

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

A special budget workshop meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on July 23, 2015 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Brenham City Hall, Conference Room 2-A, 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 Rex Phelps, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, ACM-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Deputy City Secretary Kacey Weiss, ACM of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Stacy Hardy, Kaci Konieczny, Debbie Gaffey, Cyndi Longhofer, Alton Sommerfield, Dane Bybee, Bobby Keene and Ande Bostain

### Citizens present:

None

### Media Present:

None

## **1. Call Meeting to Order**

## 2. FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget Discussions

City Manager Terry Roberts welcomed Council to the second day of budget workshop discussions. Roberts advised Council that staff would be discussing utility budgets, special revenue funds, and debt service and capital projects.

Roberts advised Council that the utility budget priorities are:

1. Maintain competitiveness of all utility rates, particularly electric rates, by growing revenues and controlling costs.
2. Increase natural gas revenue growth by marketing to electric users within reach of the City's current pipe delivery system while extending gas mains and services to areas served only by other electric and propane companies.
3. Improve water conservation through public awareness, replacement of aging infrastructure, and long-term, looking at the feasibility of non-potable water use for irrigation.
4. Financial stability in the Wastewater Fund to be achieved by controlling costs.
5. Compliance with all regulations and reporting requirements mandated by the multitude of federal and state agencies.

The following utility departmental budgets were presented to the Council by staff:

- Electric Fund
  - Dept 132 – Utility Billing
  - Dept 160 – Public Utilities
  - Dept 161 – Electric
- Gas Fund
  - Dept 162 - Gas
- Water Fund
  - Dept 163 – Water Treatment
  - Dept 164 – Water Construction
- Wastewater Fund
  - Dept 165 – Wastewater Construction
  - Dept 166 – Wastewater Treatment

Roberts also advised Council that the budget items approved by the Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC) included: (1) the fourth year phase out of aquatics center subsidy; (2) funding in the amount of \$429,625 for aquatics, parks and recreation projects; (3) funding in the amount of \$657,000 for the new future Brenham Family Park; and (4) economic development funding.

Roberts and Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller discussed various special revenue funds, debt service funds, and capital projects with Council:

Council expressed concern over the increase in employee medical deductible, Miller advised that staff is still negotiating with Texas Municipal League (TML) and will hopefully be able to get a better deductible rate. Councilmember Goss advised staff that he would like to give a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to employees if the budget will allow for it. Miller stated the budget team will review the budget after several months and hopefully sales tax will have increased to provide for a COLA for the employees. Mayor Pro Tem Nix stated that if sales tax is favorable, she would like the COLA to be two percent (2%), like last year.

The meeting was adjourned.

---

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.  
Mayor

---

Kacey Weiss  
Deputy City Secretary

**THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**