

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on August 18, 2011 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 Gloria Nix
Councilmember Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Charlie Pyle
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager Kyle Dannhaus, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Administrative Assistant Tammy Cook, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Stacy Hardy, Debbie Gaffey, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Rex Phelps, Public Works Director Doug Baker, Allen Jacobs, Dane Rau, Community Services Director Wesley Brinkmeyer, Jamie Maurer, Angela Hahn, Becky Squyres

Citizens present:

Waldo Moeller, Hank Dawson, Cathy Dawson, Luther Hueske, Perry Thomas, Lu Hollander, Page Michel, Megan McCoy, Clint Kolby

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Frank Wagner, KWHI

- 1. Mayor Tate called the meeting to order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Councilmember Danny Goss**

3. Citizens Comments

Waldo Moeller of Moeller Electric commented on a water leak under his storage building in the Southwest Industrial Park. He believes the railroad and the Hwy 290 work is the cause of this leak. He also commented on the dry water wells in Austin County and asked that the City of Brenham be prepared for these drought conditions.

Mayor Tate introduced Hank Dawson, an 8th Grader at Brenham Junior High, who is working on his Eagle Merit Badge in communication. In attendance with Hank is his mother Cathy Dawson.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Proposed Annexation of Approximately 124.44 Acres of Land Located South of and Adjacent to the South Boundary Line of Southwest Industrial Park, Sections I & II and West of and Including a Portion of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Right of Way into the City Limits

Public Works Director Doug Baker presented this item. Mr. Baker noted no changes were to be presented on this second public hearing. He opened the floor for questions or comments. Waldo Moeller questioned who the electric provider is for this area. Mr. Baker informed him that Bluebonnet Electric is the service provider.

Mr. Baker informed council the first reading to approve this annexation will be presented on the September 15, 2011 Council meeting.

5. Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.5432 per \$100 Valuation for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2011 and Ending September 30, 2012

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Ms. Miller informed council that all changes to the proposed budget have been made and is on file with the City Secretary, Washington County Clerk, and at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library.

A property tax rate of \$0.5432 per \$100 valuation is proposed to fund the FY2011-12 Budget. Of this rate, \$0.3420 will be for maintenance and operations (M&O). The balance of \$0.2012 is for debt service (interest and sinking (I&S)). The I&S rate is being increased by \$0.0390 from \$0.1622 to \$0.2012 to cover transportation projects.

In compliance with the Property Tax Code, a governing body must hold two public hearings to receive citizen comments on a proposed property tax rate.

Mayor Tate opened the floor for citizen comments. Mr. Waldo Moeller commented on the assistance needed for senior citizens within the community.

Mayor Tate announced the first reading of the Ordinance to adopt the tax rate will be during a Regular Council meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. The second reading of the Ordinance and adoption of the tax rate is scheduled for a Special Council meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Tate closed the public hearing.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-11-010 Approving a Railroad Quiet Zone from Kuhn Lane to Burleson Street and Authorizing the Mayor to Submit a Joint Notice of Establishment to the Federal Railroad Administration for the Establishment of a Railroad Quiet Zone from Kuhn Lane to Burleson Street and Authorize the Mayor to Execute any Necessary Documentation

Doug Baker presented this item. Mr. Baker updated Council of the tuff curb installation and the relocation of two concrete driveways completed by the Street Department. He noted the city has complied with all Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations and have gone above and beyond in regards to warning devices. Mr. Baker informed council that signage has not been installed, but will be installed when the Notice of Establishment is completed and mailed to the proper authorities. This Notice of Establishment will be sent to the Federal Railroad Administration, TxDOT, and BNSF Railroad.

Mr. Gene Kruppa, with Befco Engineering, explained the next steps in the process after the Notice of Establishment has been authorized and approved. Mr. Kruppa informed council of a twenty-one (21) day limit that is required between the acceptance of the Notice of Establishment and the commencement of the Quiet Zone. According to the letter, the Quiet Zone does not go into effect until September 30, 2011. This allows the authorities' time to look at the facilities, signage, and improvements that have been made according to federal regulations.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goss and seconded by Councilmember Herring to approve Resolution No. R-11-010 approving a Railroad Quiet Zone from Kuhn Lane to Burleson Street and authorizing the Mayor to submit a joint notice of establishment to the Federal Railroad Administration for the establishment of a Railroad Quiet Zone from Kuhn Lane to Burleson Street 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 Gloria Nix	Yes
Councilmember Andrew Ebel	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Charlie Pyle	Yes
Councilmember Weldon Williams	Yes
Councilmember Danny Goss	Yes

WORK SESSION

7. Presentation of the Third Quarter Report by the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Lu Hollander with the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau presented their 2010-11 third quarter report. Ms. Hollander highlighted monthly statistics, advertisements, and public relations. A complete report was handed out to council members.

8. Presentation of the City of Brenham's Strategic Plan

City Manager Terry Roberts presented this item. Mr. Roberts reminded council of the recent retreat to discuss their strategic objectives. Mr. Roberts' stated that his intent of this presentation was to update council on the PowerPoint presentation and summarize the different components. He stated that the Strategic Objectives that came out in the retreat were grouped into five major categories: Human Resources, City Services, Interagency Cooperation, Economic Development, and Financial.

Mr. Roberts presented a rating sheet to each council member and asked them to rank the sixteen objectives, which were developed through the retreat, in their individual order of highest priority. These rating sheets will then be used to identify the top priorities of the council and City staff can go forward with implementation.

9. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

- City Manager Terry Roberts reported on:
 - Date of Mayor's Bowl – August 26, 2011 at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center
 - TML Annual Conference Registration
 - Senate Bill 100 Update – Work Session to be held on September 1, 2011
 - Congratulations to Chief Financial Officer, Carolyn Miller, for her recent appointment to the Blinn College Board of Trustees
 - Community Service Committee met this morning, discussed outside agency funding
 - September 15, 2011 Council Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m.
 - A Special called Council Meeting will be held on September 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. to vote on the adopted budget

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary

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