

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special budget workshop meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on July 18, 2018 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 Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Susan Cantey
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Keith Herring

Members absent:

Councilmember Charlie Pyle
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Others present:

City Manager James Fisher, ACM-Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, ACM - Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Allwin Barrow, Director of Public Utilities Dane Rau, Director of Development Services/City Engineer Lori Lakatos, Director of Human Resources Susan Nienstedt, IT Manager Kevin Schmidt, Debbie Gaffey and Kaci Konieczny.

Citizens present:

None.

Media Present:

None.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. FY 2018-19 Proposed Budget Discussions**

City Manager James Fisher welcomed Council and advised that the FY19 proposed budget maintains the status quo in terms of public safety, transportation, recreation and government services. Many items, particularly infrastructure projects identified in the capital plan remain unfunded. Mr. Fisher reminded Council that as discussed with Council in May's "Drive to 2025" plans, the alignment of the budget with the updated strategic plan would begin at the City Council Retreat in October and in the early stages of the FY20 Annual Budget.

Fisher advised Council that when putting together the proposed FY19 Budget, staff focused on personnel changes, major sources of General Fund revenue, capital items, FEMA disaster relief, tourism and marketing, and debt projects.

Assistant City Manager – Director of Public Utilities Lowell Ogles advised Council that the FY19 budget assumes no utility rate increases. Ogle explained that his team focused on the following utility budget priorities:

1. Several one-time studies and plans to look at infrastructure, impact fees, water plant capacity, water rates, UV disinfection
2. Wastewater plan permit renewal.
3. Maintaining a reliable and efficient solid waste operation and keeping customer rates affordable.
4. Completion of three storm projects.
5. Planning for \$1.5 Million in debt issuance for the replacement of AC and CI water pipes.
6. Funding a study to review whether a drainage fee is a viable option for making sure the City has fund to address over \$3 Million in future drainage projects.

The following utility departmental budgets were then presented to the Council:

- Electric Fund
 - Dept. 132 – Utility Billing
 - Dept. 160 – Public Utilities
 - Dept. 161 - Electric
- Gas Fund
 - Dept. 162 – Gas
- Water Fund
 - Dept. 163 – Water Treatment
 - Dept. 164 – Water Construction
- Wastewater Fund
 - Dept. 165 – Wastewater Construction
 - Dept. 166 – Wastewater Treatment
- Sanitation Fund
 - Dept. 042 – Transfer Station
 - Dept. 043 – Collection Station
 - Dept. 140 – Recycling Center
 - Dept. 142 – Residential Collection

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

City Secretary



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