

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held April 26, 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 Councilmember Dugas led the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Dugas moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 City Council meeting as written and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne stated that there were no reports and asked for citizen comments. There were no citizen comments.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CAPPING THE PORT NECHES-GROVES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING PERMIT FEE AT \$9,000.00 FOR THE NEW SCHOOL BEING BUILT ON WEST JEFFERSON: City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that this item had been tabled at the last Council meeting and that it had to come before Council with the same wording as before. He stated that Dr. Scott Bartlett, PNGISD School Board President, was present to answer any questions.

Councilmember McAdams moved to consider capping the PNGISD building permit fee at \$9,000 for the new school being built on West Jefferson and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or discussion and introduced Dr. Bartlett. Councilmember Oliver asked if these fees were considered in the bond process. Dr. Bartlett stated that they had compared the new building and the fees to an existing building of similar size. He explained that the school district wants to work with the City and cover any costs it may have. Mayor Borne stated that, per D.E. Sosa, the total permit fee is \$96,500 without a discount. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Sosa to explain the building permit fee system and Mr. Sosa stated that it cuts off at \$500,000. There is no cap and the fees keep going up after the City's costs are covered. The City seldom issues permits of this size. In 2008 the City had the same situation with Groves Middle School. Dr. Bartlett remarked that this is the first of two schools being built in Groves and that the PNGISD Board will be back around the first of next year. Mr. Sosa reiterated that the discounted permit fee is for the building permit only. Councilmember Oliver stated that this does not cover the fees for inspections. Mr. Sosa stated that the building permit fee is for Building Official Don Pedraza to review the plans. It does not have anything to do with electrical, plumbing, sewer, or HVAC permits. Councilmember Dugas asked Dr. Bartlett if the

school district was asking the City to reduce the permit fee. He stated that was correct and that they would be happy with any savings the City could offer. He stated that they are trying to reduce costs and be good stewards of taxpayer money. Mayor Pro Tem Badon asked where the savings would be spent and Dr. Bartlett stated that the funds saved will be spent on the schools, as they have to be spent on the project and if there are funds left they will be spent on technology and upgrades for the school. Councilmember Oliver asked if any of the fees had been paid to the City yet and Mr. Sosa and Dr. Bartlett stated that they had not. Councilmember Dugas asked if the school district will be asking for a discount on the next school being built and Dr. Bartlett stated that they would. Mayor Borne stated that he felt the City and school district have a great relationship and that the schools are a great selling point for Groves. Mayor Borne remarked that he would like to see some sort of decrease to help the school district. Mr. Sosa stated that Port Neches had given the school district a 66% discount on their permit fees and that Nederland had given the NISD a 50% discount on their permit fees. Mayor Borne stated that the other cities use a different fee system and do not cap their fees. Councilmember McAdams stated that 100% of the remaining money will go to the school in Groves and Dr. Bartlett agreed. Councilmember Oliver asked if the school district would show the Council the financials at the end of the project and Dr. Bartlett said they would. Councilmember Oliver asked if the reduced fees will cover the City employees' time and Mr. Sosa responded that both options are ample to cover what the City needs to do. Councilmember McAdams rescinded his motion and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Badon made a motion to reduce the PNGISD building fee to \$32,810 (a 66% reduction) and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$109,989.33 as follows:

Automatic Pump	Hydromatic grinder pump for grease trap.	5,291.00
Chameleon Ind.	Polymer	25,920.00
City of	March 2021 landfill fees.	26,258.40
Beaumont		
Fuelman	Gas and diesel fuel – March 2021.	21,356.10
Republic Svc.	Sludge disposal.	8,545.63
TND Workwear	Uniforms for paid personnel 2021 (Fire Department).	6,668.20
Wathen,	Fiscal Year End 2020 Audit.	15,950.00
Deshong & Juncker, LLP		

Councilmember McAdams moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$109,989.33 and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Badon asked if the City is going back to the Port Arthur landfill because it is cheaper and Mr. Sosa stated yes. Mayor Borne asked if the grinder pump was a maintenance or emergency item. Mr. Sosa explained that it wasn't planned but was part of the maintenance line item budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne thanked the Council for working with the school district and remarked that he is looking forward to seeing the new school. There were no other comments and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.



Mayor Borne

ATTEST:



City Clerk

