

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held August 2, 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. Councilmember Oliver led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 19, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2021 City Council meeting as written and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for reports. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that he would be giving an overview of the upcoming budget in draft form and that it is balanced but cannot be finalized until the effective tax rate is received from Jefferson County. The City has not yet received the calculations that Jefferson County makes on the effective tax rate. These are important, as they determine at what level the City's tax rate can be set. For the preliminary budget the tax rate is set at what we anticipate it will be, which is .006647, or 66.47 cents per \$100.00 of valuation. This is 9.69 cents less than the current rate of .007616 or 76.16 cents per \$100.00 of valuation. We are hopeful that this rate will be within the parameters set by the effective tax rate calculations.

Mr. Sosa stated that department heads would be presenting their individual budgets at upcoming meetings. Highlights of the 2021-2022 budget include: 1. Tax rate of 66.47 cents per \$100.00 of value; 2. 4% COLA for all employees; 3. .15 cents per 1000 gallons increase in water and sewer rates; 4. No increase in garbage rates; 5. Additional \$100,000 to the Street Program (total budget for Street Program \$900,000); 6. Decreasing the EDC administrative fee from \$175,000 to \$100,000; 7. Increase EDC grants line item from \$25,000 to \$86,700 in anticipation of new business requests in 2022. Mr. Sosa explained that the M&O (Maintenance and Operations) fund pays for general government and that it is currently 69.45 cents. The debt service rate is 6.71 cents. These will both be lower because valuations are up. Mr. Sosa offered to answer any questions.

Councilmember Oliver asked if the City has a backup grade all and Mr. Sosa stated that it does. Mayor Borne asked if there had been any thought put into the fact that there are more homes, and instead of focusing on customers having less trash, the City should think about adding another garbage truck. Mr. Sosa remarked that Groves doesn't have much room left to grow. Mayor Borne asked what the City is

doing to address the problem of more homes, which results in increased garbage. Mr. Sosa reported that Sanitation Supervisor Michael Tenstrup felt that the increase in customers should not be a problem for three more years. Mayor Borne pointed out that there is no garbage pickup on Fridays. Mr. Sosa responded that if an additional route is needed in the future it would most likely be on a Friday. He stated that Mr. Tenstrup would be presenting his budget at an upcoming meeting and would answer any questions at that time. Mayor Pro Tem Badon asked what hours the sanitation workers work and Mr. Sosa stated that they work five eight-hour days per week. Councilmember McAdams asked if a workshop should be added and Mr. Sosa stated that department heads usually present their budgets at council meetings. Mayor Borne requested a work session before the final approval of the budget and Mr. Sosa stated that will be the last meeting in September. Mayor Borne stated that once the City receives all information he is asking for a workshop to address any questions.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER NAMING THE UN-NAMED STREET THAT RUNS THROUGH THE FORMER LINDENMAYER PARK PROPERTY "LINDENMAYER STREET": Councilmember Dugas moved to discuss and consider naming the unnamed street running through the former Lindenmayer Park property "Lindenmayer Street". Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded the motion. Councilmember Dugas explained that a former neighbor of Mr. Lindenmayer had requested this from her. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$17,660.00 as follows:

DXI Industries	Wastewater Plant chemicals.	5,160.00
Neil Tech Services	Barscreen parts and repair- Wastewater Plant.	12,500.00

Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$17,660.00 and Councilmember McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked if the barscreen was an annual maintenance item or was it a repair. Mr. Sosa stated that it was a repair. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments. Patrick Reeves of 4320 Cleveland reported that the stop signs at Jefferson and Cleveland had reflectors on three sides and requested that a reflector be added to the fourth side. He also complained that there were too many speed limit signs on Kent Ave. Mayor Borne suggested that Reeves contact Councilmember Oliver, who represents Mr. Reeves' ward.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments and there were none. Mayor Borne welcomed Councilmember Dugas back following her absence.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk



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