

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library, Roberta C. Johnson Program Room, at 100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, Brenham, Texas.

### Members Present:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.  
Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby  
Councilmember Shannan Canales  
Councilmember Leah Cook  
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura  
Councilmember Adonna Saunders  
Councilmember Albert Wright

### Members Absent:

None

### City of Brenham Staff present:

City Manager James Fisher, Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Assistant City Manager – Public Services/Utilities Donald Reese, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Director of Development Services Stephanie Doland, Director of Public Utilities Alton Sommerfield, Controller Stacy Hardy, Strategic Budget Officer Debbie Gaffey, Deputy City Secretary Karen Stack, Monique Breaux, Jennifer Hill, Cynthia Longhofer, and Teresa Howell.

### Citizens/Others Present:

None

### Media Present:

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

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

**2. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Submission of Documentation to Receive Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF) and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented this item. Miller advised that under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) provides funding for eligible local governments. The U.S. Treasury manages distribution of these funds to Texas counties and cities with populations above 50,000. Cities serving populations of less than 50,000 are classified as non-entitlement units of local government and will receive funding distributed by the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM). Miller stated that the CLFRF Funding Breakdown for the State of Texas is:

Texas Counties w/Direct U.S. Treasury Payments .....	\$ 5.70 Billion
Texas Cities w/Direct U.S. Treasury Payments .....	\$3.40 Billion
Texas Cities not Receiving Direct U.S. Payments.....	\$1.40 Billion
<b>Total Received by State of Texas.....</b>	<b>\$10.50 Billion</b>

Miller explained that the City of Brenham’s allocation will be based on population of 17,863 and will be broken down as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Payment.....	\$ 2,213,100.20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment.....	\$ 2,213,100.20
<b>Total Allocation.....</b>	<b>\$ 4,426,200.40</b>

Miller stated that in order to receive our first payment through TDEM, an authorized representative (Mayor) must review, sign, and submit the Terms and Conditions document and the Assurances of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kenjura and seconded by Councilmember Canales to approve the submission of documentation to receive funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF) and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

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

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby	Yes
Councilmember Shannan Canales	Yes
Councilmember Leah Cook	Yes
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

## WORK SESSION

### 3. FY2021-22 Proposed Budget Discussions

City Manager James Fisher presented the following FY2021-22 proposed budget information:

- Public Utilities
- Utility Growth
- Electric Fund
  - Consumption Patterns
  - Rate Class Contributions
  - Residential Utility Bill Breakdown - Electric
  - Electric Fund Budget - Overall
  - Proposed New Rates
  - Electric Fund Department Budgets
    - Utility Billing/Customer Service
    - Public Utilities
    - Electric
- Gas Fund
  - Consumption Patterns
  - Rate Class Contributions
  - Residential Utility Bill Breakdown - Gas
  - Gas Fund Budget - Overall
  - Proposed New Rates
  - Gas Fund Department Budget
- Water Fund
  - Consumption Patterns
  - Rate Class Contributions
  - Residential Utility Bill Breakdown - Water
  - Water Fund Budget - Overall
  - Water Fund Rates
  - Water Fund Department Budgets
    - Water Treatment
    - Water Construction
- Wastewater Fund
  - Residential Utility Bill Breakdown – Wastewater
  - Wastewater Fund Budget – Overall
  - Wastewater Fund Rates
  - Wastewater Fund Department Budgets
    - Wastewater Construction
    - Wastewater Treatment
- Sanitation Fund
- Drainage Fund
  - Drainage Fund Budget - Overall

Fisher explained that the FY2021-22 proposed budget includes utility rate increases of:

- Electric: 9.5% (on distribution cost only; not wholesale power costs)
- Gas: 24.7% (on distribution cost only; not supply costs)
- Water: 26.6%

Fisher advised that the Water Fund budget also includes the addition of a monthly minimum charge on irrigation accounts. Fisher further explained that water rates need to be increased to help cover the \$5 Million cost of the repairs to the lake intake structure at Lake Sommerville that was damaged in the 2016 floods and again during Hurricane Harvey. Fisher reminded Council that Lake Sommerville is the city's only water source so the repairs to that facility are required.

After further discussion, the City Council asked that staff do some additional recalculating on the monthly minimum charge for residential irrigation accounts to see if shifting more of the costs to commercial/industrial customers could reduce the proposed rate increases. The City Council also advised staff to provide options to reduce expenditures in the utility funds so that rate increase can be lower than what was proposed.

Fisher advised that staff would prepare additional options for Council to consider and a follow-up budget meeting will be planned as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned.

***Milton Y. Tate, Jr.***

Mayor

***Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC***

City Secretary

