

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held August 17, 2020 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Brad Bailey, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Chris Borne, Councilmember Kyle Hollier, and Councilmember Karen Theis in attendance. Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Mayor Bailey led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Theis moved to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 City Council meeting as written and Councilmember Borne seconded. Mayor Bailey asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING AUGUST 17, 2020 AS "PHIL CAVARETTA DAY" IN THE CITY OF GROVES: Mayor Bailey presented Phil Cavaretta with a proclamation in recognition of his 25 years of service as a Groves Volunteer Firefighter.

Mayor Bailey asked for citizen comments and there were none.

CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS: City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that he would go over the highlights and individual departments. He explained that the City had lowered the tax rate by 1 ¼ cents in order to stay under the effective tax rate. Maintenance and Operations accounts for 68.03 cents of the tax rate, Interest and Sinking is 6.88 cents, and the tax rate is 74.9185 cents per \$100 valuation. Department Overviews: City Council budget - no change; City Manager budget – the majority of the changes are the step increase for the staff and health insurance; EDC budget – has the largest changes because we will be taking EDC funds which will become debt service for the new fire station; Human Resources – decreased due to the removal of \$10,000 for legal fees and favorable insurance rates; Finance – personnel issues such as step increases and insurance adjustments, a small increase in computer expenses; Customer Service – step increases and insurance adjustments, vehicle for second meter reader. Public Works Director Troy Foxworth presented the following overviews: Garage – equipment maintenance and repair increased to \$3,500, disposal of regulated waste increased to \$1,000, capital outlay equipment increased to \$20,000; Property Maintenance – personal services salaries and wages – decrease of \$75,754, minor apparatus and tools increased to \$2,500, capital outlay equipment increased to \$10,000; Water Plant – increase of \$20,000 for the cost of raw water, chemicals increased by \$21,000, water tanks increased by \$1,500, contract services increased by \$10,000, capital outlay increased by \$46,000; Wastewater Plant – personal services/overtime increased by \$14,000; Councilmember Theis questioned the decrease in Property

Maintenance and Mr. Sosa reported that a position had been eliminated in the department. Utilities Superintendent Michael Tentrup presented the overview for Water Distribution – \$20,000 increase in water lines; Solid Waste – capital outlay increase of \$180,000 in green waste for purchase of a new grapple truck. Library Director Lou Doucet reported an increase of \$17,984 in salaries. Mayor Bailey asked for Council comments on the budget and there were none. He stated that a public hearing on the budget would be held as required by the City Charter. City Marshal Norman Reynolds gave the overview for the Police Department - \$10,000 decrease in motor vehicle supplies, \$3,000 increase in Building and Grounds, \$10,000 increase in motor vehicles Maintenance and Repairs, \$18,000 increase in Central Dispatching, \$85,000 decrease in Capital Outlay/Automobile. Mr. Sosa stated that the cost of vehicles had increased from \$36,000 to \$43,000. Councilmember Hollier asked the make of the vehicles and Marshal Reynolds stated Ford Explorer. Marshal Reynolds commended Garage Supervisor John Spikes for getting many more miles out of the police vehicles. The recommended changes to the Police Department will result in a net decrease of \$64,000. Municipal Court – slight increase in personal services. Fire Chief Lance Billeaud gave the overview for the Fire Department - \$10,000 increase in overtime due to an increase in alarms which brings off duty firefighters to help with those calls, equipment maintenance and repair - \$4,500 increase for tires for engines E33 and E35, communication - \$2,000 increase, training - \$1,000 increase for certification requirements, bunker sets - \$1,000 increase, equipment - \$1,000 increase, capital outlay request of \$53,000 for replacement of 2011 F350 diesel truck; Animal Control – uniform service increase of \$90, capital outlay request of \$35,000 for replacement of 2011 F150; Animal Shelter – capital outlay request of \$5,000 for wooded fence at animal shelter; Emergency Management – no changes. Chief Billeaud noted that the City had spent close to \$10,000 in the last three years on the 2011 F150 truck. Mr. Sosa explained that due to budget restraints the department may have to wait until next year to replace it; Animal Control – uniform increase of \$90, the truck has 80,000 and the department is looking for a F250. Mr. Sosa stated that we are still trying to see if they can get a vehicle this year and also reported that the cameras installed at the animal shelter have helped. Chief Billeaud stated that the problem is not with theft, but with animals being dropped off after hours. Emergency Management – no changes. Mayor Bailey thanked Mr. Sosa and the staff for their reports.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE CITY AUDITOR ENGAGEMENT LETTER (WATHEN, DESHONG & JUNCKER):** Finance Director Lamar Ozley explained that this is a contract with the firm that was awarded the bid. Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to approve the City Auditor engagement letter with Wathen, Deshong & Juncker and Councilmember Hollier seconded. Mayor Bailey asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE BANK DEPOSITORY CONTRACT AND COLLATERAL SECURITY AGREEMENT:** Mr. Ozley stated that the bid for a bank depository had been awarded to First Financial. Councilmember Hollier made a motion to approve the bank depository contract and collateral security agreement with First Financial and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 APPROPRIATION AND TAX RATE ORDINANCES AT GROVES CITY HALL ON AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.:** Mr. Ozley referenced a memo with the proposed budget calendar and stated that the City is required to have a record vote on having the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to schedule a public hearing regarding the FY 2020-2021 appropriation and tax rate ordinances at Groves City Hall on August 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and Councilmember Hollier seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AWARDED BID FOR HEALTH INSURANCE TO BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD FOR A TWO YEAR CONTRACT:** Mr. Ozley reported that the City had received two (2) bids for health insurance coverage. The City's current provider, United Healthcare, offered coverage with a 17% increase and Blue Cross/Blue Shield offered coverage at a 7% decrease. Therefore, the City Manager, Finance Director, and Human Resources Director are recommending awarding the bid to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Councilmember Hollier made a motion to award the bid for health insurance to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for a two (2) year contract and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Councilmember Hollier asked if the companies have similar coverages and Mr. Ozley stated yes. Councilmember Hollier asked if Blue Cross/Blue Shield had bid last year. Mr. Ozley stated yes, but they were not the low bidder. Motion passed unanimously.

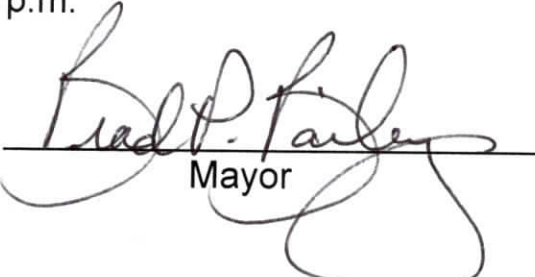
INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices totaling \$56,271.14 as follows:

Core & Main L.P.	Misc. meter valves and fittings (1,943; 3,155.50)	5,098.50
Fuelman	Gas and diesel fuel for July 2020.	17,181.00
Martin Asphalt Co.	Rocking oil for Monroe Blvd.	18,814.00
Republic Services	Peace and Dignity Program and incentives. 3232 Cleveland, 6738 Hansen, 5210 39 <sup>th</sup> , 5000 Lawndale, 7039 32 <sup>nd</sup> , Monroe/Indian Springs, Howell/ Cleveland, 4399 Main, 3600 Pure Atlantic, 2831 Oleander, 2748 Royal, 5905 25 <sup>th</sup> , 5400 E. Parkway, 6900 Washington.	6,027.64
Southwestern Environmental Equipment Technicians	Double disc pump rebuild (Wastewater Plant).	9,150.00

Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$56,271.14 and Councilmember Borne seconded. Mayor Bailey asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bailey asked for Councilmember comments. Councilmember Hollier thanked the City employees and department heads for working to keep expenses down.

There were no further comments and Mayor Bailey adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk