

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on September 12, 2016 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 Mary E. Barnes-Tilley
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Members absent:

Councilmember Keith Herring

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager of General Government Ryan Rapelye, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Kacey Weiss, Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Stacy Hardy, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, and Development Services Manager Erik Smith.

Citizens present:

There were no citizens present.

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; and Mark Whitehead, KWHI.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Councilmember Williams**
- 3. Citizens Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2016 and Ending September 30, 2017

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an estimated \$469,887 (8.50%), and of that amount, \$55,752 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 FY2016-17 proposed budget was the result of numerous staff hours as well as three days of 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 in compliance with 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.

There were no citizen comments.

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, 2016 and Ending September 30, 2017, 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 compliance 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 the FY2016-17 budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$469,887 (8.50%), and of that amount \$55,752 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 Mayor Pro Tem Nix to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017, 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	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Absent
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, 2016 and Ending September 30, 2017

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2016-17 Budget has been developed in compliance with the property tax code, local government code, and City Charter. Miller stated a property tax rate of \$0.5070 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 Williams and seconded by Councilmember Goss to approve an Ordinance on its first reading adopting the budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.

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	Absent
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 \$0.5070 per \$100 Valuation

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2016-17 Budget includes a tax rate of \$0.5070 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 \$0.5070 will allocate \$0.3150 to the General Fund for maintenance and operations and, the balance of \$0.1920 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. Miller stated that pursuant to the Tax Code, the vote on the ordinance setting a tax rate that exceeds the effective tax rate must be a record vote, and at least 60 percent of the members of the governing body must vote in favor of the ordinance.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Nix and seconded by Councilmember Goss that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5070 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 7.64% 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	Absent
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

8. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- Standards and Poors advised that the City's AA bond rating has been maintained.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary