

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on June 13, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Brenham Fire Department, Emergency Operations Center, at 101 N. Chappell Hill Street, Brenham, Texas.

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.

Others present:

City Manager James Fisher, City Secretary – Director of Administrative Services Jeana Bellinger, Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Director of Tourism and Marketing Jennifer Eckermann, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Allwin Barrow, Public Works Director Dane Rau, Assistant City Manager of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Development Services Director Stephanie Doland, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Information Technology Manager Kevin Schmidt, Captain Dant Lange, and Strategic Budget Officer Debbie Gaffey.

Citizens present:

None.

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Discussion and Presentation on Fiscal Year 2019-20 Capital Projects and Other FY2019-20 Budget Priorities

City Manager James Fisher welcomed everyone to the first day of FY2019-20 budget discussions. Fisher thanked Strategic Budget Officer Debbie Gaffey for all her hard work in getting this presentation ready for discussion with the Council.

Fisher advised that this meeting would mainly focus on capital projects; however, there would be a few things that staff will be looking for Council direction on as staff prepares for the remaining FY20 budget meetings.

Strategic Budget Officer Debbie Gaffey presented the following FY20 budget information to the City Council:

- Progress report from the October, 2018 Council Retreat
- Progress and update on the recent creation of a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ)
- The City's present financial condition
- The City's future financial condition
 - O&M Funding Challenges
 - Capital Funding Challenges
 - Vehicle/Equipment Replacement
 - Street Rebuild Program
 - Drainage Improvement Program
 - Major Facility Improvements
 - Utility Improvements
 - Sanitation Fund

Gaffey explained that in order to maintain the City's solid financial condition, the Council and staff need to plan and prepare for a change in course to the following:

- Realignment of revenues and expenditures
- Property tax independence through retail development and sales tax growth
- Utility rates that cover utility cost of services
- Privatizing services that are better done by the private sector
- Prudent use of debt for major infrastructure that provides 20 years or more of community benefits
- Equitable exchange of services between the City/County/BISD/Blinn
- Prioritization – Maintaining what we have versus something “new”
- Taking care of our employees – competitive pay and benefits
- Recognizing our fiscal responsibility to our citizens

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

City Secretary



THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK