

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special budget workshop meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on July 22, 2016 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:

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, ACM – General Government Ryan Rapelye, ACM-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, ACM - Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Craig Goodman, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Director of Public Utilities Dane Rau, City Engineer Lori Lakatos, Development Services Manager Erik Smith, Kaci Konieczny, Debbie Gaffey, Stacy Hardy, Wanda Kramer, Alton Sommerfield, Ande Bostain, Matthew Monfreda, Shawn Bolenbarr, and Bobby Keene.

Citizens present:

None

Media Present:

None

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget Discussions**

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

Assistant City Manager – Public Utilities Lowell Ogles advised Council that staff has focused on six utility fund budget priorities:

1. Maintaining the competitiveness of electric rates and ensure rates generate revenues sufficient to cover the cost of service program which includes ongoing O&M expenditures, debt service, General Fund support, capital equipment turnover, and infrastructure enhancements and replacements that improve system reliability.
2. Keep the gas system safe and reliable and promote natural gas as a cheap, safe, clean alternative to electricity.
3. Improve water treatment controls and replace aging infrastructure to increase system reliability and reduce water loss.
4. Maintain the wastewater system infrastructure but minimize any unnecessary capital investments until there is a significant reduction in debt liability.
5. Maintain a reliable and efficient solid waste operation at a reasonable cost to the public and ratepayers.

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 provided the Council with a listing of debt and capital project needs for FY18 for all departments. Roberts explained that any new general government debt projects would have an impact on the I&S portion of the tax rate. Roberts stated that approximately \$1.5 to \$1.7 million in general government projects would have a one cent impact on the I&S tax rate.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary