

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council and Washington County Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Expo Event Center, 1305 E. Blue Bell Road, Brenham, Texas.

City Councilmembers present:

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

City Councilmembers absent:

Councilmember Adonna Saunders

Washington County Commissioners present:

Judge John Durrenberger
Commissioner Candice Bullock
Commissioner Kirk Hanath
Commissioner Don Koester
Commissioner Dustin Majewski

City Staff present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Director of Finance Stacy Hardy, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts, Kevin Schmidt, Lloyd Powell, and Curtiss Schoen.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Discussion Related to Brenham Independent School District's Formation of a Police Department and Associated Items**

Brenham Independent School District (BISD) Superintendent, Dr. Tylor Chaplin, provided information on BISD's plan to form their own Police Department. Chaplin introduced Assistant Superintendent Clay Gillentine, Director of Safety and Security Jay Huffty and public safety consultant Jeff Yarbrough.

Chaplin advised that he would address the following concerns:

- What led to recommendation to start police department?
 - The Board of Trustees began looking into creating its own police department in 2019;
 - BISD currently contracts with the City for school resource officers and last year BISD increased from 3 officers to 4 officers: 2 at high school, 2 at junior high, and 1 at middle school.
 - BISD's ultimate goal is to have 1 officer at each school.
 - Due to recent school shootings, specifically in Uvalde, the Board decided to move the timeline up.
 - On April 3, 2023 the Board voted to move forward with the creation of a BISD police department.
- Outline the steps already taken by BISD.
 - The Board has approved a budget for the new department which includes \$1.4 million allocated by the State for safety and security.
 - In April a representative from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) visited with BISD to begin the paperwork of starting a new department.
 - Currently working with larger school districts in the area to obtain vehicles for the department. Hope to have vehicles acquired within the next month.
- Discuss the various agreements and memorandums needed by the City and County.
 - Several agreements related to communications, dispatch, and interjurisdictional services have been drafted and sent to the City and County for their review and consideration.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.

Mayor



Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary