

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on September 14, 2015 beginning at 8:00 a.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 Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Kacey Weiss, Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Stacy Hardy, Susan Nienstedt, Kaci Konieczny, Janie Mehrens, Debbie Gaffey, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Development Services Manager Erik Smith and Angela Hahn

Citizens present:

Mary Horak

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press

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

3. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2015 and Ending September 30, 2016

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an estimated \$207,149 (3.87%), and of that amount, \$75,540 is tax revenue to be raised from estimated new property added to the tax roll this year.

Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller explained that the FY2015-16 proposed budget was the result of numerous staff hours as well as two Council Budget Workshops. Miller stated that during these workshops, staff presented the proposed budget to Council and all Council directed changes have been made.

Miller advised that as outlined in the Local Government Code, the proposed budget has been filed with the City Secretary and all required notices have been published. Miller stated that additionally, the Local Government Code requires the Council hold a Public Hearing to receive citizen comments on a proposed budget.

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, 2015 and Ending September 30, 2016, which Raises More Revenue from Property Taxes than the Previous Year's Budget

Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that in accordance with the Local Government Code, if a municipal budget raises more property taxes than in the previous year's budget, the City Council must formally ratify a property tax increase. Miller noted that FY2015-16 budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$207,149 (3.87%), and of that amount \$75,540 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. Miller stated that a vote must be taken to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Herring to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015 and ending September 30, 2016, 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	No
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, 2015 and Ending September 30, 2016

Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2015-16 Budget has been developed in compliance with the property tax code, local government code, and City Charter. Miller stated a property tax rate of \$0.4731 per \$100 valuation is necessary to fund the proposed budget. Miller explained that the proposed budget is on the City's website, on file with the City Secretary, and available at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve an Ordinance on its first reading adopting the budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015 and ending September 30, 2016.

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	No
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 2016 for the City of Brenham at \$0.4731 per \$100 Valuation

Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2015-16 Budget includes a tax rate of \$0.4731 per \$100 valuation which has two components: maintenance and operations (M&O) and interest and sinking (I&S). Miller explained that the proposed tax rate of \$0.4731 will allocate \$0.2950 to the General Fund for maintenance and operations and the balance of \$0.1781 to the Debt Service Fund for interest and sinking. Miller noted that 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 Councilmember Herring that property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.4731 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 2.14% increase in the tax rate.

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

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Renewal with Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for General Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Public Officials Liability, Mobile Equipment, Airport Liability, Property, Auto Liability and Physical Damage, Crime, Animal Mortality and Theft and Workers' Compensation Coverage for the City of Brenham for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute any Necessary Documentation

Benefit Specialist Janie Mehrens presented this item. Mehrens advised that the renewal of various property and liability coverage with Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for FY2016 showed a number of variations from the FY2015 contributions. Mehrens noted that the most significant change was in the Workers' Compensation contribution. Mehrens explained that the overall cost of the Property, Liability and Workers' Compensation coverage for the City for FY2016 will be increased by \$78,476 over FY2015. Mehrens stated that once the early pay discount and equity return are applied the amount will be \$76,640. The most significant changes occurred in Automobile Liability and Physical Damage as well as Worker's Compensation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve the renewal with Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for General Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Public Officials Liability, Mobile Equipment, Airport Liability, Property, Auto Liability and Physical Damage, Crime, Animal Mortality and Theft and Workers' Compensation Coverage for the City of Brenham for fiscal year 2015-16 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

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Renewal of City of Brenham Group Health Plan with TML Multistate Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool and Establishment of Funding Rates for Calendar Year 2016 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Benefit Specialist Janie Mehrens presented this item. Mehrens advised that significant changes to the group medical plan were made by the carrier, TML Multistate Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool, and are being recommended by staff to reduce costs to employees and to the City of Brenham. Mehrens explained that the most notable change is incorporating a \$1,200 individual deductible plan that will allow the employee funding rate to remain at the current \$29.38 per month. Mehrens stated that City staff is recommending adoption of \$1,200 individual/\$2,400 family deductible, \$2,500 maximum individual out of pocket plan effective January 1, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley to approve the renewal of City of Brenham group health plan with TML Multistate Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool and establishment of funding rates for calendar year 2016 as presented 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

10. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- There will be a reception on Thursday, September 17th at 12:30 p.m. to meet the new police chief. A more formal reception is being held at 4:00 that afternoon at the police station.
- The roofing material is still on back order for the library project.
- There is a job opening in Municipal Court for a City Prosecutor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary