

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 beginning at 1:00 PM in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Atwood Kenjura
Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby
Councilmember Shannan Canales
Councilmember Leah Cook
Councilmember Paul LaRoche
Councilmember Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Albert Wright

Members Absent:

None

City of Brenham Staff Present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary/Director of Administrative Services Jeana Bellinger, General Manager of Public Utilities William Bissette, Director of Water/Wastewater Bobby Keene, Director of Finance Stacy Hardy, Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Chief Financial Officer Julie Flagg, Director of HR and Risk Management Susan Nienstedt, Fire Chief Mark Donovan, Assistant Fire Chief David Cella, Development Services Director Stephanie Doland, Robin Hutchens, Kyle Branham, Richard O'Malley, Shawn Bolenbarr, Kim Hodde, Shauna Laauwe, Allen Jacobs, Jerry Saldivar, Jason Lange, JoAnne Hynes, Sarah Hill, Don Clark, Steven Eilert, Gabriel Duran, and Leigh Linden.

Citizens/Others Present:

Louis Murphy, Jonathan Mitchel, Jeff Eckardt, Misty Hodde-Maynard, John Hodde, Mandy Hodde, and Tiffany Holmes.

Media Present:

Joshua Blaschke with KWHI, and Sarah Forsythe with Brenham Banner Press.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags - Councilmember Albert Wright**
- 3. Service Recognitions**

- ◆ **Kim Hodde, Development Services - 35 Years**
- 4. Special Recognitions**
 - ◆ **National IDA Food Safety Award - Blue Bell Creameries, Inc.**
- 5. Special Presentation by City of Brenham Community Services Grant Recipient - Freedom Hill Adult & Teen Challenge**
- 6. Proclamations**
 - ◆ **Safe Digging Month**
 - ◆ **Fair Housing Month**
- 7. Citizen Comments**

Lieutenant Steven Eilert introduced new Officer Gabriel Duran.

CONSENT AGENDA

8. Statutory Consent Agenda

- 8.a. Approve the Minutes from the March 20, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting**
- 8.b. Approve the Use of Seized Narcotic Funds for the City of Brenham Police Department for the Purchase of a Vinyl Vehicle Wrap from Becker Wraps in the Amount of \$2,850.00 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 8.c. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Amended Order Calling a General Election to be Held on May 3, 2025 for the Purpose of Electing One Councilmember for Place 1 – Ward 1; One Councilmember for Place 3 – Ward 3; One Councilmember for Place 5 – At Large; and One Councilmember for Place 6 – At Large, Each for Four (4) Year Terms**

Discutir y posiblemente actuar sobre una orden enmendada que convoca a una elección general que se llevará a cabo el 3 de mayo de 2025 con el propósito de elegir a un concejal para el Lugar 1 - Distrito 1; Un concejal por el Lugar 3 – Distrito 3; un concejal por el Lugar 5 – En general; y un Concejal para el Lugar 6 – En general, cada uno por períodos de cuatro (4) años

- 8.d. Approve an Ordinance on Its First Reading Amending Ordinance No. O-**

25-001 Ordering a Special Election on May 3, 2025 for the Purpose of Submitting to the Qualified Voters of Brenham Certain Proposed Amendments to the Existing Charter of the City of Brenham, Texas

Aprobar una ordenanza en su primera lectura que enmienda la Ordenanza No. O-25-001 que ordena una elección especial el 3 de mayo de 2025 con el propósito de presentar a los votantes calificados de Brenham ciertas enmiendas propuestas a la carta constitucional existente de la Ciudad de Brenham, Texas

A motion was made by Councilmember Wright and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve Consent Agenda Items 8.a through 8.d. as presented.

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

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Canales, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

WORK SESSION

9. Discussion and Presentation of the City of Brenham Fire Department's Annual Report

Chief Mark Donovan presented this item. Donovan discussed the following:

- The Fire Department responded to 1260 emergency incidents in 2024, an increase of 25.37% from 2023
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1710 sets a goal for fire department response times to be 320 seconds (5 minutes and 20 seconds) or less for at least 90% of dispatched incidents. For 2024, the Fire Department had an average response time of 495 seconds (8 minutes and 15 seconds). This response time reflects responses in District 1, District 2, District 3, and the ETJ.
 - District 1 Average Response time: 334 seconds (5 minutes and 34 seconds)
 - District 2 Average Response time: 609 seconds (10 minutes and 9 seconds)
 - District 3 Average Response time: 409 seconds (6 minutes and 49 seconds)

- ETJ Average Response time: 554 seconds (9 minutes and 14 seconds)
- Fire Operations - Incidents
- Major Incidents
- Fire Operations - Accomplishments
- Fire Operations - Maintenance
- Fire Operations - Goals
- Fire Training - Continuing Education and Obtained Certifications
- Fire Training - Accomplishments
- Fire Training - Goals
- Fire Marshal Activities
- Occupancies vs. Inspections - Overall Goal of Risk Reduction
- Fire Marchal - Goals

REGULAR SESSION

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Amending the Rate Tariff Schedules for the City of Brenham Water Services and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Director of Water and Wastewater Bobby Keene presented this item. Keene advised that in November 2024, the City hired NewGen Strategies & Solutions to update the City's water rates. Keene stated that the study was needed in order:

- To determine if existing cost allocations among customer classes still applied or if adjustments needed to be made; and
- To ensure rates were sufficient for covering new debt issuance needed to finance Water Plant Expansion and Groundwater Wells Projects.

Keene stated that the results and recommendations from NewGen's Water Rate Analysis were discussed with the Utilities Subcommittee of City Council on March 20th with no change from the previous year's recommendation. Keene advised that staff is proposing the second of three annual water rate increases to recover higher costs, largely driven by the planned addition of new debt for the Water Plant Expansion and Groundwater Wells Projects.

Keene explained that incorporated into these water rate increases is a change in the Residential, Commercial, Irrigation, Fire Hydrant, and Fire Line Water Rate Class's that would take effect in May 2025. Keene stated that the 2025 study completed by New Gen Strategies and Solutions identified the first changes recommended in 2024 were still in line with the needed funding to cover the new debt for the Water Plant Expansion and Groundwater Wells Project.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Canales to approve an Ordinance on its first reading amending the

rate tariff schedules for the City of Brenham water services and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

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

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Canales, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Purchase of a Bucket Truck Through Sourcewell Contract No 110421-TER for the City of Brenham Electric Department and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Electric Superintendent Jason Lange presented this item. Lange stated that the Electric Department is seeking approval to purchase a 2025 HV507 SFA 4X4, 60' Bucket Truck through Sourcewell, a local government purchasing cooperative. Lange advised that this unit will replace Unit 149, a 2013 International 60' bucket truck. Lange advised that the sale of the 2013 International will recoup some of the cost of the new truck.

Lange explained that due to ongoing delays in manufacturing, the digger truck originally budgeted for purchase this year has been delayed until next year. Lange stated that available to the city at this time is a 2025, 60' bucket truck, previously scheduled to purchase next year. Lange stated that after discussions with Finance staff, it was agreed that proceeding with the purchase of the bucket truck this year and moving the digger truck to the next year would benefit the Electric Department with delivery time.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve the purchase of a bucket truck through Sourcewell Contract No 110421-TER, in the amount of \$324,350.00, for the City of Brenham Electric Department and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

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

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Canales, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: None

12. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

Mayor Atwood C. Kenjura reported on the following item:

- Governor Abbott recognized the City of Brenham as a Texas Tourism Friendly Town

City Manager Carolyn Miller reported on the following items:

- April 3rd - Faith Mission 40th Anniversary Celebration 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- April 11th - Brenham Fire Department Fish Fry
- April 17th - Regular City Council Meeting

Director of Public Works Dane Rau reported on the following:

- Higgins Branch Drainage Project is complete
- Jefferson and Hogg Branch Drainage Projects are nearing completion
- S. Baylor, Tom Dee/Tom Green, Commerce/Dark St, and Burleson low water crossing drainage projects all to begin in the coming months
- S. Austin St from Stone to Mansfield St is currently being resurfaced

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 2:14 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. Section 551.072, Texas Government Code - Deliberation Regarding Real Property - Discussion Regarding the Purchase, Exchange and/or Acquisition of Real Property for City of Brenham Sanitary Sewer Improvements and Facilities

Executive Session adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

ADJOURN

Atwood C. Kenjura

Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

