

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was conducted virtually via teleconference and/or videoconference on April 2, 2020 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Members present:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr. – On site at City Hall
Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Ebel – Via Videoconference
Councilmember Susan Cantey – Via Videoconference
Councilmember Keith Herring – On site at City Hall
Councilmember Clint Kolby – Via Videoconference
Councilmember Adonna Saunders – Via Videoconference
Councilmember Albert Wright – Via Teleconference

Members absent:

None

Others present:

City Manager James Fisher and City Secretary – Director of Administrative Services
Jeana Bellinger

Citizens present:

There were 52 participants in attendance via teleconference and/or videoconference.

Media Present:

Brenham Banner Press and KWHI

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Statutory Consent Agenda

- 3-a. **Minutes from the March 5, 2020 and March 19, 2020 Regular City Council Meetings, the March 19, 2020 Emergency City Council Meeting and the March 26, 2020 Special City Council Meeting**
- 3-b. **Ordinance No. O-20-005 on Its Second 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**

A motion was made by Councilmember Cantey and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve the Statutory Consent Agenda Item 3-a. with a text correction in the March 5, 2020 minutes (Item 6) as recommended by the City Attorney and Item 3-b. as presented.

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	Absent
Councilmember Susan Cantey	Yes
Councilmember Keith Herring	Yes
Councilmember Clint Kolby	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

REGULAR SESSION

4. **Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-20-016 Providing for the Continuation of the Mayoral Declaration of Local Disaster Due to a Public Health Emergency Related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic**

City Manager James Fisher presented this item. Fisher explained that after further discussion with the County, the Resolution contained in the packet has been revised to include the following items:

- Amended the avoidance of “social gatherings” in groups of ten (10) people or more to asking every citizen to minimize social gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. This would not apply to citizens obtaining essential services.
- Clarified the definition of “essential services” as those listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship.

- Mandates that all services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote work. In instances of essential services, rules for good hygiene, environmental cleanliness and social distancing should be practiced.
- Added the closure of gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios and cosmetology salons.
- Clarified that physical activities (i.e. walking, jogging, fishing, bicycling, etc.) should be done with precautions to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and that all public playgrounds, sports courts, and associated exercise equipment will be closed to the public.

Fisher also advised Council that this revised Resolution extends the Mayoral Declaration of Local Disaster until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herring and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve Resolution No. R-20-016, as amended, providing for the continuation of the Mayoral Declaration of Local Disaster due to a public health emergency related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic through April 30, 2020.

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 Temporarily Authorizing the City Manager, Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to Adopt and Administer Policies and Practices Governing the Operation of the City’s Utility Systems and Associated Services, Said Ordinance Being an Emergency Measure Pursuant to Article III, §§ 17 and 18, of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Brenham, Texas

City Manager James Fisher presented this item. Fisher explained that this ordinance would allow him as the City Manager to manage and make decisions related to the City’s utility system. Fisher stated that these decisions may include implementing a utility payment deferral plan for both commercial and/or residential customers. Fisher stated that the City has already received multiple requests from businesses and citizens requesting assistance with their utility bills. Fisher explained that this Ordinance would allow him to review each request, on a case-by-case basis and work with our Finance team to come up with ways to help our citizens and businesses.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Cantey to approve an Ordinance temporarily authorizing the City Manager, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to adopt and administer policies and practices governing the operation of the City's utility systems and associated services, said Ordinance being an emergency measure pursuant to Article III, §§ 17 and 18, of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Brenham, Texas.

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. Discussion and Update on the City of Brenham's COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Response and Recovery Efforts

City Manager James Fisher advised the Council of the following COVID-19 response and recovery efforts:

- Citizens can continue to call the City at 979-337-7200 with questions related to COVID-19. This number is being answered by a team of seven (7) city employees.
- Susan Cates, Director of Economic Development, is working with local business owners on various ways in which the City can help them during this time.
- The City has approximately 40 employees out due to COVID-19 related issues such as voluntary quarantine due to recent travel, lack of childcare, or immediate family issues.

7. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager James Fisher reported on the following:

- All City offices will be closed on Friday, April 10th for Good Friday
- The next regular City Council meeting will be on April 16th and will be another virtual meeting.
- Crystal Locke, Community Services Specialist, is working on special programs and projects for the upcoming Easter holiday. Since the City's annual Egg Hunt will be canceled due to COVID-19, Crystal is working on putting together 200+ home Easter packages and a sidewalk chalk art competition.

Councilmember Herring asked that everyone planning to attend the April 16th virtual City Council meeting to try and isolate themselves in a quiet room to help cut out the background noise during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

City Secretary



THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK