

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held February 28, 2022 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Rob Vensel, Councilmember Mark McAdams and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and news media. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE February 14, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 City Council meeting as written and Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MARCH 2022 AS RED CROSS MONTH: Mayor Borne issued a Proclamation designating March 2022 as Red Cross Month to Rebecca Ledford, Taylor Sutton, and Pete Delacruz.

Mayor Borne stated that the next item was for reports or citizen comments. Mayor Borne also stated there are three reports and the first will be the presentation of the 2021 UCR / NIBRS report from City Marshall Norman Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds stated that this report begins in 2002 and continues through 2021. The UCR crimes decreased from 414 incidents in 2020 to 301 incidents in 2021 which is a difference of 114 crimes. These major crimes we are talking about are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and auto theft. These are all down with the exception of the rape category. Mr. Reynolds also stated that the last two years have been record breaking for a lot of Cities across the state, for the City of Groves we would have to go back to the sixties to get that low of a number again. He also stated that nobody knows why these numbers are so low, but a lot of people suggest that it may be due to Covid. There is also a possibility that with businesses being closed it created less opportunity to commit some of these crimes. Mayor Borne then asked Mr. Reynolds how close were you to full employment of all positions at the Police Department through the entire year of 2021. Mr. Reynolds stated that out of the last twelve months they were short-handed throughout. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked about the 135 thefts, why it was such a big number. City Marshall Reynolds stated it wasn't as big as it normally is if you look back, but they did see a rise in auto burglaries. Councilmember McAdams then asked City Marshall Norman Reynolds what do you do in order to reduce the amount of rapes, and that if there was a plan put in place. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas stated that this was actually talked about last year. Mr. Reynolds then stated that most of these rape instances were where the victim knew the attacker.

Mayor Borne asked if there were anymore questions for Marshall Reynolds and there were none.

City Marshall Norman Reynolds then proceeded to his second report, 2021 Racial Profiling Report. He stated that he is required to report this to the governing body every year. The City of Groves has never condoned this type of enforcement and that we do not have a disproportioned number of stops, searches or arrests for minorities. Racism has never been tolerated with this agency and the Groves Police Department does not condone selective enforcement of any kind. Traffic Stops – Groves Demographics: African American 23.67 percent, Asian 2.09 percent, Caucasian 23.61 percent, Hispanic 50.40 percent and Native American .22 percent. Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas asked if there is a stop do they call for another officer to back them up. City Marshall Reynolds stated that typically if the officers hear a call and they are available they will ease towards the location of the stop in progress in case they need backup. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked City Marshall Reynolds what do they do with these reports they have to send to The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. City Marshall Reynolds stated that The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement reviews this report to make sure there isn't a disproportionate number of stops of one minority compared to the rest. Mayor Chris Borne asked if there were any more questions and there were none.

Chief Lance Billeaud then gave an update on the New Fire Station back bay doors and that he now has an installation date of March 7<sup>th</sup>. The installation should take about 2 to 3 days and then they can start moving into the new station. Chief Billeaud also stated that he has a report about the Grant that was received from the Fire House Subs Public Safety Foundation in September/October of 2021 in the amount of \$23,160 for three thermal imaging cameras. He stated that they have now received those cameras and they have been put into service. These are state of the art thermal imaging cameras and are extremely sensitive. The firefighters are now able to get a good size up from the outside of the house of a fire by using the camera and find their way through the house a lot quicker searching for a victim who might be inside. These cameras make it a lot safer for our firefighters and will allow them to get around a lot faster. Councilmember Paul Oliver asked how many the City received and Chief Billeaud stated that they received three of them, one for each Fire Engine. Mayor Borne asked if there were any more questions and there were none.

Mayor Borne then asked for citizen comments and there were none.

CONSIDER RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM: Mayor Pro Tem Dugas moved to reappoint the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a two-year term. Councilmember Rob Vensel seconded. Current members to get reappointed are: Rodney Pacetti, Chris Crain and Craig Plokhooy. Alternate members are Rod Hatch and Michael Campise. Mayor Borne then asked if the current members wanted the position back and all stated that they did. Mayor Borne then asked if the two alternates would like to be promoted to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Both Mr. Hatch and Mr. Campise stated that they would like to be appointed as current members of the Board. Councilmember Rob Vensel asked if there were two positions open. Mayor Borne then stated that there are two positions open on the Board and then if you appoint the alternates to those positions then you would need to appoint two alternates in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas stated that she thinks the two alternates should stay alternates and that will give us an opportunity to place others in the current open positions to serve a two-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas also stated that the three current Planning and Zoning Commission members do a great job for the City. Mayor Borne asked if there are any questions about reappointing the three current members to a two-year term and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM: Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas moved to re-appoint the members of The Zoning Board of Adjustments. Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Chris Borne then asked for questions. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked if the current members of the Zoning Board of Adjustments were in attendance. Don Pedraza who is the Building Official for the City of Groves stated that they were not. At that time citizen Sidney Badon of 2310 Lackey Drive stated that he has been coming to these council meetings for 22 years and has never personally met anyone from the Board of Adjustments much less any of them showing up to Council Meetings to announce who they are and what they do. Mr. Badon then said that maybe it is time that we do something with it. Councilmember Rob Vensel asked how many times do the Board of Adjustments meet and Building Official Don Pedraza stated that they had met three times last year. Councilmember Vensel then asked if Mr. Pedraza has ever had any problems with them showing up to meetings and he stated that he has not had any problems and they are usually very active. Mayor Borne asked Mr. Pedraza if he has any meetings scheduled and he stated that he

has one scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> to present the one application he has. Mr. Pedraza stated that he has two sitting members and three vacancies on the Zoning Board of Adjustments. He also has two alternates and a total of total are needed. Current members are Phillip Bridges and Jeremy Mitchell and alternates are Gene Chance and Bill Hartje. Mayor Borne then asked Mr. Hartje if he is interested in becoming a permanent member and Mr. Hartje said that he was. Mayor Borne asked if there are any other questions for the current motion to re-appoint current members Phillip Bridges and Jeremy Mitchell, there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTING MEMBERS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM: Mayor Chris Borne moved to table the appointment to fill the vacancies on The Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Borne stated he would like more time for all Councilmembers to be able to share the lists of possible members from each ward, also to be able to look at all the alternates as well. Councilmember Rob Vensel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTING MEMBERS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM: Mayor Chris Borne moved to table the appointment to fill the vacancies on the Zoning Board of Adjustments for a two-year term. Councilmember Mark McAdams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager D.E. Sosa presented invoices for payment totaling \$80,449.91 as follows:

Armadillo Graphics & Printing	New City Park Signs 3 @ \$4,100 ea.	12,300.00
Burton Accounting, P.L.L.C.	Contract Work for Pre Audit.	16,950.00
DXI Industries, INC.	Chemicals for Water Plant.	5,160.00
Frontier Tractor Parts And Equipment	Parts to fix Yellow Gradall – Public Works. (1,500) (2,000) (3,000)	6,500.00

Sabine Equipment	Replacement of pump #4 – Georgia Lift Station	11,398.75
Vulcan Construction Materials, LP	A1 Limestone Base for Street Materials.	8,041.16
Wastewater Transport Services	Wet haul sludge from Digester. 10 @ 510.00	5,100.00
Wathen, Deshong & Juncker, L.L.P.	City auditor for the year ended September 2021.	15,000.00
TOTAL		80,449.91

Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$80,449.91 and Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and Councilmember Vensel asked we have mechanics to do the work on the Yellow Gradall. City Manager D.E. Sosa explained that we in fact do have our own mechanics to do the work on the Gradall. Mr. Sosa also stated that the Gradall is a 1998 model and they no longer manufacture parts for them so we have to go out and find good used parts when needing to service it. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked when the report for the audit will be coming out. Mr. Sosa stated that we are hoping it will be ready for the next City Council meeting. Councilmember Vensel also asked if the City Parks signs were ready. Mr. Sosa said that they are all ready, and for full disclosure we had ordered the one for Mr. Spikes first because we did not know how long they were going to take. The sign for Mr. Spikes were previously paid, this invoice approval is for the rest of the 3 signs. Mayor Borne then asked if the street materials were purchased for the upcoming street program. City Manager D.E. Sosa replied no, these are for when we do cuts and water sewer connections we then have to go back and put this material on the streets. This is just for our normal stock pile of base for day in and day out street work. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas then asked what contract work was done for the pre-audit. City Manager D.E. Sosa stated that every year we bring in a company that basically does all the leg work to make it easier for the auditor to do their job. There were no other questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Pro Tem Dugas asked all councilmembers who have names of citizens they would like to nominate for the committees to please make sure everyone has a copy, so all councilmembers can be on the same page for the nominations to the boards. Councilmember Rob Vensel then suggested that all lists go to City Manager D.E. Sosa so he can comprise a master list.

Mayor Borne thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



A Public Hearing was held February 28, 2022 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Rob Vensel, Councilmember Mark McAdams, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance.

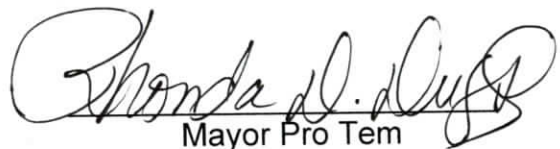
Mayor Borne called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He stated that this was a Public Hearing on the 2019 Community Development Block Grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Contract #7219179. He then handed it over to Susan Stover of David J. Waxman, Inc.

Mrs. Stover stated that the purpose of this Public Hearing is that it is a requirement of the Texas Department of Agriculture as a part of the grant received. The City of Groves applied for CDB grant in February 2019 for the 2019/2020 funding cycle through the Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant Program. A Public Hearing for community input was held prior to the application on December 12, 2018 with 7 people in attendance at this Public Hearing.

A resolution to submit the application was adopted by City Council on February 4, 2019, this included the approval of the \$275,000 grant application with a \$106,233 local contribution. The City was awarded a \$275,000 grant from TDA, the contract start date was January 1, 2020 and the contract end date of December 31, 2021.

The project involved replacement of approximately 3,191 linear feet of sewer lines and manholes along West Parkway, Dave, and Lackey. The project was bid and awarded to C.Z. Construction. Additional street repair work ancillary to the sewer line replacement was procured by a small purchase and was awarded L.D. Construction. The additional street repairs were completed in December of 2021. All work has now been completed within the contract end date and all invoices have been paid. Once this hearing is complete the closeout for this contract will be submitted to the state. Mrs. Stover then asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Mayor Borne then stated with there being no further questions the meeting is adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

  
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

