

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on August 6, 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 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, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Kacey Weiss, Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Sara Parker, Kaci Konieczny, Cynthia Longhofer, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Crystal Locke, Andria Heiges, Tammy Jaster, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Interim Police Chief Dant Lange, Public Works Director Dane Rau, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Development Services Manager Erik Smith, Angela Hahn and Ande Bostain

Citizens present:

Perry Thomas, Willy Dilworth and Grant Lischka

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Caitlin 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 Herring

3. Service Recognitions

➤ **Ande Bostain, Gas Department** **30 Years**

4. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Statutory Consent Agenda

5-a. Minutes from the July 16, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve the Statutory Consent Agenda Item 5-a. 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	Yes
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

PUBLIC HEARING

6. Public Hearing Considering an Amendment of Appendix A – “Zoning” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brenham Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Brenham, from a Local Business/Residential Mixed Use (B-1) District to a Residential (R-1) District and Being Located on Approximately 9.873 Acres in the Phillip H. Coe Survey A-31 of the City of Brenham, Washington County, Texas (Said Property Being Known as Timber Oaks Subdivision, Section III)

Mayor Tate opened the Public Hearing.

Development Services Manager Erik Smith explained that Gregory Appel had requested a rezoning for 9.873 acres of land, known as the Timber Oaks Subdivision, currently zoned B-1 Local Business/Residential Mixed use to R-1 Residential Single Family. Smith stated a final plat of this property was recently approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and consists of 24 single family residential lots. Smith advised that Mr. Appel has requested the change to single family to help with marketing the properties in the future.

Smith also noted that the rezoning of this property complies with the City's comprehensive plan and the thoroughfare plan. Smith stated that his office had not received any concerns from neighboring property owners.

There were no comments received from the public. Mayor Tate close the public hearing.

WORK SESSION

7. Discussion and Update on FY2015-16 Budget Workshop

Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller stated that the Council Budget Workshops were held on July 20th and July 23rd to review the proposed FY15-16 budget. Miller advised that due to the recent economic downturn in our community, the City will have less income on which to operate. Miller advised that in order to address costs, the City will need to make adjustments in the group medical insurance program. Miller noted the medical deductible will be increasing from \$600 to \$1,200; the employee share of monthly premium cost for "employee only" coverage will be increasing by \$20 per month; and employees will be sharing more of the cost for dependent coverage.

Miller also explained that the mid-year two percent (2%) cost of living adjustment (COLA) was also budgeted in both the General Fund and the Utility Fund.

REGULAR SESSION

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Proposal to Adopt a Tax Rate of \$0.4731 per \$100 Valuation for the 2015 Tax Year, Take Record Vote and Set the Public Hearings on the Proposed Tax Rate in Accordance with State Law

Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised Council that the City will be decreasing the property tax rate of \$0.4912 per \$100 valuation by \$0.0181. Miller stated the new property tax rate of \$0.4731 consists of a maintenance and operations (M&O) rate of \$0.2950 and a debt service (interest and sinking) rate of \$0.1781.

Miller explained that the Washington County Appraisal District has certified taxable values of \$1,188,742,237 for the 2015 Tax Year which is a 7.93% or \$87,293,034 increase in total taxable values for the City over the 2014 (adjusted) values. Miller advised that in accordance with the Tax Code, Council must take a Record Vote to place a proposal to adopt the proposed property tax rate on the agenda of future meetings. Miller stated a separate public hearing on the proposed budget will be held during a Special Council meeting on September 14, 2015.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nix that the property tax rate be decreased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.4731 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 2.14% increase in the tax rate, to be considered by the governing body on the agendas of the September 14, 2015 and September 17, 2015 meetings and to schedule public hearings on the proposed tax rate for August 27, 2015 and September 3, 2015 in accordance with state law.

Mayor Tate called for a record 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

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Brenham, from a Local Business/Residential Mixed Use (B-1) District to a Residential (R-1) District on 9.873 Acres of Land Out of the Phillip H. Coe Survey A-31 in Brenham, Washington County, Texas (Said Property Being Known as Timber Oaks Subdivision, Section III)

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve an ordinance on its first reading amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Brenham, from a Local Business/Residential Mixed Use (B-1) District to a Residential (R-1) District on 9.873 acres of land out of the Phillip H. Coe Survey A-31 in Brenham, Washington County, Texas (said property being known as Timber Oaks Subdivision, Section III).

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

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading for the Abandonment of a Portion of Live Oak Street

Development Services Manager Erik Smith presented this item. Smith explained that Tommie Wellmann owns property that abuts an unimproved right-of-way named Live Oak St. Smith stated that Mr. Wellmann has submitted a request for the City to abandon this unimproved right-of-way. Smith advised Council that the only adjoining property owner is the Main Street Baptist Church and they have submitted a letter stating they have no opposition to the abandonment of Live Oak Street. Smith advised Council that Staff recommends approving this abandonment subject to a replat being filed to include the abandoned right-of-way remaining lots being platted into one lot. Smith explained that the ordinance will take effect once the subdivision plat meeting this criterion is approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve an Ordinance on its first reading for the abandonment of a portion of Live Oak Street.

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

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the FY2015-16 Proposed Budget for the Washington County Appraisal District

Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller stated the City has received a copy of the Washington County Appraisal District's (WCAD) FY2015-2016 Proposed Budget. Miller explained the WCAD proposed budget shows an increase of \$10,743 over the prior year's budget due to a 4.69% salary increase adopted by the Brenham Independent School District Board and several other smaller line item increases. Miller explained that due to a shift in the cost share percentages (from 12.14% to 10.23%) and a \$5,530 refund of FY13-14 unused funds, the City will actually see a decrease of \$18,699.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve the FY2015-16 Proposed Budget for the Washington County Appraisal District.

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

12. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon A Three (3) Year Extension to the Contract for Uniform Rental Services for Various City Departments and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Purchasing Supervisor Sara Parker presented this item. Parker advised that for the past eight (8) years the City has contracted with G&K Services to provide rental uniforms for City personnel. Parker noted G&K launders and maintains the uniforms for which the City pays a weekly rental fee. Parker stated the multi-year contract was established with automatic renewal at expiration unless either party declines.

Parker advised that prior to the expiration of the current contract, G&K offered renewal with substantial reduction of rental fees. Parker explained the total cost of the contract depends on number of employees provided with uniforms, replacement of damaged items and other fees. Parker noted that yearly cost under the expiring contract is approximately \$23,000. Parker stated projections at the new rate show that savings of approximately 40% or \$9,200 per year can be anticipated.

Parker explained that the new contract was reviewed by Purchasing Services and the City Attorney and revisions were negotiated to allow termination for convenience without penalty, as well as limitations and controls for price escalation during the term of the contract.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Nix and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve a three (3) year extension with G&K Services for uniform rental for various City departments 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	Yes
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

13. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-15-018 Authorizing the Acceptance of TxDOT's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant for the Period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 for the Police Department and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Interim Police Chief Dant Lange presented this item. Lange stated that this grant reimburses the City for overtime hours paid to officers that work to enforce speeding violations in specific areas of the City. Lange advised the actual reimbursement amount the city is eligible for is \$37,350.00. Lange explained that there is a matching requirement in the amount of \$16,190.55; however, the match can come from mileage and salaries of those administering the grant.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nix to approve Resolution No. R-15-018 authorizing the acceptance of TxDOT's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant for the period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 for the Police Department 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	Yes
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

14. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-15-019 Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Bluebonnet Community Grant Program for the Construction of the Brenham Pet Adoption and Animal Care Facility and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Assistant City Manager of General Government Rex Phelps presented this item. Phelps advised that Bluebonnet Electric has created a community grant program to be awarded beginning in fall of 2015. Phelps stated the grant program's description states it will support capital projects up to \$100,000. Phelps advised that it is staffs intention to submit an application for \$100,000 to help fund construction costs of the new animal shelter (Brenham Pet Adoption and Animal Care Facility). Phelps noted there is a 10% match for the grant but that the City more than meets the match requirement with its current contributions for the construction of the project. A revised version of the Resolution was placed around the dais.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Nix and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve Resolution No. R-15-019, as revised, authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Bluebonnet Community Grant Program for the construction of the Brenham Pet Adoption and Animal Care Facility 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	Yes
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

15. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-15-020 Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Bluebonnet Community Grant Program for the Expansion, Renovation and Modernization of the City Library and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis presented this item. Ragonis explained that the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors recently voted to create a community grants program for customers within its service area. Ragonis stated the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library (NCRML) modernization project seems to meet the goals and requirements of the Bluebonnet Community Grant program. Ragonis noted that to support the submission of the Library's grant application, staff seeks Council support in the form of a resolution.

A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve Resolution No. R-15-020 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Bluebonnet Community Grant Program for the expansion, renovation and modernization of the City library 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	Yes
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

16. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Purchase of a UV Sanitation System, Using BuyBoard Contract No. 451-14, for the Leisure, Therapy and Competition Pools at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis presented this item. Ragonis explained that the Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC) Board of Directors at their June 5, 2015 meeting granted a FY15 funding request for the Blue Bell Aquatic Center (BBAC) to purchase an Ultraviolet (UV) Sanitation System. Ragonis advised this UV sanitation system will be used as the secondary sanitation process along with the primary sanitation process of chlorine to treat and kill waterborne pathogens. Ragonis stated the UV sanitation systems can eliminate chlorine-resistant microorganisms which may live in recreational water.

Ragonis advised that three quotes were obtained through the Texas Association of School Board's purchasing co-op, Buy Board, contract number 451-14 and that the the City's purchasing staff reviewed all the quotes to ensure compliance to the competitive bidding process.

Councilmember Goss questioned if the current way in which the City sanitizes the water is not sufficient. Blue Bell Aquatic Center employee, Tammy Jaster, stated that the UV sanitation system provides a secondary sanitation system. Jaster advised that the state is moving towards using a second way of sanitation, in addition to the use of chlorine, and that will become state law within two years. Ragonis stated Staff will not need to use as much chlorine with the extra system because the UV system will kill any bacteria that are chlorine resistant, therefore providing healthier water with less chlorine.

Councilmember Goss asked about the life expectancy of the UV sanitation system. Ragonis stated the life expectancy is five to ten years and the only thing that will require maintenance will be to replace the light bulbs.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley to approve the purchase of a UV Sanitation System, using BuyBoard Contract No. 451-14, for the Leisure, Therapy and Competition Pools at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center in the amount of \$90,715.00 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	Yes
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

17. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Authorizing the Placement of Stop Signs on Bruce Street at Its Intersection with Ledbetter Lane and Woodson Lane and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this item. Rau advised that Staff received a request for stop signs to be placed on Bruce St where it intersects with Ledbetter Lane and Woodson Lane. Rau noted this is a small section of roadway but is currently an uncontrolled intersection. Rau noted there have been concerns of traffic not yielding to Ledbetter or Woodson Lanes and while there have not been any accidents at this location, Staff feels that placing stop signs at this location would be helpful. A revised version of the Ordinance with some minor wording changes, as recommended by the City Attorney, was placed around the dais for Council members.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve an Ordinance, as revised, on its first reading authorizing the placement of stop signs on Bruce Street at its intersection with Ledbetter Lane and Woodson Lane 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	Yes
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

18. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- The next regular City Council meeting will be on Thursday, August 27th at 4:00 p.m.
- The public utilities department outdoor crews will have a modified work schedule of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. due to the hot weather.
- Dr. Wilfred Dietrich has recommended placing historical markers on the historical bridges at Hohlt Park.
- A federal grant in the amount of \$1.35 million dollars has been pre-approved for the expansion of the Hodde Technical Center. The Economic Development Foundation is the agency working on the grant.
- Staff met with the Hotel Occupancy Tax Board President, as well as the county judge and a commissioner, on the changes that were discussed in the budget workshops regarding Hotel Occupancy Tax expenditures.

Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis reported on the following:

- Update on the library construction and stated the roofing material is on back order from the manufacturer.
- The last Movie in the Park will be held tonight at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center with the showing of Finding Nemo.

Fire Chief Ricky Boeker reported on the following:

- The fire department's living quarters demolition is still on-going.
- The Fireman's Fiesta will be Saturday, August 8th at the Fireman's Training Center

Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle reported on the following:

- City's water supply is safe and the color is improving; staff believes the high water in the lake due to recent rain and flooding is the reason the City's water is discolored.

Mayor Tate thanked all City employees for their service to various state organizations.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK