

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on March 26, 2020 beginning at 1:00 p.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 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:

Wende Ragonis and Keith Hankins.

### Media Present:

Alyssa Faykus, 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.

**4. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-20-015 Providing for the Continuation of the Mayoral Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency Related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic**

City Manager James Fisher presented this item. Fisher explained that on Thursday, March 19, 2020 Mayor Tate signed a Declaration of Local Disaster, related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) public health emergency. Fisher stated that last week Councilmembers Herring and Kolby met with Washington County Commissioners Fuchs and Bullock and drafted a Resolution revising and extending the Mayoral Declaration until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve Resolution No. R-20-015 providing for the continuation of the Mayoral Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency Related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic with the recommended amendment for the closure of City facilities being added as Section 10 and the current Section 10 being renumbered as Section 11.

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 Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Clint Kolby	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

**5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Amending Chapter 24, Article II, Hotel Occupancy Tax, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Brenham, Texas to Temporarily Modify the Hotel Occupancy Tax Reporting and Payment Schedule**

City Manager James Fisher presented this item. Fisher advised that due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic, local hoteliers have requested that the City Council consider temporarily modifying and extending the deadlines for filing monthly tax reports and payments of local hotel occupancy taxes in order to mitigate some of the negative economic impact on their businesses.

Keith Hankins, owner of Ant Street Inn and Main Street House, addressed Council. Hankins expressed his gratitude to City staff for bringing this proposal to Council. Hankins stated that the help that this proposal would provide is immediate. Hankins asked that Council please approve the Ordinance on its first reading.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cantey and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ebel to approve an Ordinance on its first reading amending Chapter 24, Article II, Hotel Occupancy Tax, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Brenham, Texas to temporarily modify the hotel occupancy tax reporting and payment schedule.

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 Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Clint Kolby	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

## **6. Administrative/Elected Officials Report**

City Manager James Fisher reported on the following:

- Staff has worked with County officials to create a COVID-19 Hotline (1-800-845-8035) that allows people to find out information about resources. People can also directly contact staff at 979-337-7200 for information.
- Staff is working closely with the Utility Billing Department to help people with their utility bills.
- Staff has created a Response and Recovery Team that is taking care of business owner's needs.
- There have been reports that groups of people are gathering in the parks. Staff asks that people please refrain from doing that.
- This will be the last physical Council meeting. Staff is working on a way to have future Council meetings held via video conference or teleconference. The meetings on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> will be held via teleconference.

Councilmember Cantey asked if COVID-19 testing is being done locally. Fisher stated that it is, and all tests are sent to Temple.

Councilmember Herring asked if staff has been checking on the employees that are at home. Fisher advised that staff is checking on employees at least daily.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Milton Y. Tate, Jr.*

Mayor

*Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC*

City Secretary

