

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on September 18, 2017 beginning at 8:30 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 Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Susan Cantey
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Charlie Pyle
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Members absent:

None

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, Comptroller Stacy Hardy, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Kaci Konieczny, Cynthia Longhofer, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Craig Goodman, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle and Todd Ashorn

Citizens present:

George Dillingham

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 Pro Tem Ebel**

3. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2017 and Ending September 30, 2018

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an estimated \$485,318 (8.09%), and of that amount, \$74,185 is tax revenue to be raised from estimated new property added to the tax roll this year.

Mayor Tate opened the Public Hearing.

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller explained that the FY2017-18 proposed budget was the result of numerous staff hours as well as four days of Council Budget Workshops. Miller stated that during these workshops, staff presented the proposed budget 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 a governing body to hold a Public Hearing to receive citizen comments on a proposed budget.

Citizen George Dillingham addressed Council. Dillingham stated that he is not in favor of the tax increase and is concerned that the increase is not affordable for the tax payers.

Mayor Tate closed the Public Hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Ratification of the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2017 and Ending September 30, 2018, 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, City Council must formally ratify a property tax increase.

Miller noted that the FY2017-18 budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$485,318 (8.09%), and of that amount \$74,185 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.

Councilmember Goss made a motion to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the proposed budget less .01 cent for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017 and ending September 30, 2018, which raises more revenue from property taxes than the previous year's budget. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

A motion was made by Councilmember Pyle and seconded by Councilmember Cantey to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017 and ending September 30, 2018, 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 Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	No
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	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, 2017 and Ending September 30, 2018

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2017-18 budget has been developed in compliance with the property tax code, local government code, and City Charter. Miller stated the proposed budget includes appropriations of operating resources for 30 separate funds and authorizes \$62.1 million in expenditures, net of inter-fund transfers. Miller explained that the proposed budget is on the City's website and on file with the City Secretary.

A motion was made by Councilmember Pyle and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve Ordinance on its First Reading Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2017 and Ending September 30, 2018.

Mayor Tate called for a record 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	No
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Levying Taxes for the Tax Year 2017 for the City of Brenham at \$0.5170 per \$100 Valuation

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2017-18 budget includes a tax rate of \$0.5170 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 \$0.5170 will allocate \$0.3200 to the General Fund for maintenance and operations and, the balance of \$0.1970 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.

Councilmember Goss made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5070 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 4.99% increase in the tax rate. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ebel and seconded by Councilmember Herring that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5170 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 7.06% 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 Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	No
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-17-016 Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application Through the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor for the Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program

Police Chief Craig Goodman presented this item. Goodman stated the grant funding would allow the department to purchase rifle resistant body armor for police personnel who are not part of the Emergency Response Team.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cantey and seconded by Councilmember Ebel to approve Resolution No. R-17-016 authorizing the submission of a grant application through the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor for the Rifle-Resistant Body Armor 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	Yes

9. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Terry Roberts reported on the following:

- Project Chatt and Mike Tanner with SGR will be two executive session items on Thursdays agenda
- The next Council meetings are October 12th and 19th

Police Chief Craig Goodman reported on the following:

- National Night Out is October 3rd

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

City Secretary



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