

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

A workshop meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on August 8, 2013 beginning at 1:00 p.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 Andrew Ebel  
Councilmember Danny Goss  
Councilmember Keith Herring  
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley  
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

### Members absent:

None

### Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager Kyle Dannhaus, Deputy City Secretary Amanda Klehm, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Stacy Hardy, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Billy Rich, Gary Jeter, Pam Ruemke, and Grant Lischka

### Citizens present:

Tracey Darden, Paul Kruse, Darlene McClellan, and Clint Kolby

### Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Frank Wagner, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Councilmember Ebel**

**3. Discussion and Overview of Washington County's Proposal to Operate Emergency Communications (as well as EMS and Jail) in Exchange for the City of Brenham Providing Animal Control Services, Animal Shelter Services, Fire Protection and Fire Rescue Services, and Library Services at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library Under a Comprehensive Interlocal Agreement and Potentially Discuss Other Current Interlocal Agreements Between Washington County and the City of Brenham**

Councilmember Barnes-Tilley questioned the status of the library. Mayor Tate stated if the City goes with the County proposal, the City will have to provide library services to the County and cannot be a City only library. Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller stated accreditation kicks in if the City accepts any funding from the County. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley questioned if the City is not receiving any money from the County, but the agreement states will provide for the County, can we be a City-only library for accreditation purposes. Councilmember Williams stated this is a deal breaker because the City cannot build a new library without funding. Councilmember Williams wants the agreement to be changed. Councilmember Goss stated the City can charge, but will have to charge across the board. Mayor Tate stated the new library facility will be a bond issue that will need to be taken to the voters. Councilmember Williams states the fact of what the City pays versus what the County pays is not equal; therefore, the County proposal is a reckoning. Councilmember Williams stated he has spoken with some County residents and they are not opposed to paying a fee for library services. Councilmember Williams stated surrounding counties charge for library cards on the average is \$25.00 a person.

Mayor Pro Tem Nix expressed her concern that everyone sees the County proposal as the City saving \$1 million dollars, but then the City is responsible for animal shelter, library, substation, fire trucks, and everything else. Councilmember Herring states the City resident will have to take on the burden of these projects through taxes. Assistant City Manager Kyle Dannhaus states the City residents will be starting at a lower tax rate if the City accepts the County proposal because the City will have to raise taxes regardless to fund these projects.

Councilmember Ebel questions how long it will take to get IT portion transferred over to County. IT Manager Gary Jeter stated the County will need to hire people and get them trained, will need outside consulting firm to be hired to help set up and they will need to switch purchasing and phone service. Councilmember Goss states there are three entities plugged into and utilizing the system and Communications can stand alone, but the County is using it as an excuse to push off take over date. Councilmember Goss wants to go with the originally proposed City ILAs. Mayor Tate states the County is willing to use the City pay proposal for services in the interim starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. Roberts states the County will begin work on the IT portion once the proposal is signed.

Jeter stated both parties state they want to provide same level of service. Jeter stated Pre-Alerts currently run on City network and radio equipment run through City fiber and infrastructure, so all of this will need to be moved over or the City will need to be compensated. Jeter stated the County currently pays for fiber, but it is not in use and they only have it partially lit up. Jeter explained the County will need to increase their fiber usage and will need more fiber

for redundancy to keep current level of services. Jeter stated the County will have increases in costs and it will take time to get up and running. Jeter estimated this time frame to be one year to be fully running. Mayor Tate questions if the City IT Department could take over Communication staffing and operations until the County gets theirs done. Jeter stated that his department will not turn over routers, switches and other equipment, but they could take over staffing, but it won't work for the County to just slide in and run the City's setup because a lot goes into the transferring of domains, computers, phone systems and the operations. Roberts questioned the major issues to overcome to make the switch in IT for the County. Jeter stated the County will need: appropriate staffing and consultants involved, infrastructure in place (every computer has to be touched), phone and recording system, server and domain controller (New World), and a virtual environment. Jeter stated this is a huge project with a lot of different things going on that will need to take place in phases to maintain the 24 hour services. Jeter explained the earlier the County could start, the better because it could be less than a year if they start before the switch occurs. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley questioned if the City has given the County a written list of everything they must do in order to maintain current level of service. Jeter stated they have not yet, but must create a plan with a consultant, himself, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, and Communications Manager Pam Ruemke. Councilmember Goss questioned besides the alert and radio systems, what else runs through networks because phone system transfers are a matter of money and can be switched off of the City system and fiber easily. Councilmember Barnes-Tilley states she wants to make sure that no service is interrupted if the City accepts the County proposal.

Mayor Pro Tem Nix questioned Gary Jeter if the County is biting off more than they can handle. Mayor Pro Tem Nix questioned if the County has the ability and qualification to run Communications at the current level of service. Jeter stated right now they do not have the ability because the County does not have a preventative or maintenance contract for IT and it will take a lot of money and time to reach across networks and build the infrastructure.

Councilmember Goss questioned will the City dedicate one person to the transfer project with the County. Jeter stated no, just as needed because the firewall needs to be moved and reconfiguration will not take much time, which most the time spent on this project will be his. Mayor Tate suggested the City include reimbursement costs for IT support to the agreement.

Councilmember Barnes-Tilley stated there would need to be changes to the agreement if the City accepts the County proposal, which would include: guarantee current Communications employee jobs for 1 year and is there something that can be put in writing to ensure this occurs. Ruemke stated it is hard to keep Staff now and even harder with the ILA looming. Roberts stated they can put provisions in the agreement and state employees can only be let go on cause.

Councilmember Herring stated there needs to be an addendum to outline exactly what is expected of each party to maintain the current level of service. Roberts explained the current agreement states if a party wants to expand service, they can but not mandated to go above current level of service, but they must maintain the current level of service. Councilmember Goss questioned what costs the City continuously incur after the switch if the County proposal is accepted. Jeter stated the only cost is the City modules with New World. Ruemke stated the New World contract is with the City and cannot be transferred to the County; therefore, City will have

to bill the County as they do now. Ruemke stated she spoke with the FBI and if the County wants to change the name of Communications, then that will need to be approved by the FBI. Dannhaus stated the only continuous cost after the proposed switch as far as Staff can tell is New World contract and the Tower, but they are looking to make sure there are no other hidden costs. Roberts stated the generator maintenance and building lease fee is expected to be reimbursed in the lease agreement by the County. Councilmember Goss questioned the amount to be paid for the building lease. Dannhaus stated Staff does not have steadfast numbers on the building lease and requests Council direction on the numbers to input. Councilmember Ebel stated Commission Fuchs is under the impression that the City will just give them the building lease at no cost. Councilmember Goss requested pricing on the equipment and furnishings in the building lease.

Councilmember Ebel questioned the new established start date for the County if the City agrees to the County's proposal. Mayor Tate stated the new established start date is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned.

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Gloria Greenwade Nix  
Mayor Pro Tem

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Amanda Klehm  
Deputy City Secretary