

Brenham City Council Minutes

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Monday, September 12, 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 Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby
Councilmember Shannan Canales
Councilmember Leah Cook
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura
Councilmember Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Albert Wright

Members Absent:

None

City of Brenham Staff present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Director of Finance Stacy Hardy, Police Chief Ron Parker, Fire Chief Roger Williams, Human Resources Director Susan Nienstedt, Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts, and Jennifer Hill

Citizens/Others Present:

None.

Media Present:

Jason May, Brenham Banner-Press; and Mark Whitehead, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags – Councilmember Leah Cook**
- 3. Citizens Comments**

There were no citizen comments heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Statutory Consent Agenda

PUBLIC HEARING

5. 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 Tate 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. McRoberts provided the City Council and the public with the following information:

- Tax Rate: Property taxes are used to fund City services such as police, fire, streets, library, animal shelter, parks, and code enforcement. Property taxes are also used for annual debt payments on municipal borrowings.
- FY22-23 Proposed Tax Rate: The proposed rate of \$0.4737 will raise \$1,510,287 more than the previous fiscal year broken down as follows:
 - General Fund Operations: \$601,705
 - Debt Service Payments: \$557,385
 - TIRZ: \$351,197
- General Fund Operations: Overall the City's revenues will increase by \$1,214,269 split between ad valorem taxes, sales tax, and other revenue sources. The City's expenditures will increase by \$1,156,634 due to increases in salary and medical costs for public safety personnel, legal fees, and purchase of replacement police vehicles. The FY22-23 budget does not include any new personnel and is, essentially, a base budget.
- Overall General Fund Costs: City services are people intensive. Personnel costs make up seventy percent of the overall budget. Personnel costs will be higher in FY22-23 due to increases in medical insurance, higher workers' compensation premiums, pay plan step increases, unfunded TMRS liability. The Proposed Budget does not include a cost of living adjust for city employees. Other pressures on the General Fund come from increased operating expenses due to fuel, supplies, materials, utilities, and services.

- Debt Service Portion: A second fire station has been considered by Council in several budget workshop discussions. The proposed FY22-23 budget includes \$7,000,000 for the design and construction of the Fire Station and \$3,000,000 for streets.

There were no citizen comments received on the FY22-23 proposed budget.

Mayor Tate closed the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Tate 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.

There were no citizen comments received on the FY22-23 proposed tax rate.

Mayor Tate closed the Public Hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

7. 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 Mayor Pro Tem Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Wright to Ordinance on its first reading adopting the budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023.

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

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.	Yes
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	Yes

8. 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 the 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.

McRoberts explained that although the City is proposing to lower the property tax rate from \$0.4940 to \$0.4737 in the FY2022-23 budget, due to new properties added to the tax roll and an increase in existing property valuations, the FY2022-23 budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget. For FY2022-23, the City estimates an increase of \$1,510,287 (19.2%) in property tax revenue, and of that amount, \$293,274 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Canales 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 Tate called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.	Yes
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	Yes

9. 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 Wright 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 Tate called for a record vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.	Yes
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	Yes

10. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

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

- Tuesday, September 20th is the TML Region 10 meeting in Taylor.
- Next City Council meeting will be this Thursday, September 15th at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor



Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

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