

Brenham City Council Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026 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 Paul LaRoche
Councilmember Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Steve Soman
Councilmember Albert Wright

Members Absent:

Councilmember Leah Cook

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 Water and Wastewater Jerry Saldivar, 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, Police Chief Gary Boshears, Development Services Director Stephanie Doland, Economic & Community Development Director Teresa Rosales, Kyle Branham, Gabriela Trejo, David Cella, Steven Loving, Lauren Shulze, Nancy Stafford, Kevin Schmidt, Rolando Arroyo, Kavi Chandra, Leigh Linden, Steven Eilert, Joanne Hynes, Stephen Draehn, Cynthia Longhofer, and Andrea Carver

Citizens/Others Present:

James Whatley, Rebecca Rose, Heath Grogro, Eric Morey, James Corbett, Rory Powers, Melissa Sueneau, Mary Thornhill, Kathryn Standley, Carrie Gilbert, Amy Rupp, Lynn Garris, Mary Ellen Arbuckle, Karen Wilborn, Mark Schulte, Charles Moser, JR Johnson, Hugh Jackson, John Wick, Allison Boone, David Geicke, Linda Pollard, Daniel Nowak, Lucy Kildow, Yvonne Drinkard, Melissa Bosse, James Loesch, Jeanette Loesch, Dana Mikeska, Hanna Hahn, Allison Keenum, Laura Mayorsa, Kristi Stegant, Candice Bullock, Carrie Marmol, Dustin Majewski, Kirk Hanath, Judge Durrenberger, Kelsey Hart, Taylor Ware, Nick Hargel, Tiffany Howard, Nick Jordan, Wesley Brinkmeyer, Kyle Merten, Will Holford, Chris Graham, Kelly Richardson, Cathrine Jenkins, Olivia Bargsteadte, Don Rothermel, Ellen Pelletier, Barbara Kregsin, Ken Miller, Leesa Donaho, Charlotte Hoover, Cindy McAllister, Craig Dorsome, Justin Margist, Vicki Ignasiak, Linda Bessmer, Julia Wellman, Keith Lackmann, Sharon Boswell,

Theresa Byers, Linda Broadway, Stephanie Wehring, Sean Henson, Josh Johnson, Mark Becerra, Melissa McDonell, Charlotte Laroche, Paige Keaton, Taylor Farmer, Steve Sefeik, Samantha Medre, Sofia Barboza, Renicko Lindquist, Kathryn Schroeder, Kathleen O'Brien, Jessica Beemer, Kenneth Farmer, Alex Knight, Janice Phillips, Bob Sineltar, Dianne Sineltar, Mae Mabrey, Robert Mabrey, Christa Babine, Phillip Lafer, Hayward, Caitlin Glenn, Paula Whitaker, Kevan Copelin, Megan Runge, James Smith, Ainsley Allred, Carlton Allerd, Muriel Brisson Jackson, Bruce McCaskill, Donna McCaskill, Jody Schulz, Rob Murley, Debbie Rothermel, Brian Herzog, Cori Herzog, Tim Krueger, Paul Gela, Jenny Tobin, David Seifert, Torrey Coffey, Billie Jean Murphy and Allan Oberrender

Media Present:

Jason May, Brenham Banner Press, and Josh Blaschke, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags — Councilmember Adonna Saunders**
- 3. Service Recognitions**
 - **Sean Church, Maintenance Department — 15 Years**
 - **David Drinkard, IT Department — 5 Years**
 - **Ryan Swor, Fire Department — 10 Years**
 - **Tara Wellmann, Accounting — 10 Years**
- 4. Special Introductions**
 - **Scott Robinson, Wastewater Treatment Superintendent**
 - **Kyle Moudry, Water Treatment Superintendent**

5. Citizen Comments

No citizen comments were heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Statutory Consent Agenda

- 6.a. Approve the Minutes from the December 4, 2025 and December 18, 2025**

Regular City Council Meetings

- 6.b. Approve Ordinance No. O-26-001 on Its Second Reading for the Creation of Reinvestment Zone No. 54 Requested by Brenham Main Street Holdings, LLC for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on that property located at 207/209 Main Street, Brenham, Texas, Being More Fully Described in Exhibit 'A' of the Ordinance Creating Reinvestment Zone No. 54, and Designating This Property as Qualifying for Tax Phase-In and authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 6.c. Approve a Request from the Washington County Appraisal District to Retain Accumulated Surplus Funds in the Amount of \$310,870.40, the City of Brenham's Portion Being \$40,521.96, and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 6.d. Approve the Purchase Public Safety Equipment from Silsbee Ford Through The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Contract No. 240902 in the Amount of \$62,288.01 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**
- 6.e. Approve the Purchase of Five (5) Additional User Licenses for the City of Brenham Police Department's Third Party Data Integration Software from Axon Enterprise, Inc., in the Amount of \$10,987.10 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.e.

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

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

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Cook

WORK SESSION

7. Presentation and Discussion on the FY2024-25 Financial Reports

Julie Flagg, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item. Flagg provided financial performance reports for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Flagg explained that the General Fund (excluding sub-funds) and the six major utility funds would be

presented on a budget basis, which would differ from the audited financial statements. Electric and Gas Funds would be presented without the impact of wholesale power and gas commodity costs, which are recovered through pass-thru revenue.

Flagg then presented the FY2024-25 financial report that included:

- General Fund Highlights: FY25 revenues were \$21,718,000.00 or 99.95% of the amended budget, and were up 6.6% over the previous year. Expenditures were \$22,874,000.00, or 2% below budget and increased just 1.7% year over year. Based on FY25 expenditures, days in fund balance as of September 30, 2025 was 134 days, which is well above the minimum requirement of 95 days.
- Utility Fund Highlights: The Electric Fund, Wastewater Fund and Sanitation Fund all performed better than budget. The Gas Fund, Water Fund and Drainage Fund missed the budgeted net revenue by less than \$9,000.00.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ASSOCIATED ACTION ITEM

8. Public Hearing, Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance on Its First Reading for the Creation of Reinvestment Zone Number 55 Requested by CGG Services (U.S.) Inc., for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on Property Generally Located at 2602 Longwood Drive, Brenham, Texas, Being More Fully Described in Exhibit "A" of the Ordinance Creating Reinvestment Zone Number 55, and Designating This Property as Qualifying for Tax Phase-In

Teresa Rosales, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented this item. Rosales explained that CGG Services (U.S.) Inc., a geophysical surveying and mapping company, has chosen Brenham as the new home for their Viridien Americas hub. The project will consist of an administration building and up to three data center buildings designed for decades of growth. Rosales explained that the project will utilize advanced full immersion cooling. The project will create 26 jobs at an average annual wage of \$90,000.00. The total capital investment is expected to be over \$100,000,000.00 at full build out in 2028. Rosales then introduced James Whatley with Viridien. Whatley provided the City Council with a presentation about their company and the project:

- Who Viridien is:
 - Worldwide company that has been in business for over 90 years; Houston has been their hub for over 50 years.
 - Producer of industry leading data and images of the earth and its sub-surfaces, mainly for the oil and gas industry.
 - A technology company with highly specialized computer facilities and teams of geoscientists and geophysicists.
- Brenham's HUB design:
 - Specialized, high performance computing, mainly to produce images for the oil and gas industry

- Small footprint; approximately 20 acres
- Newly dedicated power distribution, fully paid for by Viridien, and independent from the municipal grid
- Closed loop cooling technology - resulting in no water consumed to cool the site
- Built in location set aside and zoned for industrial usage south of Hwy 290, away from downtown and within the City's noise ordinance limits
- Why Brenham:
 - Stable environment, away from hurricanes
 - Between Austin and Houston, ensuring easy access and network connectivity
 - Well established community with a developing industrial park
 - A supportive power provider with direct and independent access to power
 - Local access to skilled resources (Blinn College)

Mayor Kenjura opened the public hearing at 1:30 p.m.

Several citizens addressed the City Council with their concerns about the project and requested that the City Council vote no on the tax incentives.

Mayor Kenjura closed the public hearing at 3:12 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve an Ordinance on its first reading for the creation of Reinvestment Zone No. 55 requested by CGG Services (U.S.) Inc., for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on that certain property located at 2602 Longwood Drive, Brenham, Texas, being more fully described in Exhibit "A" of the Ordinance creating Reinvestment Zone No. 55, and designating this property as qualifying for Tax Phase-In.

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

Yes: None

No: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

Absent: Councilmember Cook

REGULAR SESSION

9. **Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-26-001 Adopting a Commercial Tax Phase-In Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Brenham Main Street Holdings, LLC and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any**

Necessary Documentation

Teresa Rosales, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented this item. Rosales explained that Brenham Main Street Holdings, LLC, would like to completely refurbish the second floor of 207/209 Main Street with the goal of moving Moorman/Tate Law Firm from the first floor. The owner has hired an architectural firm and will be modernizing the space with updated electrical systems, HVAC improvements, energy-efficient lighting and more, while maintaining the building's historic character. Rosales stated that the total capital investment is estimated at \$2,000,000.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember LaRoche and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby to approve resolution No. R-26-001 adopting a Commercial Tax Phase-In Agreement between the City of Brenham and Brenham Main Street Holdings, LLC 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 LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Cook

10. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon a Proposal from EMPACT Engineering, LLC for Long-Term Fiber Study and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

This item was passed. No action was taken.

11. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Change Order No. 2 to the Contract Between the City of Brenham and Hydro Resources-Mid Continent, Inc. Related to the Groundwater Supply - Phase 1, Project No. 63C-22C, and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Shawn Bolenbarr, Director of Municipal Gas & Utility Services, presented this item. Bolenbarr explained that on October 17, 2024, the City Council awarded the Groundwater Supply-Phase 1 Project to Hydro Resources-Mid Continent, Inc. for a total cost of \$1,864,560.00 and in April Council approved a change order changing the project contract amount to \$1,869,198.00.

Bolenbarr stated that this Change Order is related to the adjustments needed to

the casing and screening quantities for the final well-casing design per the Hydrologist's (Rockfish Aquifer Imaging, LLC) recommendation. This Change Order is for \$62,410.00 will increase the total contract amount to \$1,931,608.00. In addition, the Change Order also adjusts the final completion date from July 9, 2025, to May 9, 2026.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve Change Order No. 2, to the contract between the City of Brenham and Hydro Resources-Mid Continent, Inc. related to the Groundwater Supply - Phase 1, Project No. 63C-22C, in the amount of \$62,410.00, 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 LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Soman, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Cook

12. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Carolyn Miller reported on the following:

- Monday, January 19th, City offices will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- The next City Council meeting will be on Thursday, January 22nd, at 1:00 p.m.
- The 2026 Chamber Banquet will be Tuesday, January 27th, at the Fireman's Training Center

ADJOURN

Atwood C. Kenjura

Atwood C. Kenjura
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

