

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held December 18, 2023, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Pete Konidis, and Councilmember Rhonda Dugas in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams was not present. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. A representative from the local VFW then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING:** Councilmember Dugas moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023, City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and Mr. Lofton from the local VFW then gave a report on the Spanish American War.

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

**CONSIDER RESCHEDULING THE JANUARY 15, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO THE OBSERVANCE OF MLK DAY:** Councilmember Pete Konidis made a motion to consider rescheduling the January 15, 2023, City Council Meeting and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Citizen Sidney Badon reminded Council that it should be dated for 2024. Councilmember Konidis amended his previous motion to schedule the meeting on January 8, 2024, at 5 p.m. and Councilmember Oliver seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AMENDING THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE ORDINANCE:** Councilmember Dugas made a motion to discuss and consider amending the building permit fee ordinance and Councilmember Konidis seconded. Mayor Borne asked Building Official Don Pedraza, City Manager Kevin Carruth and City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if they feel comfortable with all of the changes that were made to the existing Building Permit Fee Ordinance and all responded yes. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, amending the Code of Ordinances to increase permit fees and providing for an effective date of January 1, 2024." There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$401,810.91 as follows:

1. Coy Development INC.	Heritage Point sub divider rebate.	\$5,563.68
2. Epic Engineering	2021 GLO CLFRF Grant for Water and Wastewater SCADA upgrade.	\$103,425.72
3. Fuelman of Lafayette	Gas and diesel for November 2023.	\$16,714.79
4. Jefferson County Appraisal District	JCAD first quarter payment.	\$18,042.12
5. Kontrol Automation, INC.	Startup of Centrifuge panel #1. Install of sludge pump vfd.	\$6,200.00
6. Soutex Surveyors, INC.	Payment #1 for Engineering services at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.	\$17,500.00
7. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Annual water system fee to operate the Water Plant.	\$17,485.00
8. Texas Pride Utilities	Final pay application (2022-2023 CLFRF pipe bursting).	\$216,878.95

Councilmember Rhonda Dugas moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$401,810.91 and Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions. Councilmember Oliver asked if all of the loose ends with Texas Pride have been resolved regarding them fixing items on the punch list and Mr. Carruth stated they have. Councilmember Konidis asked about the SCADA and Mr. Carruth stated it is the software and related hardware so they can remotely see what's going on with pumps and water levels. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then asked for Councilmember comments. Councilmember Pete Konidis wanted to congratulate the PNG Indians football team on winning the State Championship. Councilmember Dugas stated she enjoyed the Christmas Tree lighting, participating in the food drive and also had a great time at the employee lunch. Councilmember Oliver wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and also a Happy New Year. Mayor Borne reminded everyone there is a parade tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Port Neches and a Pep Rally at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

