

## **Brenham City Council Minutes**

A special meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Brenham Fire Department Emergency Operations Center, 101 N. Chappell Hill Street Brenham, Texas.

### Members Present:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.  
Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby  
Councilmember Leah Cook  
Councilmember Albert Wright

### Members Absent:

Councilmember Shannan Canales  
Councilmember Adonna Saunders  
Councilmember Atwood Kenjura

### City of Brenham Staff present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Attorney Cary Bovey, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Legal and Legislative Services Manager Karen Stack, Deputy City Secretary Alyssa Faykus, Executive Administrative Assistant Monique Breaux, Fire Chief Roger Williams, Kim Hodde, and Mason Patranella

### Citizens/Others Present:

Carol Foster Jackson and Syd Falk. Cameron Arcenau was in attendance via web conference

### Media Present:

Trace Harris, Brenham Banner-Press; and Mark Whitehead, KWHI

## **1. Call Meeting to Order**

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **2. Presentation and Discussion by Redistricting Counsel of Draft Redistricting Plans**

Syd Falk with Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta (Bickerstaff) reminded Council that Ward Two (Wright) is under-populated by 392 people while Ward Three (Kenjura) is over-populated by 366 people. Falk stated that this deviation in population exceeds the standard ten percent (10%) that has generally been recognized by the courts as the maximum possible deviation.

Based on the deviation being greater than ten percent, Mr. Falk presented two (2) draft redistricting plans for the City Council to consider:

- (1) Draft Redistricting Plan A; and
- (2) Draft Redistricting Plan B

Mayor Tate questioned if the racial balance in Plan B was adequate. Falk responded that both Plan A and Plan B had little change in the African American ward population so, in his opinion, the change was not material.

Washington County Elections Administrator Carol Jackson requested that Plan B not be considered because it would change the County Commissioner precincts in such a way that the County would no longer be able to use the American Legion Hall as a polling location. The City Council agreed and decided to not further consider Draft Plan B.

Jackson also asked if Plan A could be revised in such a way that County Precinct 117 would not be split by possibly moving all of Precinct 117 into Ward 2 instead of just a portion of it. The City Council agreed to try and redraw a revised Plan A to see if the precinct could be moved in whole.

### **3. Redistricting Plan Map-Drawing Session with Redistricting Legal Counsel**

Falk, along Bickerstaff's GIS Specialist Cameron Arcenaux and the city's GIS Specialist Mason Patranella worked together to draw "Draft Redistricting Plan C" which would move the Ward 2 boundary lines fully within County Precinct 117 boundaries. After much discussion and consideration, the Council agreed to move forward with Draft Redistricting Plan C.

Councilmember Cooked questioned if there needed to be another plan to present for public comment. Falk confirmed that one draft plan was adequate for public consideration.

**4. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Designation of One or More Draft Redistricting Plans as Illustrative Plan(s) to be Proposed for Public Consideration and Comment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Cook and seconded by Councilmember Wright to designate Draft Redistricting Plan C as the Illustrative Plan to be proposed for public consideration and comment.

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
<b>Councilmember Shannan Canales</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Leah Cook	Yes
<b>Councilmember Atwood Kenjura</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Adonna Saunders</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

**5. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Setting a Date and Time for a Public Hearing on Designating Illustrative Redistricting Plan(s)**

City Secretary Jeana Bellinger advised that the Public Hearing could be held on either May 19<sup>th</sup> or June 2<sup>nd</sup>, depending on Falk’s availability. Falk advised that he is waiting to confirm with another client but could get a final date for the Public Hearing to Bellinger by the next day.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby and seconded by Councilmember Cook to designate May 19, 2022 and June 2, 2022 as the Public Hearing dates for the designated Illustrative Draft Redistricting Plan C, subject to Falk’s availability.

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
<b>Councilmember Shannan Canales</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Leah Cook	Yes
<b>Councilmember Atwood Kenjura</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Adonna Saunders</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Albert Wright	Yes

**6. Administrative/Elected Officials Report**

There were no reports given.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Milton Y. Tate, Jr.*

Mayor

*Jeanne Bellinger, TRMC, CMC*

City Secretary

