

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on September 7, 2017 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 Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Susan Cantey
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Charlie Pyle

Members absent:

Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager of General Government Ryan Rapelye, City Attorney Cary Bovey, Deputy City Secretary Kacey Weiss, Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Comptroller Stacy Hardy, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Cynthia Longhofer, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Craig Goodman, Dant Lange, Public Works Director Dane Rau, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Development Services Director Erik Smith, City Engineer Lori Lakatos, Nancy Stafford, Todd Ashorn, John Snowden and Paula Shields

Citizens present:

Hannah Smith, Kelli Brennan, Pat Kilpatrick, Mike Kilpatrick, Frank Wagner, Michele Smith, Donna Culliver, Tim Culliver, Alesia Whaley, First Baptist Church School, Teresa Shuey, Donna Lehmann, Tiffany Morisak, Jan Whaley, Suzette Moser, Tom Whitehead, Sally Clinton, George Dillingham, Yvette Kirkland, Ross Shelton, Kristi Stegent, Georgeann Butler, Alicia Cargile, Stacy Lange, Page Michel and Shirley Herring

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 – Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

3. Service Recognition

- Dane Rau, Public Works 15 Years

4. Proclamations

- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Constitution Week
- Washington County READ
- 40th Anniversary of First Baptist Church School

5. Citizens Comments

Citizen Carol Jensen addressed Council regarding care of the animals and personnel at the animal shelter. Mayor Tate stated that Staff will be meeting about the issues and either he or the City Manager will be contacting her.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Statutory Consent Agenda

6-a. Minutes from the July 5, 2017, July 6, 2017 and July 7, 2017 Budget Workshops and July 6, 2017 and July 20, 2017 Regular City Council Meetings

6-b. Ordinance No. O-17-011 on Its Second Reading Amending the Rate Tariff Schedule(s) for the City of Brenham Transfer Station Rates

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ebel to approve the Statutory Consent Agenda Items 6-a. and 6-b. 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 Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Absent

PUBLIC HEARING

7. Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.5170 per \$100 Valuation for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2017 and Ending September 30, 2018

Mayor Tate opened the Public Hearing.

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller explained that the Council must hold two public hearings to receive citizen comments on a proposed tax rate. The first public hearing was held during the Council meeting on August 17, 2017 and citizen comments were received.

Miller advised that a property tax rate of \$0.5170 per \$100 valuation is proposed to fund the FY2017-18 Budget. Of this rate, \$0.3200 will be for maintenance and operations (M&O). The balance of \$0.1970 is for debt service (interest and sinking or I&S). Miller gave an overview of what the tax increase will fund.

Citizen Hannah Smith addressed Council and read a letter that she presented to them regarding her thoughts on the tax increase.

Citizen Suzette Moser stated that she is opposed to the tax increase and is sympathetic for senior citizens that are on fixed incomes.

Citizen Sally Clinton stated the City of College Station has a lower tax rate than Brenham does and is opposed to the tax increase. Clinton feels that Staff needs to be more efficient with funds.

Citizen George Dillingham explained that the proposed tax rate is not sustainable, the increase in property values affects everyone and people cannot afford the increases. Dillingham stated that he fears Brenham will become unaffordable.

Citizen Alicia Cargile stated that she understands the city is growing and has needs, but believes Council should be more conservative.

Scott Schaffer from La Grange addressed Council. Schaffer explained that he is interested in property tax issues for the state. Schaffer stated he believes people need to be more informed about the budget and feels that library services and personnel are very important. Schaffer advised that after reviewing the budget, he would not oppose the tax increase.

Mayor Tate announced the first reading of the Ordinance to adopt the tax rate will be during a Special Council meeting on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, located at 200 W. Vulcan Street. The second reading of the Ordinance and adoption of the tax rate is scheduled for a Regular Council meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall, located at 200 W. Vulcan Street.

Mayor Tate closed the Public Hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

8. **Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Ballot for TML MultiState Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool Board of Trustees TML Region 10 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller explained that as a member of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Employees Benefit Pool, the City of Brenham is eligible to participate in the election of members of the Board of Trustees. Miller advised the votes cast on the ballot for the Trustee election must be certified that the ballot was cast in accordance with official action taken at a duly called meeting of the voting body, thus the vote must occur during the formal session of the Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cantey and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve the nomination of Vic Barnett as shown on the ballot for TML Multistate Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool Board of Trustees TML Region 10 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 Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Absent

9. **Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) Grant Agreement No. M1817BREN with TxDOT for FY2018 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**

City Engineer Lori Lakatos presented this item. Lakatos explained that this grant agreement with TxDOT is for participation in the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) for September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. Lakatos advised that as in prior years, this agreement allows Staff to be reimbursed for 50% of the cost of the monthly AWOS monitoring, annual AWOS maintenance contract, as well as 50% of the replacement lamps for the airport lighting system, herbicides, general maintenance, and a contingency for emergency repairs. Lakatos noted the maximum for the grant is \$100,000 (50/50 match); however, Staff has budgeted funds of \$30,000. Lakatos explained that with TxDOT's match of \$30,000, Staff will have a total of \$60,000 for this fiscal year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ebel to approve the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) Grant Agreement No. M1817BREN with TxDOT for FY2018 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 Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Absent

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-17-014 Adopting an Internal Ethics and Compliance Program as Required by the Texas Department of Transportation Traffic Safety STEP Grant Program

City Attorney Cary Bovey presented this item. Bovey explained that as required by the Compliance Department of the Texas Department of Transportation, the Internal Ethics and Compliance Program Policy must be approved by Council for the STEP Grant Program. Bovey stated this is a new requirement to be qualified for the grant. Bovey noted this policy will be added as a new section to the City's existing Human Resource Policy geared towards the STEP Program in compliance with TxDOT regulations.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Cantey to approve Resolution No. R-17-014 adopting an Internal Ethics and Compliance Program, with amended changes, as required by the Texas Department of Transportation Traffic Safety STEP Grant Program.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Absent

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-17-015 Authorizing the Acceptance of TxDOT’s Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant for Speed Enforcement During the Specific Period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018

Police Chief Craig Goodman presented this item. Goodman explained that this grant provides funding for officers to work overtime to enforce the speed limits at selected sites within the City limits. Goodman stated that Corporal Kurie and Sergeant Raven are the two primary officers that are part of this program.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goss and seconded by Councilmember Cantey to approve Resolution No. R-17-015 authorizing the acceptance of TxDOT’s Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant for speed enforcement during the specific period of October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Absent

12. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- Thanked the first responders, public utilities and public works departments, Wende Ragonis and Kevin Boggus for their work during the storms
- Next Council meeting will have an Executive Session regarding a candidate for the City Manager position
- Grand Opening of the Tech Center Annex at Hodde Tech Center will be at 9:00 a.m. and O’Malley Strand Ground Breaking Ceremony will be at 5:30 p.m. on September 14th
- TML Conference is the first week in October so will need to discuss a schedule change for the Council meeting

Fire Chief Ricky Boeker reported on the following:

- National Guard troops have been stationed at the Fireman’s Training Center as they help surrounding areas with storm damage
- Expressed appreciation to everyone for working together and helping out during the hurricane

Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis reported on the following:

- September is Library Card Sign Up Month
- BBAC housed the Texas Task Force One Swift Boat Water Rescue Team last weekend while they were in the area helping with rescues

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 2:25 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 13. Section 551.087 - Texas Government Code – Economic Development Negotiation – Discuss and Deliberate Project Chatt Regarding Commercial or Financial Information that the City Has Received from a Business Prospect and the Offer of Financial or Other Incentives to a Business Prospect that the City Seeks to Have Locate In or Near the City of Brenham and With Which the City is Conducting Economic Development Negotiations**

Executive Session adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor

Kacey A. Weiss

Deputy City Secretary



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