

Brenham Public Hearing Minutes

A public hearing was held on July 7, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

City Council Members present:

Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix

City of Brenham staff present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Tammy Cook, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Angela Hahn

Others present:

Syd Falk

Citizens present:

Nathaniel Evans

Media present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Ed Pothul, KWHI

- 1. Mayor Pro Tem Nix called the meeting to order**
- 2. Public Hearing and Receipt of Comments from the Public Regarding the City's Redistricting Illustrative Plan Proposing Possible New Boundaries for City of Brenham's City Council Wards.**

The Brenham City Council will Only Receive Comments from the Public, They will not Discuss the Plan or It's Relative Merits During the Public Hearing

City Manager Terry Roberts presented this item and explained this meeting would allow citizens to make comments or ask questions regarding the City of Brenham's Illustrative Redistricting Plan. Mr. Roberts introduced Syd Falk, attorney with Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta to further explain the redistricting process, go over the proposed plan and respond to any questions from the general public.

Mr. Falk explained that the most populous and least populous wards cannot be more than a 10% difference in population and that currently a 14.23% population deviation exists between all the wards. He explained that Ward Four is over populated by 7.92% and Ward One is under populated by 6.31% thus creating the need to redistrict.

Mr. Falk then presented the Illustrative Plan adopted by Council on June 16, 2011. He explained that the Illustrative Plan involves a transfer of population from Ward Four to Ward One within the central portion of the city, East of Blinn College and that this Plan would create a deviation of 3.54%, which is also well below the 10% deviation standard that is required. He also explained there were two (2) minor clean-up changes involving moving a single census block, approximately 43 residents, from Ward One to Ward Two, and a population shift of about 85 residents from Ward Four would be transferred to Ward Three.

Mr. Falk opened the floor to questions. Arthur Hahn questioned if the county had to follow the city lines. Mr. Falk explained that the County can draw their justice precinct lines and commissioner court lines any way they choose. It is the election precincts that must follow the city limit lines and city ward lines.

There was one citizen in attendance but he asked no questions.

The meeting was adjourned.

Gloria Nix
Mayor Pro Tem

Tammy Cook
Deputy City Secretary