

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

An emergency meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on March 19, 2020 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

*This Emergency Meeting was held pursuant to the authority provided in Texas Government Code Section 551.045 in that an emergency and/or urgent public necessity exists and immediate action is required by the governing body of the City of Brenham to address the imminent threats to public health and safety associated with the impact of COVID-19 on the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Brenham, Texas.*

### Members present:

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

### Members absent:

None

### Others present:

City Manager James Fisher, City Attorney Cary Bovey and City Secretary – Director of Administrative Services Jeana Bellinger

### Citizens present:

Walter Jackson, Melvin Ehlert, Wende Ragonis, Kirk Hanath, Joy Fuchs, Candice Bullock, Robert Weiss, Sara Gresham and John Elford

### Media Present:

Alyssa Faykus, Brenham Banner Press; and Josh Blaschke, KWHI

## **1. Call Meeting to Order**

**2. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Extension of the Mayoral Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency Related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation.**

Mayor Tate presented this item. Tate explained to the Council that he issued a Mayoral Declaration of Local Disaster on March 19, 2020. Tate noted that the Declaration is allowed by Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code. The Mayor explained that the Declaration only mandated the cancellation of all gatherings with ten (10) or more persons for seven (7) days and extended, by ninety (90) days, the filing or required monthly tax reports and payment of hotel occupancy tax.

City Manager James Fisher explained that the Declaration gave the Mayor the power to enact other things such as curfews, closing food establishments and/or tourist attractions, ingress/egress into the City, closing of sports venues, and other things; however, these would only be done if it became absolutely necessary to protect the health and safety of the citizens. Fisher explained that staff is recommending the Declaration be extended until May 31, 2020 to allow people to plan accordingly for their events instead of having to operate on a day-to-day basis.

Mayor Tate advised that just prior to the Council meeting, Governor Greg Abbot issued an Executive Order related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) preparedness and mitigation and that his Order would supersede the City's Declaration. Tate explained that Executive Order GA08 puts the following in place, statewide, effective 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020 and continues until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020:

- Every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of ten (10) or more people.
- Every person in Texas shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pick-up or delivery options are allowed.
- People shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Schools shall be temporarily closed.

Mayor Tate explained that the Governor's Order does not prohibit people from visiting gas stations, grocery stores, parks, and banks so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Tate also explained that all critical infrastructure would remain operational, domestic travel would remain unrestricted and government entities and businesses would continue providing essential services. Mayor Tate emphasized that for offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to table this item.

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
<b>Councilmember Susan Cantey</b>	<b>No</b>
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Clint Kolby	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

The meeting was adjourned.

*Milton Y. Tate, Jr.*

Mayor

*Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC*

City Secretary



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