

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Monday, September 26 2022 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby
Councilmember Shannan Canales
Councilmember Leah Cook
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura
Councilmember Adonna Saunders

Members Absent:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Councilmember Albert Wright

City of Brenham Staff present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, General Manager of Public Utilities Debbie Gaffey, Deputy General Manager of Public Utilities Alton Sommerfield, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Fire Chief Roger Williams, Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts, Shawn Bolenbarr, Ande Bostain, and Jennifer Hill.

Citizens/Others Present:

John Young

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 Canales**
- 3. Citizens Comments**

There were no citizen comments heard.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023

- **The FY2022-23 proposed budget for the City of Brenham will raise more revenue from total property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$1,510,287.00, which is a 19.20 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$293,274.00**

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby opened the Public Hearing

Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts presented this item. McRoberts explained that the FY2022-23 Proposed Budget includes appropriations of operating resources for 33 separate funds and authorizes \$91.8 million in expenditures. McRoberts advised that the purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive citizen input on the proposed budget

Citizen John Young questioned why a 19% percent increase in this year's budget due to the current economic conditions. McRoberts explained that most of the additional \$1.5 million are for existing personnel costs and that due to inflation this budget just barely covers our current expenses in other areas. McRoberts stated that due to the increase in property values the city is simply trying to protect the tax rate in order to maintain current service levels.

City Manager Carolyn Miller explained that the additional \$1.5 million is not all going to the General Fund to cover expenses. About \$400,000 are going into the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) fund; \$557,000 to debt service for the engineering and design of Fire Station No. 2; and the remaining \$600,000 will be used to purchase six police vehicles and fund unexpected legal fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby closed the Public Hearing.

5. Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.4737 per \$100.00 Valuation for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby opened the Public Hearing.

Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts presented this item. McRoberts advised that the Washington County Appraisal District has certified estimates of the taxable values for the 2022 Tax Year with an overall increase in property values of 27%. A property tax rate of \$0.4737 per \$100 valuation is being proposed to fund the FY2022-23 budget. McRoberts stated that although the proposed rate of \$0.4737 is more than a 2-cent decrease from the current rate of \$0.4940, due to increased property values, the proposed rate is above the no new revenue rate and will produce higher tax revenues.

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby closed the Public Hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023

Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts presented this item. McRoberts advised that the proposed FY2022-23 budget has been developed in compliance with the Property Tax Code, Local Government Code, and City Charter. The proposed budget includes appropriations of operating resources for 33 separate funds and authorizes \$91.8 million in expenditures. The proposed budget is on the City's website and on file with the City Secretary.

A motion was made by Councilmember Canales and seconded by Councilmember Kenjura to approve an Ordinance on its first reading adopting the budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby called for a record vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

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

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Ratification of the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023, Which Raises More Revenue from Property Taxes than Last Year's Budget

Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts presented this item. McRoberts advised that in compliance with Local Government Code, if a municipal budget raises more property taxes than in the previous year's budget, City Council must formally ratify a property tax increase.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Cook to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023, which raises more revenue from property taxes than the previous year's budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

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

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Levying Property Taxes for the Tax Year 2022 for the City of Brenham at \$0.4737 per \$100.00 Valuation

Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts presented this item. McRoberts advised that the proposed FY2022-23 budget includes a tax rate of \$0.4737 per \$100 valuation which has two components: maintenance and operations (M&O) and interest and sinking (I&S). The proposed tax rate of \$0.4737 will allocate \$0.3297 to the General Fund for maintenance and operations, and the balance of \$0.1440 to the Debt Service Fund for interest and sinking. The City has complied with all the notices and publications as required by the Tax Code.

A motion was made by Councilmember Canales and seconded by Councilmember Kenjura that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.4737, which is effectively a 19.44% increase in the tax rate.

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby called for a record vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

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

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon an Ordinance on Its First Reading Amending the Rate Tariff Schedule for the City of Brenham Gas Rates

Public Utilities Project Manager Shawn Bolenbarr presented this item. Bolenbarr explained that due to the rising cost of supplies and materials, the City wishes to adjust the tap fee pricing for the Natural Gas Rate Schedules G-K and add verbiage to the Special Conditions of Service sections in the Natural Gas Tariff.

Bolenbarr explained that the following changes are being recommended:

- Adjust the tap fee rates for services 1” through 4” based on the actual cost of installing the service.
- Add a per foot charge for gas service over 100’ based on actual cost.
- Add a meter connection fee for installing a meter on a service that has an existing meter loop. This fee will be based on the actual cost of installing the meter.
- Add a meter upsizing fee based on the actual cost of installing the service
- Added verbiage to help clarify what fees will be based on actual cost.
- Add to the Special Conditions of Service sections of the tariff that at the request of the customer, there will be a \$50 dollar fee for turning a gas service on/off during working hours and an additional \$25 fee for after hours.

A motion was made by Councilmember Canales and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve an Ordinance on its first reading amending the Rate Tariff Schedule for the City of Brenham Gas Rates.

Mayor Pro Tem Kolby called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

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

10. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Carolyn Miller updated the City Council on the following:

- This week is the end of the fiscal year so inventory will be conducted at Central Warehouse on Friday.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8.54 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 11. Section 551.086 - Texas Government Code - Utility Competitive Matters - City of Brenham Gas Utility System - Gas Supply and Transportation Arrangements and Agreements, and Associated Matters**
- 12. Section 551.071 Texas Government Code - Consultation with Attorney - Consultation with City Attorney Regarding Aviators Plus, LLC v. City of Brenham, Texas; Cause No. 37896; 21st Judicial District Court, Washington County, Texas**

Executive Session adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Clint Kolby
Mayor Pro Tem



Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary