

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on August 5, 2021 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 Clint Kolby
Councilmember Shannan Canales
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura
Councilmember Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Albert Wright

Members Absent:

Councilmember Leah Cook

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 Attorney Cary Bovey, Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Director of Development Services Stephanie Doland, Director of Economic Development Susan Cates, Police Captain Lloyd Powell, Interim Fire Chief Rhea Cooper, Controller Stacy Hardy, Strategic Budget Officer Debbie Gaffey, Municipal Court Administrator Tiwana Brown, Librarian Andria Heiges, Deputy City Secretary Karen Stack, Kevin Boggus, Monique Breaux, Erica Warren, Officer Marley Mayo, Mark Pierce, Norma Rodriguez and Angeline Howard

Citizens/Others Present:

Lu Hollander, Fortnightly Club

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 – City Manager James Fisher**

3. **Special Recognitions**
 - **GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**
 - *Eleventh Consecutive Year*
 - **Recognition of Service: Andria Heiges, Library**
 - **Retirement: Norma Rodriguez, Municipal Court**

4. **Citizens Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Statutory Consent Agenda**

- 5-a. **Approve the Minutes from the July 1, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting and the July 14, 2021 Special City Council Meeting**
- 5-b. **Approve a Noise Variance in Connection with a Birthday Party to be Held at Henderson Park from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on August 8, 2021 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**

A motion was made by Councilmember Canales and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve the Statutory Consent Agenda Items 5-a. and 5-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 Clint Kolby	Yes
Councilmember Shannan Canales	Yes
Councilmember Leah Cook	Absent
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

PUBLIC HEARING

6. **Public Hearing, Discussion and Receipt of Input Related to the Proposed Creation of Reinvestment Zone Number 48 Requested by QuestSpecialty Corporation for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on That Certain 16.818 Acres of Land, Generally Located at 2001 East Tom Green Street, Brenham, Texas, Being More Fully Described in Exhibit “A” of the Ordinance Creating Reinvestment Zone 48, and Designating This Property as Qualifying for Tax Phase-In**

Mayor Tate opened the Public Hearing.

Economic Development Director Susan Cates presented this item. Cates said that QuestSpecialty Corporation is a manufacturer of industrial chemical products sold through distributors who resell under private labels. They are located at 2001 E. Tom Green on approximately 16 acres of land. Cates further advised that QuestSpecialty employs 160 people at their Brenham location.

Cates said that QuestSpecialty is expanding production with the purchase of \$750,000 in new equipment to expand their current capacity. They are estimating that 22 new employees will be added and an increase of approximately \$500,000 in inventory is expected to be required to support the expanded capacity.

Cates advised that utilizing the Bureau of Labor Statistics RIMS II Multipliers, the estimated impact of the new jobs in the community is 30.5, and the estimated impact of the additional salaries will be \$1.69 million.

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Tate closed the Public Hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading for the Creation of Reinvestment Zone Number 48 Requested by QuestSpecialty Corporation for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on That Certain 16.818 Acres of Land, Generally Located at 2001 East Tom Green Street, Brenham, Texas, Being More Fully Described in Exhibit “A” of the Ordinance Creating Reinvestment Zone 48, and Designating This Property as Qualifying for Tax Phase-In

Economic Development Director Susan Cates presented this item. Cates advised the ordinance presented to Council would create Reinvestment Zone Number 48 as requested by QuestSpecialty Corporation. The ordinance also designates the zone as qualifying for tax phase-in.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve an ordinance on its first reading for the creation of Reinvestment Zone Number 48 requested by QuestSpecialty Corporation for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on that certain 16.818 acres of land, generally located at 2001 East Tom Green Street, Brenham, Texas, being more fully described in Exhibit “A” of the Ordinance creating Reinvestment Zone 48, and designating this property as qualifying for Tax Phase-In.

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	Absent
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

8. Submission of, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, Voter-Approval Tax Rate and Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.4940 per \$100 Valuation for the 2021 Tax Year, and Take Record Vote on Proposed Tax Rate and Meeting Dates for Final Adoption of Tax Rate by City Council

This item was presented by Assistant City Manager – Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller. Miller explained that the process of developing an annual budget and adopting a property tax rate to support that budget must be accomplished in accordance with Property Tax Code, the Local Government Code, and the City’s Charter.

Miller explained that during the month of July, three Council Budget Workshops were held to review and discuss the proposed FY2021-22 budget. Based on the priorities presented in the workshops, lowering the overall property tax rate by \$0.01 was discussed. The maintenance & operations (M&O) property tax rate will increase from \$0.3200 to \$0.3500 per \$100 valuation, and the interest and sinking (I&S) rate will be reduced by four (4) cents from \$0.1840 to \$0.1440 per \$100 valuation.

Miller advised that the City is proposing to adopt a total tax rate (M&O and I&S) of \$0.4940 for FY2021-22. Because the proposed tax rate exceeds the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, a Public Hearing will be required. Miller further advised that Council must take a vote to place the proposal to adopt the proposed property tax rate on the agendas of future meetings.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Canales that a property tax rate of \$0.4940 per \$100 valuation be considered by the governing body on the agendas of the September 2, 2021 and September 16, 2021 Brenham City Council Meetings.

Mayor Tate called for a **record** 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	Absent
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura	Yes
Councilmember Adonna Saunders	Yes
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Ordinance No. O-21-016 on Its Second Reading Amending Chapter 13, Reserved, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brenham, Texas to Provide for the Historical Preservation, Protection and Enhancement of Districts and Landmarks of Historical and Cultural Importance and Significance

Council passed on this item.

10. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager James Fisher reported on the following:

- August 11th at 6:00 pm there will be a Town Hall Meeting at the Library to discuss the City's Budget.
- The 52nd Annual Fireman's Fiesta will be held on August 14th from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- On August 14th One Brenham United in Prayer will be held at Cub Stadium
- The Aquatic Center will be closed from September 6th through October 3rd for repairs.
- Tom Green Street is undergoing construction that will be completed early next week.
- Governor Abbott has issued a new Executive Order regarding COVID-19. It is being reviewed by staff to determine if any action from the City is required.

Council convened into Executive Session at 1:20 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Section 551.071 Texas Government Code - Consultation with Attorney - Consultation with City Attorney Regarding the Following Pending Litigation/Claims:

- A. City of Brenham v. WTG Gas Marketing, Inc.; Cause No. 37573; 335th Judicial District Court, Washington County, Texas**
- B. Roger R. Robinson v. City of Brenham Housing, City of Brenham Police Department, et al; Civil Action No. Case No. 1:20-CV-1182- LY-ML; United States District Court - Western District of Texas -Austin Division**
- C. Roger R. Robinson v. City of Brenham Housing, City of Brenham Police Department, et al; Civil Action No. Case No. 1:20-CV-1188-LY-ML; United States District Court - Western District of Texas -Austin Division**
- D. Claims Alleged Against the City of Brenham by Ricky Boeker, and Associated Legal Matters**

Executive Session adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

RE-OPEN REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor

Karen Stack

Deputy City Secretary

