

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, July 29, 2021 beginning at 8:00 a.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 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, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Director of Development Services Stephanie Doland, Director of Public Utilities Alton Sommerfield, Director of Economic Development Susan Cates, Controller Stacy Hardy, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Information Technology Manager Kevin Schmidt, Deputy City Secretary Karen Stack, Monique Breaux, Nancy Stafford, Jennifer Hill and Cynthia Longhofer.

### Citizens/Others Present:

None.

### Media Present:

Alyssa Faykus, Brenham Banner Press; and Mark Whitehead, KWHI

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

## WORK SESSION

### 2. FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget Discussions – Utility Funds

Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller presented the City Council with an option to eliminate or reduce utility fund rate increases.

Miller explained that staff is proposing to reduce the transfers to the General Fund from the Electric Fund by 20%; the Gas Fund by 50%; the Water Fund by 25% and 5% from both the Wastewater and Sanitation Funds. Miller stated that staff is also proposing that the \$200,000.00 engineering study for a secondary water source also be eliminated as there are probably grants that the city can apply for to help pay for this study. Miller reminded Council that the water rate would still need to be increased due to the debt service requirement on the Lake Intake Structure Project.

Miller advised that staff's recommendation to reduce the transfers to the General Fund is a reduction of \$751,444.00 in revenue; therefore, the 12 new positions and the cost-of-living adjustment for all current employees would be eliminated from the FY21-22 budget.

The City Council discussed several options and advised staff to prepare an amended budget that includes the following:

- Only reduce the city's tax rate by \$.01 making the new tax rate \$0.4940.
- Reduce all the proposed utility rate increases by 50%.
- Keep the cost-of-living increase in the budget.
- Fund four (4) positions.

Miller stated that staff would prepare a revised budget as instructed and present the \$0.4940 tax rate for their approval at the August 5, 2021 City Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Milton Y. Tate, Jr.*

Mayor

*Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC*

City Secretary

