scale adjustment will impact the General Fund by \$57,801 and the Utility Funds combined by \$28,154.

Miller explained that the Economic Conditions and Outlook for the City are positive as confirmed by the following indicators:

- Sales Tax Recovery
- Growth in Property Valuations
- Increases in Residential Building Permits
- Favorable Unemployment Rate for the County

Miller noted she will be presenting the first quarter financial reports at the April 16th Council meeting, but all indications are that we are favorable to budget in the General Fund and all Utility Funds; therefore, the budget team is confident in certifying that economic conditions support the approval of a 2.0% mid-year pay scale adjustment for all City employees.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goss and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nix to approve the 2.0 % mid-year pay scale adjustment as shown in the City of Brenham FY2014-15 adopted 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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Recommendations for Appointments and/or Re-Appointments to Various City Advisory Boards

City Manager Terry Roberts presented this item. Roberts stated that under the City's policy for advisory board appointments, persons interested in serving must complete an application of appointment. Roberts noted this includes current board members who are willing and interested in continuing their service.

Roberts explained that according to the City's policy, the Mayor and City Manager are to review the board appointments and offer a recommendation to the City Council. Roberts advised there was an agenda item regarding board recommendations at the December 18, 2014 council meeting; however there were several boards that still had vacancies with no recommendations at that time.

Roberts stated that since that 2014 meeting staff has received applications for the remaining vacant positions and it is his recommendation that the following persons be appointed:

- Building Standards Commission: Reappointment of incumbent Johnny Andrade.

Brenham Housing Authority: New tenant member Lillian Pollard.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nix to approve the recommendations for appointments and/or re-appointments to various city advisory boards, as presented.

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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

10. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- Staff is continuing to work with the architect on the animal shelter project.
- Library bids will be opened on Monday, March 23rd.
- The Fire Department annual fish fry will be on Friday, March 27th.
- The Spring Clean-Up is going on this week for city residents.

Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis reported on the following:

- Movie In The Park will be held tonight at the Amphitheater in Hohlt Park
- The City of Brenham's Easter Egg Hunt will be on Thursday, April 2nd at Hohlt Park

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary

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