

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council and the City of Brenham Planning and Zoning Commission was held on May 23, 2019 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

City of Brenham City Council Members present:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Susan Cantey
Councilmember Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Keith Herring
Councilmember Albert Wright
Councilmember Clint Kolby

Members absent:

None

City of Brenham Planning & Zoning Commission Members present:

M. Keith Behrens – Chairman
Dr. Deanna Alfred – Vice Chairman
Nancy Low
Lynnette Sheffield
Marcus Wamble

Members absent:

Leroy Jefferson
Calvin Kossie

Others present:

City Manager James Fisher, Deputy City Secretary I Kacey Weiss, Melinda Gordon, Caz Muske, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Stephanie Doland, Kim Hodde and Caylee Rocka

Citizens present:

Pat Johnson, Tom Dee Whitehead and JD Young

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; and Josh Blaschke, KWHI

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Mayor Milton Tate**

WORK SESSION

3. **Discussion and Presentation Regarding a Possible Downtown Sidewalk Signage Program for the City of Brenham**

Assistant Director of Development Services Stephanie Doland presented this item. Doland explained that the Development Services Department has been diligently working on revising the existing sign ordinance. Doland stated that in addition to the proposed sign ordinance, City Staff proposes to adopt a Pilot Program for sidewalk signs (commonly known as Sandwich Board Signs) in Downtown.

Doland advised that while sidewalk signs have been said to cater to the charm and authenticity of Downtown Brenham, staff received comments and feedback regarding signs impeding pedestrian traffic, blown down or knocked over, and displayed with an “Open” message after business hours. Doland stated that for the aforementioned reasons, staff proposed a program to place permanent sidewalk signs at key Downtown intersections advertising area businesses with arrows to direct pedestrian traffic.

Doland noted that the sidewalk signs would help pedestrians effectively find businesses in and around the Downtown Square. Doland noted that the Pilot Program would begin with seven signs and following community feedback, more signage could be introduced.

4. **Discussion and Presentation Regarding Revisions to Chapter 21, Signs, of the City of Brenham’s Code of Ordinances**

Assistant Director of Development Services Stephanie Doland presented this item. Doland explained that the Development Services Department has been diligently working on a revision to the existing sign ordinance. Doland stated that at the September 20, 2018 Council meeting staff presented the current sign ordinance and asked for feedback concerning an update. Doland advised that since that time, four public input meetings have been held and multiple workshop presentations have been presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Main Street Board, and City Council.

Doland explained that revisions of the draft amendments to the sign ordinance were shared with the community on January 18th and April 8th. Doland stated that staff met with numerous citizens, businesses, and property owners to discuss the proposed draft and make necessary revisions. Doland advised that however, no new feedback was presented to staff following the release of Draft 2 of the proposed sign ordinance.

Doland stated that following the workshop meeting the following adoption timeline is proposed:

- May 28th: P&Z Commission Recommendation to Council
- June 6th: First Reading at Council
- June 20th: Second and Final Reading at Council

Doland advised that if a business has a prohibited sign, staff would work with the owner to get their sign changed and would allow 120 days to become in compliance.

Pat Johnson, owner of Select Furnishings, addressed Council and members of each board regarding revisions to the sign ordinance. Johnson stated that he currently has a 50 square foot sign and this sign size is too small for people to read while driving down Highway 290. Johnson noted that he would prefer a 64 square foot sign.

Chairman Keith Behrens of the Planning and Zoning Commission questioned Doland regarding the definitions for sign area and sign face. City Manager James Fisher directed staff to provide an exhibit showing the differences.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor

Kacey A. Weiss, TRMC

Deputy City Secretary I



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