

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on May 23, 2013 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Brenham City Hall, Conference Room 2-A, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members present:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix
Councilmember Mary Barnes-Tilley
Councilmember Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Members absent:

None

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager Kyle Dannhaus, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Deputy City Secretary Amanda Klehm, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, and Police Chief Rex Phelps

Citizens present:

Zeb Heckmann, Luther Hueske, Robert Mikeska, and Don Voelter

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Mayor Milton Tate**
- 3. Discussion and Overview of the Interlocal Agreements Between the City of Brenham and Washington County for Animal Control Services, Animal Shelter Services, and Animal Shelter Facility**

Council recommended the following pricing to be charged to the County for Animal Services at the existing shelter:

- \$65.00 per call
- \$175.00 per bite case
- \$103.00 per animal

The following rates are subject to change contingent on the new animal shelter. Council would like to sign an animal services Interlocal agreement with the County for 18 months. When the new shelter is built in the next 18 months to two (2) years, the price will increase per animal to cover the increased cost of maintenance and operations. The new shelter cost will be approximately \$146.00 per animal.

Throughout the discussion, the Councilmembers debated the rate to be charged to adequately cover the costs of the animal shelter. Councilmember Goss stated the City should charge on a per call rate relating to the amount of time it takes to complete the call. City Manager Terry Roberts and Police Chief Rex Phelps explained the costs that were presented have factored in all of the costs on an average basis to incorporate a sufficient charge.

Council would like to have a Resolution presented at the first meeting in June showing their support for the new animal shelter funding. To date, the City does not have confirmation that the County is willing to participate in the new animal shelter facility. Council expressed the need for a deadline for the County to respond regarding their support or lack thereof regarding the new shelter, so the project can proceed forward. The decision of the County will determine if the new shelter will be a regional or city-only shelter.

4. Discussion and Overview of the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County for Fire Protection and Fire Rescue Services

Councilmembers feel that the County should pay their fair share if they want services provided to them by the Fire Department. Councilmember Herring, Councilmember Goss and Mayor Pro Tem Nix feel that the County should be responsible for \$290,000.00 contribution to the Fire Services budget. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley and Councilmember Ebel agree that the County should compromise between the low and high projected numbers for the Fire Services budget.

Councilmember Goss stated the budget should be based on performing services in the City. Goss does not understand why the County should get a break and why the City should be responsible for paying for fire services in the County. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley states that the County contribution to the Fire Services budget should be like the animal shelter and should be calculated based on actual calls and services provided. Councilmember Herring stated negotiations regarding the Fire Services budget have all taken place on the City side.

5. Discussion and Overview of the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County for Library Services at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller stated the current County funding forces the State to view the Library as a City/County library for 35,000 people instead of just for the City with a

population of 17,000. Miller stated if the City accepts any money from the County; the City will have to maintain their City/County accreditation. Miller explained if the City does not accept any money from the County, the Library can go through a three (3) year accreditation to be recognized as a City-only facility, which will allow the City to reduce its staff, hours of operations, and circulations that are currently required due to the population the Library currently serves.

Councilmember Williams stated the County should either contribute their percentage of the budget or nothing at all. Councilmembers agreed the \$30,000.00 contribution from the County is not sufficient and they should be responsible to pay their part to retain the services to their constituents. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley suggested a gradual funding agreement over a period of time. Councilmember Goss questioned Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller regarding the usage percentage. Miller explained the only tracking device the Library has to monitor its usage is the library card holders, which poses approximately a 50/50 split between City and County residents. Miller explained if the County does not want to participate in the Library Interlocal Agreement, the County residents will have to pay to use the Library facility. The amount to be paid by a County resident in this instance has not been determined. Miller estimates the cost around \$25.00 a year.

Councilmembers expressed their frustrations with the County's reluctance to pay for the services provided to County residents. Councilmembers stated the amount the County has been providing to the Library budget only makes up 7% of the budget, which does not adequately contribute to the maintenance and operations of the Library. A majority of the Councilmembers agreed they would be in favor of a gradual funding agreement over a three (3) year period if the County's contributions were working toward the 50% Library budget contribution valued at approximately \$200,000.00.

6. Discussion and Overview of the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County Related to the Operation of and Improvements to Linda Anderson Park

Councilmembers agreed the Interlocal Agreement regarding Linda Anderson Park can stay as is with the County contributing 50% valued at \$35,000.00 for maintenance and operations of the park. No changes or discussion was made on this item.

7. Discussion and Overview of the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Washington County for Jail Services and 9-1-1 Emergency Communication Services

Mayor Tate passed this item since the term is not set to expire until December 31, 2013. Council will discuss this item as the termination date approaches.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Amanda Klehm
Deputy City Secretary