

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held April 12, 2021 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Mark McAdams and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and news media. The meeting opened with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 29, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:
The minutes of the March 29, 2021 City Council meeting were approved as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Lance Billeaud gave an update on the construction of the new fire station. Mayor Borne asked if any price increases for materials had occurred. Chief Billeaud reported that there had been no increases. He had expected a delay in receiving the steel tresses. However, the tresses came in today instead of June or July.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments. Larry Mannino of 4100 Grant addressed the Council and stated that he attends Council meetings on a regular basis. He expressed displeasure that there is not more seating available at the meetings and requested that something be done to accommodate more attendees.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GROVES AND THE GROVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that he and Finance Director Lamar Ozley had met with the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and made some changes which were marked on the Council's copies of the agreement. City Attorney James Black also reviewed the agreement for completeness. Councilmember Dugas moved to approve the agreement between the City of Groves and the Groves Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions. Councilmember Dugas asked Chamber of Commerce Director Ronnie Boneau if the Board of Directors had voted on the agreement. Mr. Boneau stated that they had an emergency board meeting the day after he had met with Mr. Sosa and that the board approved the agreement.

Councilmember Dugas stated that she had sent an email on 02/01/2021 to Mr. Boneau asking for the total cost incurred by the Chamber to fulfill a public information request (including postage) that was recently received. Mr. Boneau reported that the cost to the Chamber was as follows: labor-\$1,256.83, paper-\$135.22, postage-\$75.35, for a total cost of \$1,467.40. Councilmember Dugas asked if anyone had signed the certified receipt when the information was received and Mr. Boneau stated that there was no signature upon receipt and the post office stated it was due to

COVID. Ms. Dugas pointed out that the Chamber had to use tax dollars to fulfill the request and that they had received five (5) requests for the period 2017-2020. Ms. Dugas asked if the Chamber had billed the requestor. Mr. Boneau stated they had not billed the requestor, but a board member would be talking to an attorney regarding this issue. Mr. Boneau remarked that the Chamber was not expecting to recover the costs. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CAPPING THE PORT NECHES-GROVES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING PERMIT FEE AT \$9,000 FOR THE NEW SCHOOL BEING BUILT ON WEST JEFFERSON: Mr. Sosa stated that the City seldom issues building permits for a building of this size, and that the permit fee would normally be \$121,000. He explained that staff feels that the permit fee can be reduced to cover the costs of Building Official Don Pedraza and Code Enforcement Officer Adam Mayea. This would only be for the building permit, based on square footage and values. It does not cover the HVAC and electrical.

Mayor Pro Tem Badon made a motion to consider capping the PNGISD building permit fee at \$9,000 for the school to be built on West Jefferson and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion. Councilmember McAdams asked if the school district's bond that was passed covered the permit expense, meaning that it would be paid for with citizen taxes. Councilmember Oliver asked if the City will have to relocate any utilities and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth asked Building Official Don Pedraza if the water and sewer will have to be moved. Mr. Pedraza stated that he did not know at this time. Councilmember Oliver remarked that the City could possibly incur an expense to move them. Mr. Sosa stated that the contractor will pay for any extras. Mr. Pedraza stated that the contractor generally pays any fees with the building permit. He stressed that the building permit, sewer tap, and water tap are three (3) separate permits. Mayor Borne stated that this is just for the cost to the school district, so it is a onetime fee. Mayor Pro Tem Badon remarked that he wanted to know what the savings would be used for. Councilmembers Oliver and Dugas asked if Port Neches is reducing their permit fee also. Mr. Sosa explained that per the PNGISD Board President, Scott Bartlett, the savings will go to the school district. Mr. Sosa stated that he does not know what Port Neches is doing but would find out. Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to table this item and also requested that a representative from the school district be present when it is considered in the future. Councilmember Dugas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AWARDING ALTERNATE BID FOR MONROE ASPHALT PAVING TO GULF COAST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$190,943.85: Mayor Pro Tem Badon made a motion to award the alternate bid for Monroe asphalt paving to Gulf Coast in the amount of \$190,943.85 and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mr. Sosa asked that the motion be amended to include transitions and approaches for \$40,500, which is the low bid, for a total of \$231,443.85. Mayor Pro Tem Badon amended the motion to include \$40,500 for transitions and approaches with the total being \$231,443.85 and Councilmember McAdams seconded the amended motion. Mayor Borne asked for discussion and stated that this is the same contractor doing the 2" overlay and also all transitions from Twin City Highway to Main Avenue. Councilmember McAdams asked if this is the same thing as was done before and Mr. Sosa stated that this is hot mix and the previous was chip seal. He explained that the hot mix will smooth everything out and Monroe should last 15 to 20 years without any problems. Mayor Borne asked if Gulf Coast provided a timeline and Mr. Sosa responded that he should know something in the next few days after the preconstruction meeting. Mayor Borne asked if the contractor messes the job up will they fix it and will the City hold them accountable. Mr. Sosa stated yes, the contractor will be held responsible. Councilmember Dugas asked who would be in attendance at the preconstruction meeting and Mr. Sosa stated that the engineer, contractor, and Public Works Director Troy Foxworth will be at the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$455,783.48 as follows:

Durotech, Inc.	New fire station construction – March payment.	420,305.86
DXI Industries	Caustic for Water Plant.	6,720.00
Joiner Architects	New fire station construction – February payment.	17,306.76
Republic Svc.	Groves EDC- 4748 Beaumont, 2618 Montrose, 6198 Terrell, 6420 Val, 6248 Warren, 4137 Willow Oak, 6851 32 nd , 5235 32 nd , 4422 Lawndale, 3855 Main, Monroe/Indian Springs, 6169 32 nd , 5805 25 th , 6115 39 th , 4448 Wilson, 3211 Canal, 3220 Maple, 2620 1 st .	11,450.86

Councilmember McAdams moved to approve the invoices totaling \$455,783.48 and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Pro Tem Badon thanked Troy Foxworth, Mr. Sosa, and the Council for their work on the Street Program and for obtaining General Land Office funding. Mr. Sosa credited the Public Works Department and the City's Grant Administrator for securing the GLO funds. Councilmember Dugas thanked the Council for allowing her to take the lead on the Groves advertising campaign being done by the Beaumont Enterprise, which is being done digitally and in print. Councilmember Oliver asked the status on the new system which will be used to record meetings. Mr. Sosa stated that IT Director William Spell will have the numbers for Council at the next meeting.

Mayor Borne thanked everyone for their attendance and announced that a Joint Public Hearing would follow the Council meeting. Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.



Mayor Borne

ATTEST:



City Clerk

