

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held October 11, 2021 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Badon, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Councilmember Mark McAdams was not present at the meeting. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. He also led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING:** Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 City Council Meeting and the September 29, 2021 Special Meeting as written and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 2021 GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL ROYALTY:** Mayor Borne presented a proclamation recognizing the 2021 Groves Pecan Festival Royalty as follows: Queen Isabelle Colin, Princess Alesandria Cardenas, Junior Miss Molli Lira, Countess Lilyian Hallmark, Duchess Savannah Schrader, Little Miss Aspen Guy, Petite Miss Abella Ceja. Mayor Borne congratulated the royalty on behalf of the City Council and presented proclamations to each of them.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and there were none.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments and Michael Campise of 6575 Verde (who is a Ward No. 3 candidate for City Council) presented a timeline of when some of his campaign signs had been stolen. He requested that whoever is taking his signs cease from doing so.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A CARNIVAL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN LIONS PARK NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2021:** Ronnie Boneau of the Groves Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council and stated that they had been given copies of the carnival license application submitted by Wagner's Carnival, along with Wagner's certificate of liability insurance. Mr. Boneau explained that Wagner's had listed 18 rides on their application, but that only some of them would be brought to the Pecan Festival and that the rides chosen would be at the owner's discretion. He stated that he had the required state inspection records for the rides and that Fire Chief Lance Billeaud will inspect the rides the day before the festival opens. Councilmember Dugas made a motion to approve the carnival license application for the Groves Pecan Festival to be held in Lions Park November 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor

Borne asked for discussion and asked if the Pecan Festival had used Wagner's Carnival before. Mr. Boneau stated yes and that Wagner's had been at the Pecan Festival for many years. Councilmember Oliver asked if the Chamber of Commerce pays a fee per ride. Mr. Boneau explained that the Chamber gets a percentage of the proceeds made at the carnival. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE FUNDS TO BE USED FOR ADVERTISING COSTS FOR THE GROVES PECAN FESTIVAL:** Ronnie Boneau, representative for the Groves Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber had been applying for these funds to cover advertising costs for the Groves Pecan Festival since 2004. He explained that the Chamber was requesting \$15,000 from the City's Hotel/Motel tax fund. He referenced the advertising layout proposed by the Chamber which includes radio, digital, television, billboard, and newspaper advertisements for a total of \$16,090. He stated that the Chamber would cover the remaining \$1,090 balance for the ads. Councilmember Dugas moved to approve the application for hotel occupancy tax revenue funds to be used for advertising costs for the Groves Pecan Festival and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked if advertising would be done on Facebook and Mr. Boneau stated that it would. Mayor Borne asked City Manager D.E. Sosa if the City has the funds to approve this request. Mr. Sosa stated yes, there are adequate funds to cover the request. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Boneau thanked the Mayor, Council, and City on behalf of the Chamber and Pecan Festival Board. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,160.00 FROM FIREHOUSE SUBS FOR THREE (3) THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS AND ACCESSORIES:** Mr. Sosa recognized Fire Chief Lance Billeaud and Firefighter Haden Grove. Chief Billeaud explained that Mr. Grove had found this grant and done all of the paperwork and applied for the grant all on his own. Mayor Pro Tem Badon moved to accept the grant for \$23,160.00 from Firehouse subs for three (3) thermal imaging cameras w/accessories and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked if this is the first grant the Groves Fire Department has gotten from Firehouse Subs and Mr. Grove stated that it is. Councilmember Oliver asked if the fire department currently has thermal imaging and Chief Billeaud stated that they have had two cameras since 2012. He explained that thermal imaging helps firefighters locate fires and victims also. Mayor Borne asked if the grant will allow one camera per fire truck. Mr. Grove stated that was correct, and at this time the department has two cameras and three fire trucks. Chief Billeaud remarked that the new cameras would be an upgrade. Mayor Borne thanked Mr. Grove for his efforts. Chief Billeaud also

thanked Mr. Grove for taking the lead and spending numerous hours on the grant. Mr. Grove thanked Chief Billeaud and the other firefighters for helping him with the grant process. Motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$1,337,073.82 as follows:

Crabtree Barricade	Traffic striping for Monroe Blvd.	11,007.40
Durotech	Fire Station construction- August (762,981.40); September (481,285.87).	1,244,267.27
Fuelman	Gas and diesel fuel for September 2021.	22,294.51
Wesley Nugent	Crescent tower fence.	6,375.00
PNGISD	Summer Recreation participation	10,000.00
Pump Solutions	#4 high service electric motor replacement (WP).	10,483.00
Republic Svc.	Peace and Dignity Program – 4748 Beaumont, 6540 Capitol, 5509 E. Parkway, 4249 Taft, 5252 Twin City, 6141 25 <sup>th</sup> , 5225 33 <sup>rd</sup> , 6616 32 <sup>nd</sup> , 4432 Lawndale, Monroe/Indian Springs, 5905 25 <sup>th</sup> , 5505 25 <sup>th</sup> , 3328 Pure Atlantic, 3329 Pure Atlantic, 6555 Washington, 3211 Canal, 6154 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2620 1 <sup>st</sup> .	8,846.64
Soutex Surveyors	Engineering on Hitt St. project (street, drainage, and sewer improvements).	12,800.00
Vector Controls	Stream and current monitor (WP).	11,000.00

Councilmember Dugas moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$1,337,073.82 and Mayor Pro Tem Badon seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and asked if the electric motor replacement (Pump Solutions) was scheduled. Mr. Sosa stated that it was an emergency item. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments and Councilmember Dugas thanked Mr. Boneau for his work on the Groves Pecan Festival. There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

