

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held August 14, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Councilmember Rob Vensel was not present at the meeting. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Members of the local VFW then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 31, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND THE AUGUST 8, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING: Mayor Pro McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2023 City Council Meeting and the August 8, 2023 Special Meeting as written and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for discussion and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2023 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING: Mayor Borne stated that all of Council has received the minutes from the August 7, 2023 Planning and Zoning Meeting.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and Interim City Manager gave an update on local cities having to issue recommendations for water conservation. Mr. Billeaud stated that they are watching everything very closely and we feel that the City of Groves is in good shape at the moment.

The local VFW then gave a report on the Victory in Japan Day which is usually celebrated on September 2nd.

Mayor Borne asked for citizen comments and there were none.

CONSIDER AND DISCUSS APPROVAL OF HEALTH, DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE FOR OCTOBER 1, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2024: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to consider and discuss approval of Health, Dental and Vision Insurance for October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 and Councilmember Dugas seconded. HR Director Stephanie Gaspard informed Council that the City went out for proposals through the local newspaper to search for Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance. Mrs. Gaspard also informed Council that a renewal was received from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and a quote was received from United Healthcare. The Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal was anywhere from 39.8% increase on the base and 39.6% increase on the buy up plan. Guardian came back with no change to the Vision Plan and minimal increase to the Dental Plan. Mrs. Gaspard stated that she is recommending Blue Cross Blue Shield for Health Insurance and Guardian for Dental and Vision Insurance. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to discuss health insurance contributions and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud stated that HR Director Stephanie Gaspard, Finance Director Lamar Ozley along with himself after the meeting last week were very disturbed about the rise of the insurance and the effect it would have on the employees. Mr. Billeaud then discussed the options on the charts that were handed out to Council. Councilmember Dugas then suggested a possible one-time additional subsidy of \$150,000 from the EDC to help offset the administrative costs the City has incurred. Council weighed in on all of the 5 options presented to them. Mr. Ozley stated that option 5 is what is being recommended by the City. Councilmember Oliver asked how would this be presented to the employee and Mrs. Gaspard informed Council that we have open enrollment to inform and educate employees. Councilmember Dugas stated that we are not voting on this today we are just recommending and Mr. Ozley stated that is correct, the City just needs some guidance. Mayor Borne then asked Mr. Ozley what has been the largest EDC contribution to the General Fund and Mr. Ozley stated that probably around \$225,000. Mr. Borne stated so this is not any higher than anything we have done in the past and Mr. Ozley stated it is not. There was no further discussion on this item.

CONSIDER SETTING A DATE FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR GAMING MACHINES AND GAME ROOMS AT 6850 25TH ST: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider setting a date for a Joint Public Hearing on a request for a Specific Use Permit for Gaming Machines and Game Rooms at 6850 25th St. and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Councilmember Oliver asked if this location currently has Gaming Machines and City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux stated that this site currently does not. The recommendation from Building Official Don Pedraza is to have the Joint Public Hearing on September 11, 2023 directly following the City Council Meeting. Councilmember Dugas amended her previous motion to include September 11, 2023 directly following the City Council Meeting and Councilmember Oliver seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$103,357.67 as follows:

City of Port Arthur

Landfill fees. 6/26/23 – 7/25/23.

17,247.50

CT Distribution, LLC	Grating for Water Plant.	17,431.45
HEAT Safety Equipment LLC	Purchase of five SCBA's, 5 bottles and 5 masks to replace old or damaged SCBA's.	38,548.48
Higginbotham Insurance Agency Inc.	May and July 2023 Medical Benefits Service Fee.	5,000.00
M & R's Elite Janitorial Solutions	Janitorial Services for June and July 2023.	5,394.00
Northstar Industries	Labor for Grating at Water Plant.	12,700.00
Republic Services	Commercial dumpster collection for July 2023.	7,036.24

Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$103,357.67 and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked how often are the SCBA's replaced and Mr. Billeaud stated they should be every 20 years but these are giving them problems. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams then asked what they do with the old ones and Mr. Billeaud stated the tanks get disposed of and the other parts are donated for possible refurbishment. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for Councilmember comments and there were none.

There was no further business and Mayor Borne adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk