

Brenham City Council Minutes

A regular meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, May 15, 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 Leah Cook
Councilmember Paul LaRoche
Councilmember Albert Wright
Councilmember Steve Soman

Members Absent:

Councilmember Adonna Saunders

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 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, Police Chief David Gott, Development Services Director Stephanie Doland, Economic & Community Development Director Teresa Rosales, Director of Tourism & Marketing Jennifer Eckermann, Robin Hutchens, Shawn Bolenbarr, Shauna Laauwe, Leigh Linden, Richard O'Malley, Steven Eilert, Terrence Johnson, Kevin Boggus, Nancy Joiner, Mark Pierce, Tammy Murphy, and Lu Hollander.

Citizens/Others Present:

Rayman Blanchard, Lea Bartay, Doug Baker, Margie Young, Sherry Harbor, Carson Campbell, Eric Berg, Shelby Smith, Dave Bayless, Eilish Barker, Courtney Schmidt, Alan Lehmann, Michelle Becerra, Mary Soman, Cole Wagner, Kelcie LaRoche, Elliot, William Kramer, Cory Cook, Sherrie Blanchard, Phyllis Glasscock, Sue Anderson, Susan Myers, Debbie Schmitz, Angela Powers, William Atwood, Kelli Atwood, Jose Canales, Linda Pipes, Soman Abraham, Timm Webb, Annette Wagner, Rocky LaRoche, Sandie Kinat, Brent Nebbalek, Christine Giese, and Barbara Archer.

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 - Mayor Atwood Kenjura**
3. **Administer Oaths of Office to Elected Officials and Issue Certificates of Election for Council Position:**
 - ◆ **Place 1 - Ward 1 (4-Year Term): Steve Soman**
 - ◆ **Place 3 - Ward 3 (4-Year Term): Dr. Paul F. LaRoche, III**
 - ◆ **Place 5 - At Large (4-Year Term): Clint T. Kolby**
 - ◆ **Place 6 - At Large (4-Year Term): Leah Cook**
4. **Retirement Recognition - Jennifer Eckermann, Tourism & Marketing**
5. **Special Presentation by the City of Brenham Community Services Grant Recipient - Brenham Next**
6. **Citizen Comments**

Sherry Harbor addressed City Council expressing her concern over the parklet in downtown. Harbor requested that the City terminate the contract and not continue going through with the parklet since it is not complete and has passed the completion deadline.

Doug Baker addressed City Council asking that the City work with TXDOT to resolve the timing of the signal light at the intersection of Westwood Lane and Highway 290 West. Baker expressed concerns about how the traffic is now backing up onto Highway 290.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Statutory Consent Agenda

7.a. Approve the Minutes from the May 1, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Wright and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.a.

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

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

Soman

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Saunders

WORK SESSION

8. Presentation and Discussion on Pending Public Finance Legislation

Chief Financial Officer Julie Flagg presented this item. Flagg advised that HB 19 is pending legislation and could limit the City's ability to issue Certificates of Obligations (COs).

- If passed, HB19 will be effective September 1, 2025
- Limits municipality's ability to issue Certificate of Obligation (CO)
- CO's can no longer be paid from I&S tax rate/Debt Service Fund
- To use I&S tax rate, must issue General Obligation Bonds
- Lowers the threshold to protest issuance of CO's to 2% of qualified voters
- Limits annual debt service to 20% of the average annual property tax collection for the three preceding fiscal years
 - Applies to debt issued after September 1, 2025
 - For Brenham, this is a cap of approximately \$2 million in new annual debt service
 - The cap includes self-supporting debt (water and wastewater debt)
 - If we have to lower I&S tax rate in FY27, this will also lower the dollar amount of the cap

Flagg also explained that HB 19 would have an impact on drainage projects, the General Fund, and Utilities. Flagg stated that in order to safeguard the City's financial position, if HB 19 passes, City Council may need to consider passing a Resolution of Intent to Issue Certificates of Obligation prior to September 1, 2025. The COs would be for:

- \$1.52M for City portion of grant funded drainage projects that are in progress
- \$4M for fire trucks that have already been ordered
- \$1M for remodel of Fire Station No. 1
- \$2M for future street reconstruction

Flagg advised that she would keep an eye on HB 19 and update the City Council if the bill passes. Flagg also reiterated that passing a Resolution of intent would not require the City to issue the COs.

REGULAR SESSION

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-25-017 Authorizing the Acceptance of Public Infrastructure Improvements for the Saeger Street Right-of-Way adjacent to the Wilkins Valley Subdivision

Director of Development Services Stephanie Doland presented this item. Wilkins Valley is a residential neighborhood located northwest of the intersection of Jefferson Street and North Saeger Street. Doland explained that a participation agreement between Clayton Collier and the City of Brenham was approved by Council in January 2025 that detailed that Collier would construct a 41-foot section of pavement for Saeger Street with the City reimbursing Collier for the cost of oversizing the street from a 31-foot wide concrete roadway (local street size) to a 41-foot wide concrete roadway (collector street size).

Doland stated that Collier has completed the public infrastructure improvements valued at \$275,700.00 for the Phase 1 segment of Saeger Street and an infrastructure acceptance inspection was completed. Doland stated that the recommended infrastructure acceptance is right-of-way paving for the collector roadway as well as adjacent storm sewer improvements.

A motion was made by Councilmember LaRoche and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby to approve Resolution No. R-25-017 authorizing the acceptance of public infrastructure improvements for the Saeger Street Right-of-Way adjacent to the Wilkins Valley Subdivision.

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

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

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Saunders

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

General Manager of Public Utilities William Bissette presented this item. Bissette explained that this Ordinance is amended due to an oversight in the original rate calculation. Bissette advised that a review identified an error requiring correction and reconsideration to ensure accuracy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wright and seconded by Councilmember Cook to approve an Ordinance on its first reading amending the rate tariff schedules for the City of Brenham water utility 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 Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Wright, Councilmember Soman

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Saunders

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Acceptance of a Donation from The Fortnightly Club for the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Librarian Tammy Murphy presented this item. Murphy stated that the Fortnightly Club of Brenham is presenting the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library a check in the amount of \$37,000.00. Murphy explained that this money was raised through fund-raising efforts that included book sales and donations from the community. Murphy stated that the club works extremely hard every year to support the Library, and she is honored to receive the donation.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Cook to accept a donation from The Fortnightly Club for the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library in the amount of \$37,000.00 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 Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Wright, Councilmember Soman

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Saunders

12. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Professional Services Agreement Between

the City of Brenham and Michael Baker International Inc. Related to Engineering and Design Services for the Extension of Aviation Way at the City of Brenham Municipal Airport and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Interim Airport Manager Jim Halley presented this item. Halley explained that in accordance with the Brenham Airport Master Plan, we have begun preparations to use our IJJA AIG allocation to complete the design and construction of an extension to Aviation Way and general civil site preparations to allow for future hangar construction. Halley explained that RFQ-25-006 was issued to select a consultant to design an airport improvement project with Michael Baker International, Inc. being chosen by an evaluation committee.

Halley advised that an independent fee estimate was conducted which determined the fee to be fair, reasonable, and appropriate. Halley stated that staff recommends approval of the proposed agreement with Michael Baker International Inc., in the amount of \$248,400 with a local match portion of the design services being \$25,180 (10%). Halley stated that if approved by Council, staff will continue working with TXDOT Aviation to execute a grant for the aforementioned Agreement. Halley stated that following approval by TXDOT Commission and award of the grant, staff and Michael Baker International Inc, will proceed with the construction design scope of work on a reimbursement basis with TXDOT Aviation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Soman and seconded by Councilmember Cook to approve a professional services agreement between the City of Brenham and Michael Baker International Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$248,400.00, related to engineering and design services for the extension of Aviation Way at the City of Brenham Municipal Airport 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 Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Wright, Councilmember Soman

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Saunders

13. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Carolyn Miller reported on the following:

- June 9th - 5-Year Capital Plan
- June 12th - Regular City Council Meeting
- June 14th - June Tenth Parade

Main Street Manager Leigh Linden reported on the following:

- June 21st - Green Team Cleanup 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

Atwood C. Kenjura

Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

City Secretary

