

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on September 16, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan 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, Deputy City Secretary I Kacey Weiss, Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Assistant City Manager – Director of Public Utilities Lowell Ogle, Comptroller Stacy Hardy, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Strategic Budget Officer Debbie Gaffey, Budget Manager Kaci Konieczny, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, and Captain Dant Lange.

### Citizens present:

None

### 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 Pro Tem Ebel**

### 3. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

## PUBLIC HEARING

### 4. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2019 and Ending September 30, 2020

**This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an estimated \$649,433 (9.64%), and of that amount, \$82,309 is tax revenue to be raised from estimated new property added to the tax roll this year.**

Mayor Tate opened the Public Hearing.

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller explained that the budget is balanced as required by law and is the launching point for implementing the priorities and initiatives derived from the October 2018 Council/Staff Retreat. Miller stated that in this regard, it differs from the FY18-19 Budget which maintained the *status quo* while a new strategic direction for the City was formulated. Miller noted that the budget reflects the City Council policy direction taken, while continuing a strong financial position. Miller advised that the FY20 Proposed Budget for the City of Brenham includes appropriations of operating resources for 30 separate funds and authorizes \$73.0 million in expenditures.

The budget can be broken down as follows:

▪ General Fund (including 8 sub-funds)	\$ 21.7M
▪ Debt Service Fund	2.9
▪ Special Revenue Funds	0.2
▪ Capital Project Funds	7.2
▪ Utility Funds (Electric, Gas, Water, Wastewater, Sanitation, Drainage)	38.4
▪ Internal Service Funds	0.7
▪ Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC)	<u>1.9</u>
Total	\$73.0M

Mayor Tate closed the Public Hearing.

## REGULAR SESSION

### 5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2019 and Ending September 30, 2020

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2019-20 budget has been developed in compliance with the property tax code, local government code, and City Charter. Miller stated that the proposed budget includes appropriations of operating resources for 30 separate funds and authorizes \$73.0 million in expenditures. Miller explained that the proposed budget is on the City’s website and on file with the City Secretary.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Cantey to approve an Ordinance on its first reading Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2019 and Ending September 30, 2020.

Mayor Tate called for a record vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

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

### 6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Ratification of the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2019 and Ending September 30, 2020, which Raises More Revenue from Property Taxes than the Previous Year’s Budget

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that in compliance with the Local Government Code, if a municipal budget raises more property taxes than in the previous year’s budget, City Council must formally ratify a property tax increase. Miller noted that the FY2019-20 budget will raise more total property taxes than last year’s budget by \$649,433 (9.64%), and of that amount \$82,309 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. Miller stated that a vote must be taken to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cantey and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020, which raises more revenue from property taxes than the previous year’s budget.

Mayor Tate called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

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

**7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Levying Taxes for the Tax Year 2019 for the City of Brenham at \$0.5140 per \$100 Valuation**

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that the proposed FY2019-20 Budget includes a tax rate of \$0.5140 per \$100 valuation which has two components: maintenance and operations (M&O) and interest and sinking (I&S). Miller explained that the proposed tax rate of \$0.5140 will allocate \$0.3200 to the General Fund for maintenance and operations and, the balance of \$0.1940 to the Debt Service Fund for interest and sinking.

Miller noted that the City has complied with all of the notices, publications, and public hearings as required by the Tax Code. Miller stated that pursuant to the Tax Code, the vote on the ordinance setting a tax rate that exceeds the effective tax rate must be a record vote, and at least 60 percent of the members of the governing body must vote in favor of the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cantey and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ebel that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5140 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively an 8.26% increase in the tax rate.

Mayor Tate called for a record vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

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

## 8. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager James Fisher reported on the following:

- City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for the Washington County Fair
- The IT Department has begun the migration to Microsoft 365; Council will need to leave their I-pads with the City Secretary for updating

The meeting was adjourned.

*Milton Y. Tate, Jr.*

Mayor

*Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC*

City Secretary



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