

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special budget workshop meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on July 20, 2016 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 Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Mary E. Barnes-Tilley
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Members absent:

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, ACM – General Government Ryan Rapelye, ACM-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, ACM - Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Assistant Fire Chief Brian Scheffer, Police Chief Craig Goodman, Director of Community Services Wende Ragonis, Director of Public Utilities Dane Rau, City Engineer Lori Lakatos, Development Services Manager Erik Smith, Kaci Konieczny, Brent Sauble, Debbie Gaffey, Stacy Hardy, Dant Lange, and Trey Gully.

Citizens present:

None

Media Present:

None

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget Discussions

City Manager Terry Roberts welcomed Council and advised that staff is projecting FY17 General Fund revenues to only be slightly higher than FY16 by about \$200,000 or 1.5% with additional property taxes, city sales tax and court fees and fines accounting for the majority of the increase. Roberts explained that sales tax revenues are expected to be slightly higher and utility franchise taxes are expected to be flat compared to FY15. Roberts advised the primary revenue drivers in the General Fund in the FY17 Proposed Budget include stabilized sales tax, modest growth in property valuations, utility franchise tax and utility inter-fund transfers.

Roberts advised Council that staff has focused on four general fund budget priorities:

1. Adding three (3) additional firefighters in FY17 with property tax increase. This priority will have an impact to the General Fund budget of \$185,000; however, it can be accomplished with a \$0.02 increase in the O&M tax rate.
2. Restore funding for street reconstruction program of \$900,000 at \$225,000 over four (4) fiscal years. This priority would require a \$0.0137 increase in the I&S tax rate.
3. Provide funding for capital expenditures to preserve the current level of services to the community and citizens. Resources for funding vehicle/equipment replacements can come from FY16 Above Budget Net Revenues (ABNR) and savings in personnel.
4. Maintain the ninety (90) day reserve policy and five (5) days of reserve of Renovations and Replacements. The proposed FY17 budget has a projected General Fund reserve amount of \$3,884,971 or 108.37 days.

Roberts also advised Council that staff has focused on the following personnel budget priorities:

1. Increase funding for Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) to reduce unfunded liability.
2. Perform a careful review of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and staffing requirements in all areas.
3. Evaluate new personnel requests for the FY17 proposed budget.
4. Maintain Compensation Plan for General Government and Public Safety Employees.
5. Cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all city employees was not funded.
6. Identify changes to fully funded group medical plan to mitigate any premium increases for the City.
7. Continue retiree group medical plan subsidy.

Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented a brief overview of the General Fund budget for FY17. Miller explained in detail the 90-day reserve calculation, capital and personnel additions, capital requests not funded, departmental fund transfers, and franchise payments to the General Fund.

The following departmental budgets were presented to the Council by staff:

- Public Safety
 - Dept 151 – Police
 - Fund 222 – Police Department Grants
 - Fund 225 – Motorcycle/Police Equipment Fund
 - Fund 229 – Criminal Law Enforcement
 - Dept 154 – Animal Control/Shelter
 - Dept 152 – Fire/EOC
 - Fund 221 – Emergency Management Grants
 - Fund 235 – Fire Department Grants
 - Dept 050 – City Communications
- Finance
 - Dept 121 - Administration
 - Dept 123 – Human Resources
 - Dept 133 – Finance/Risk Management
 - Dept 135 – Purchasing/Warehouse
 - Dept 155 – Municipal Court
 - Fund 222 – Court Security/Technology
- Special Revenue Funds
 - Fund 109-110 – Hotel Occupancy Tax
 - Fund 214 – Capital Leases
 - Fund 218 – 2014 Capital Projects
 - Fund 226 – Public Safety Training
 - Fund 227 – FEMA Disaster Relief
 - Fund 232 – Donations Fund
 - Fund 236 – Equipment Fund
 - Fund 237 – Streets/Drainage Improvements
 - Fund 250/252 – BCDC/Capital
 - Fund 290 – Highway 290 Fund
 - Fund 500 – Worker’s Compensation Fund
 - Dept 100 – Community Services Agencies

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

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