

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on February 4, 2016 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 of General Government Rex Phelps, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Kacey Weiss, Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Stacy Hardy, Susan Nienstedt, Cynthia Longhofer, Christi Korth, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Doug Maurer, Jeff Daniels, Ryan Swor, Jerred Eschete, Police Chief Craig Goodman, Public Works Director Dane Rau, Casey Redman, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Development Services Manager Erik Smith, Lori Lakatos, Judson Hall and Angela Hahn

Citizens present:

Tony Hudson

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Caitlin Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; and Codi Rynn, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Councilmember Barnes-Tilley**

3. Citizens Comments

Tony Hudson addressed Council with several concerns. Mayor Tate referred Mr. Hudson to several Staff members regarding those concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Statutory Consent Agenda

4-a. Minutes from the December 17, 2015 and January 7, 2016 Regular City Council Meetings

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Nix and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the Statutory Consent Agenda Item 4-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

WORK SESSION

5. Discussion and Presentation on the Brenham Fire Department Operations and Strategic Plan for the Future

Fire Chief Ricky Boeker presented this item. Boeker explained that it is important for Staff to evaluate the best deployment of staff resources for providing effective fire services to the citizens of Brenham. Boeker stated that with recent changes at the command level, in both the paid and volunteer ranks, the evaluation has intensified. Boeker advised that there are now fewer volunteer command officers responding in 2016. Boeker explained that at the current time, the 2016 slate of officers will be two District Chiefs short from the volunteer ranks for various reasons ranging from not enough time, do not feel qualified or do not want the responsibility that comes with the position.

Boeker explained that with the retirement of the Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal and the Deputy Fire Marshal, now is a good time to evaluate those positions and their duties. Boeker stated that he would like to separate the Deputy Chief from the Fire Marshal and change the title to Assistant Chief. Boeker stated that he feels that the Department would be better served if the Fire Marshal's duties were a standalone position.

Boeker advised that he is planning for the Assistant Chief to help with the day to day operations of the department, be in charge of training duties of the department, work with Emergency Management and respond to calls during the day. Boeker noted that training responsibilities will be for both paid and volunteer staff. Boeker advised that depending on the evaluation of the Fire Marshal's work load, Staff may have to revisit what assistance he may require. Boeker explained that Staff is working through deployment of personnel scenarios to address best methods to provide fire suppression services and have undertaken a pilot program to evaluate the handling of emergency calls. Boeker advised that Staff will be evaluating this program and will have a report at the Budget Retreat that is scheduled for April this year. Boeker commented that Staff is also looking into several ideas to help with recruitment and retention of the volunteer staff and will report on that as well at the retreat.

Councilmember Barnes-Tilley questioned if there is anything more that the City can do to get more recruits. Boeker stated he would like to have a citizen's fire academy or to possibly raise the pension options. Barnes-Tilley asked if there would be any interest from the other departments to come in and do an academy. Boeker advised that possibly with the county because they need more members as well. Boeker also noted that maybe a point system that would be paid with cash could reward people for coming to fires and getting their certification. Barnes-Tilley stated that maybe the fire department could recruit high school kids. Boeker advised that Staff does attend the job fair at the high school. Barnes-Tilley also mentioned that maybe Staff could get with local businesses to request help with volunteers. Boeker explained that they had tried that before, but some people abused it and companies no longer let volunteers leave without making them use vacation time.

Citizen Tony Hudson questioned speaking with the high school co-op classes to get volunteers. Boeker explained that volunteers have to be at least eighteen years of age and have to go through nine weeks of training. Boeker noted that the Berlin Fire Department has an explorer program that gets kids interested and the program is going well. Hudson also commented that instead of paying for three new firemen maybe the City could give companies that send their volunteers a tax break as a reward for helping.

Boeker explained that in the 1980's the Fire Department would have around 200 calls and last year there were 744 calls. Boeker stated that not all calls need the same amount of firemen, but there needs to be a safe number at every call. Boeker advised that he would like a four man minimum at all times.

REGULAR SESSION

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-16-005 Amending the Human Resources Policy Manual Regarding Weapons

Human Resource Manager Susan Nienstedt presented this item. Nienstedt explained that during the 2015 Legislative Session, House Bill 910 was passed allowing concealed handgun license holders to “open carry” where allowed by law. Nienstedt stated that with this change, Staff needs to revise the language in the HR Policy Manual that was approved September 3, 2015. Nienstedt advised that currently the sections titled *Weapons Ban and Violence Prevention* and *Employee Conduct and Work Rules/Disciplinary Action* have wording prohibiting possession of a firearm on City property. Nienstedt stated that she is proposing adding a section titled *Open Carry and Concealed Handgun Policy* to the current HR Policy Manual to inform employees of the areas where open carry is allowed in City-owned facilities, as well as the mandated Section 411.207 of the Texas Government Code regarding the questioning of a person who is openly carrying as to whether they hold the proper license.

Councilmember Williams questioned the type of weapon that the Animal Control officers can carry. Assistant City Manager of General Government Rex Phelps stated that only rifles are used due to the distance for employee safety.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve Resolution No. R-16-005 amending the Human Resource Policy Manual regarding weapons.

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 the Acceptance of a Grant from the 100 Club of Houston in the Amount of \$385,062.65 for Tactical Equipment for the Brenham Police Department and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Police Chief Craig Goodman presented this item. Goodman explained that his department submitted a grant application for vests and protective gear for the Emergency Response Team. Goodman stated there is no match needed for the funds; however, the 100 Club has asked that the City display their logo on the equipment.

Councilmember Barnes-Tilley thanked the Staff for always seeking out grants and helping to save the tax payers money.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Nix and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the acceptance of a grant from the 100 Club of Houston in the amount of \$38,062.65 for vests and protective gear for the Emergency Response Team 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

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Submission of a Grant Application to the Bluebonnet Community Grant Program for Cameras at the Brenham Municipal Airport and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Public Information Officer Angela Hahn presented this item. Hahn explained that with the airport being located outside the City limits and not having an adequate camera system for surveillance, it makes it difficult to provide the needed security to protect it. Hahn advised that Staff believes a camera system which ties into the overall Citywide camera system would provide the ability to monitor the airport at a greater level. Hahn noted that there is a 10% match to the grant.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve Resolution No. R-16-006 for the submission of a grant application to the Bluebonnet Community Grant Program for cameras at the Brenham Municipal Airport 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 Bid No. 16-005 for the 2016 Mowing and Cleanup Services for Various City Departments and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Public Works Director Dane Rau presented this item. Rau explained that on January 26th the Purchasing Department opened bids for the annual Mowing and Cleanup Services that is performed throughout the city. Rau stated there were 7 bids received. Rau noted that the bid contained 18 locations around the city that consist of open park property, medians, vacant city owned lots, municipal facilities, and code enforcement mowing options. Rau stated that in 2013 the bid consisted of 23 locations. Rau advised that the areas that have been removed include the Central Communications Building, Hike and Bike Trail, Hasskarl Tennis Courts, Prairie Lea (Vacant Lot), and two other city owned vacant lots that have since been sold. Rau explained that based on the bid recap, Gene's Services submitted the lowest bid. Rau stated that Staff feels very comfortable awarding the bid to Gene's Services since he has been the current vendor for the past three years. Rau advised that the bid amount was for \$38,140 and the code violation properties would be serviced as needed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nix to award Bid No. 16-005 to Gene's Services for the 2016 mowing and cleanup services contract 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

➤ **Update on Brazos Valley Bombers**

Assistant City Manager of General Government Rex Phelps reported that the Brazos Valley Bombers could not work through a schedule for the 2016 season. They would like to try working on it for the 2017 season and hope to have everything completed by August.

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- The Library and Shelter projects are relatively on schedule to open in 2016.
- The ribbon cutting for the new Senior Center will be February 18th at 10:00 a.m.
- The Simon Conference Center Grand Opening will be today at 4:00 p.m.
- The Texas Workforce Commission will be presenting a job training grant to Blue Bell and Stanpac on Monday, February 8th at Noon in the ice cream parlor at Blue Bell.
- The Spring Clean-Up will be held April 7th-9th for city residents and April 14th-16th for county residents.
- The Blue Bell Aquatic Center won Agency of the Year.
- Mayor's Tate's wife, Twila, named "Woman of the Year" by the Chamber.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Kacey A. Weiss
Deputy City Secretary

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