

Brenham City Council Minutes

A workshop meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Monday, August 22, 2022 beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Brenham City Hall, Conference Room 2A, 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, General Manager of Public Utilities Debbie Gaffey, Director of Finance Stacy Hardy, Fire Chief Roger Williams, Strategic Budget Officer Tim McRoberts, and Jennifer Hill

Citizens/Others Present:

Rhea Cooper

Media Present:

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

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Discussion and Presentation on the City of Brenham's Fire Department Station No. 2 and Associated Issues, Including But Not Limited to, Department Staffing, Calls for Service, and Impact on the FY2023 Proposed Budget

City Manager Carolyn Miller advised the Council that the FY2023 proposed budget includes issuing new 20-year Certificates of Obligation (COs) for the design and construction of Fire Station No. 2. Miller explained that during recent budget workshops several questions arose about the need for a second station and the construction and financing of the station. Due to all the questions raised by Council, this special meeting was scheduled to answer some of the questions.

Miller introduced former Interim Fire Chief Rhea Cooper. Miller explained that she asked Chief Cooper to give a presentation to help address the need for a second station. Cooper presented the following information to the City Council:

- Explained how fires work, time of detection versus products of combustion
- Insurance Service Office (ISO), Inc's rating system
 - Third party grading entity – grades all fire departments
 - Helps establish fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial
- Public Protection Classification (PPC) Program
 - ISO is the principal provider
 - PPC Rating Scale Points includes ten (10) classes rating from 0 (Class 10) to 90.00 or more (Class 1)
 - Collects information on a community's public fire protection using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule
- Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS)
 - Allocates rating points based on the following criteria:
 - Fire Department (location, number of stations, training, maintenance, and testing of equipment): 50%
 - Fire Alarm (number of dispatchers, how alarms are received): 10%
 - Water Supply (hydrants and distribution system): 40%
 - Addendum Points (Fire Marshall and Building Officials): 6-7%
- City of Brenham's Rating and Goal
 - 2005 = Class 4 (68.91)
 - 2012 = Class 3 (73.08)
 - The goal is to get Brenham to a Class 2 rating
 - Historically, cities see an 8-9% decrease in fire insurance costs when going from a Class 3 to a Class 2 department.
- Generated Annual Savings
 - 8-9% savings in residential fire insurance costs
 - 2% savings in commercial fire insurance costs

- Ways to Improve Brenham's Rating
 - Inspect fire hydrants twice per year (current practice)
 - Strengthen pre-fire plan process (completed this process)
 - Change to conventional engine/ladder (have made this change)
 - Build a drill tower with fire room
 - Build and staff an additional station

Cooper then provided City Council with an explanation of the ideal fire station staffing versus what Brenham currently has.

<u>Ideal Fire Station Staffing</u>		
Station 1	Station 2	Station 3
• 3 Personnel	• 3 Personnel	• 3 Personnel
<i>9 Personnel per shift</i>		
<u>Current Fire Station Staffing</u>		
<i>(3 Shifts)</i>		
Station 1	<i>Then</i>	
• 6 personnel per shift		
Station 1		Station 2
• 4 personnel per shift		• 4 personnel per shift
<i>Operating 2 Stations will require 24 personnel to staff both stations and cover for vacation/sick leave</i>		

Miller reminded the City Council that the city just completed a land swap with the Brenham Community Development Corporation (BCDC) for 5-acres in the Brenham Business Center. Miller explained that the land swap was for 3-acres the city owned off of South Chappell Hill Street across from the new Baker Katz retail development.

Councilmember Kenjura requested that staff look into land on the north side of town, near Brenham Elementary School. Kenjura expressed concern about the residential growth in that area and whether City Council should consider building the second station in that area instead of in the Brenham Business Center, on the south side of town. Fire Chief Roger Williams stated that he would do some research into other available land on the north side of town and provide Council with the information. Chief Williams also stated that he will provide an update on total rooftops in Brenham and fire response times.

After further discussion with City Council, it was agreed that staff would continue moving forward with planning Fire Station No. 2.

The meeting was adjourned.

Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor



Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary