

Brenham City Council Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, August 7, 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 Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Albert Wright

Members Absent:

Councilmember Steve Soman

City of Brenham Staff Present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Attorney Cary Bovey, Assistant City Manager Megan Mainer, City Secretary/Director of Administrative Services Jeana Bellinger, General Manager of Public Utilities William Bissette, Director of Gas and Utilities Shawn Bolenbarr, 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, Interim Police Chief David Gott, Development Services Director Stephanie Doland, Economic & Community Development Director Teresa Rosales, Director of Engineering Services Richard O'Malley, Kyle Branham, Alex Dill, Ande Bostain, Joe Moore, Stephen Scheffer, Jerry Saldivar, Josh Daniels, Mason Patranella, Jordan LaBeth, Debbie Gaffey, Tammy Murphy, Lt. Steven Eilert, Stephen Draehn, Leigh Linden

Citizens/Others Present:

Danny Roberts, Melanie Roberts, Rick Steele, Tara Steele, and Alan Lehmann

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 Pro Tem Clint Kolby**
- 3. Service Recognitions**

◆ **Ande Bostain, Gas Department - 40 Years**

4. Special Presentation by the City of Brenham Community Services Grant Recipient, Gather in Grace

5. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Statutory Consent Agenda

The Statutory Consent Agenda includes non-controversial and routine items that Council may act on with one single vote. A councilmember may pull any item from the Consent Agenda in order that the Council discuss and act upon it individually as part of the Regular Agenda.

6.a. Approve the Minutes from the July 17, 2025 Regular Council Meeting and July 21, 2025 Special / Workshop Council Meeting

6.b. Approve Ordinance No. O-25-011 on Its Second Reading Amending Chapter 25, Section 25-20 Relating to School Zone Time Change and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

6.c. Approve an Audit Engagement Letter for Seidel Schroeder to Perform an Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

A motion was made by Councilmember Wright and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a. through 6.c.

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

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

REGULAR SESSION

7. Submission of, Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, Voter-Approval Tax Rate, and Proposed Tax Rate for the 2025 Tax Year, and Take Record Vote on Proposed Tax Rate and Meeting Date for Final Adoption of Tax Rate

Chief Financial Officer Julie Flagg presented this item. Flagg explained that the City is proposing to adopt a tax rate of \$0.4676 per \$100 valuation, which is **lower** than the No-New-Revenue rate. The maintenance & operations (M&O) property tax rate will be set at the No-New-Revenue M&O rate of \$0.3256 per \$100 valuation; and the interest and sinking (I&S) rate will remain unchanged at \$0.1420 per \$100 valuation.

Flagg advised that the proposed rate is also less than the No-New-Revenue Rate of \$0.4691, so a public hearing is not required before the tax rate is adopted.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wright and seconded by Councilmember Saunders that a property tax rate of \$0.4676 per \$100 valuation be considered by the governing body on the agendas of the September 4, 2025 and September 18, 2025 Brenham City Council meetings.

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

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Ratification of the Acceptance of a Donation in the Amount of \$100,050.93 from American Fidelity Assurance Company in the Name of Pierre Roberts and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Librarian Tammy Murphy presented this item. Murphy stated that the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library received a check in the amount of \$100,050.93 from Fidelity Assurance Company as the beneficiary of the life insurance policy provided by Pierre Roberts, Jr. Murphy stated that the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library is honored to receive this donation in recognition of the Roberts family's dedication and love for the library.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cook and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve the ratification of the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$100,050.93 to the Nancy Carol Memorial Library from the life insurance proceeds from American Fidelity Assurance Company in the name of Pierre Roberts 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, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading to Repeal Ordinance No. O-24-009 Relating to the Non-Exclusive Franchise Granted to Waste Solutions USA, LLC to Operate a Roll-Off Container Service for Residents, Businesses, and Industries Inside Brenham City Limits

City Secretary Jeana Bellinger presented this item. Bellinger explained that Waste Solution USA has requested that their sanitation franchise agreement with the City be revoked as they have not provided any roll-off dumpster service in Brenham since obtaining the franchise in April 2024.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve an Ordinance on its first reading to repeal Ordinance No. O-24-009 relating to the Non-Exclusive Franchise granted to Waste Solutions USA, LLC to operate a roll-off container service for residents, businesses, and industries inside Brenham city limits.

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

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Renewal with Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for the City of Brenham's General Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Errors and Omissions Liability, Public Official Liability, Mobile Equipment, Airport Liability, Property, Auto Liability and Physical Damage, Crime, and Worker's Compensation Coverage for the City of Brenham for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Director of HR & Risk Management Susan Nienstedt presented this item. Nienstedt stated that as a member of the TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) the City benefits from the mission statement of the Pool which provides a stable source of risk financing and rates. Local, state, national and global conditions, such as inflation, supply chain issues, natural disasters, and reinsurance costs impact our rates. Despite claims and cost pressures, TMLIRP is able to provide comparable rates to the commercial insurance market and their competitors.

Nienstedt explained that the following factors contribute to the City's \$124,982 annual increase in premiums:

- An increase in liability lines of coverage is due in part to increased inflation costs for automobile repairs, and higher claim values. The general liability experience modifier will decrease from 1.01 to .91. Experience modifier calculations are based on a state-adopted formula comparing expected losses to actual losses over the previous three years. Our liability premium increased \$19,657.
- Property coverage includes real and personal property, mobile equipment, and crime coverage. Increases include the application of an inflationary factor on the scheduled property values due to the continued rise in costs of materials and labor for reconstruction. In the past five years, we have experienced a low number of property claims, and this year it was determined that an increase in our property deductible from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per property damage occurrence would be beneficial. Our property premium increased \$23,211.
- Workers' Compensation rates for the categories of Street and Fire employees will see a decrease in the rate, and all other categories will remain the same. The City's experience modifier for workers' compensation is increasing from .30 to .44 based on loss history over the previous three years. Our workers' compensation premium increased \$82,114.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Cook to approve the renewal with Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for the City of Brenham's General Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Public Official Liability, Mobile Equipment, Airport Liability, Property, Auto Liability and Physical Damage, Crime, and Theft and Worker's Compensation Coverage for the City of Brenham for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 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, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Agreement Between the City of Brenham and AJR Media Group Related to Advertising for the City of Brenham's Tourism and Marketing Department (Visit Brenham DMO) and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Assistant City Manager Megan Mainer presented this item. Mainer explained that AJR Media Group represents the state travel publications, several of which are part of the Visit Brenham marketing plan for FY2026. The marketing plan includes advertising with several magazines and travel guides. Mainer explained that overall, costs associated with advertising with AJR Media Group have decreased by \$296.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember LaRoche and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve an agreement between the City of Brenham and AJR Media Group, in the amount of \$56,894.86, related to advertising for the City of Brenham's Tourism and Marketing Department (Visit Brenham DMO) 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, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

12. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Madden Media Related to Digital Advertising for the City of Brenham's Tourism and Marketing Department (Visit Brenham DMO) and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Assistant City Manager Megan Mainer presented this item. Mainer stated that Visit Brenham DMO has worked with Madden Media to develop a proposal for digital marketing for FY2026, with the objectives of increasing brand awareness and overnight visitation. Mainer stated that Madden will help the City accomplish various digital marketing goals and that, overall the costs associated with advertising with Madden Media has only increased slightly by \$120.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kolby and seconded by Councilmember

Saunders to approve an agreement between the City of Brenham and Madden Media, in the amount of \$99,840.00, related to digital advertising for the City of Brenham's Tourism and Marketing Department (Visit Brenham DMO) 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, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

13. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Agreement with CR Systems, Inc. for Roof Renovations at the Barnhill Center Through The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Contract No. 24060 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

The City Council passed on this item. No action was taken.

14. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Carolyn Miller reported on the following:

- August 14: Chamber Tailgate at Silverwings
- August 17: Pilot Club Celebration from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- August 18: Swearing in the new Police Chief at 9:00 a.m.
- August 21: Next City Council meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RE-OPEN REGULAR SESSION

16. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Purchase, Exchange, and/or Acquisition

of Real Property and Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate, Approve and Execute a Contract for the Acquisition of Real Property for the City of Brenham Electric Department Improvements and Facilities

A motion was made by Councilmember Cook and seconded by Councilmember Kolby to approve the purchase, exchange, and/or acquisition of real property and authorize the City Manager to negotiate, approve and execute a contract for the acquisition of real property for the City of Brenham Electric Department improvements and facilities.

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

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

ADJOURN

Atwood C. Kenjura

Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

City Secretary

