

SECTION I. Purpose.

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as “Historic Preservation Ordinance.” The City Council of Brenham, Texas, hereby declares that as a matter of public policy the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of districts and landmarks of historical and cultural importance and significance are necessary to promote the economic, cultural, educational and general welfare of the public. It is recognized that the historic districts and landmarks within the City of Brenham represent the unique confluence of time and place that shaped the identity of generations of citizens, collectively and individually, and produced significant historic, architectural and cultural resources that constitute their heritage; and, therefore, this Ordinance is intended to:

- (a) Protect and enhance the district and landmarks which represent distinctive elements of the City of Brenham’s historic, architectural, and cultural heritage;
- (b) Foster civic pride in the accomplishments of the past and to promote the use of historic landmarks for the culture, prosperity, education and general welfare of the people of the city of Brenham;
- (c) Protect and enhance the City of Brenham’s attractiveness to the community and its visitors, and thereby support and promote business, commerce, and industry, bringing economic benefit to the City and its citizenry;
- (d) Foster and encourage preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of properties within the historic district and landmarks within the city, thereby preventing future blight;
- (e) Stabilize and improve the values of such properties;
- (f) Provide a review process for the continued preservation and appropriate development of the City’s historic resources; and
- (g) To balance the rights of the public which justify preservation of our history and culture, with those of private property owners who own and control property, and are entitled to the reasonable use and return from their assets.
- (h) To provide assistance to property owners and tenants as well as civic organizations concerned with historic preservation.
- (i) To provide assistance to interested property owners with regard to preservation and renovation projects, i.e. tax incentives, low interest loans, design, construction, and pre-inspection consultations.