

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held December 4, 2023, in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Pete Konidis, and Councilmember Rhonda Dugas in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Representatives from the local VFW then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 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 Paris Peace Accords.

City Manager Kevin Carruth then informed Council that the lighting of the Christmas tree had to be rescheduled due to missing pieces in shipment. Mr. Carruth stated that as soon as those pieces are delivered then the event will be rescheduled. Mr. Carruth then invited Council to the employee luncheon on December 14, 2023. There were no further reports.

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

CONSIDER ELECTING A MAYOR PRO TEM FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR: Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams made a motion to consider electing a Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming year and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Mayor Borne then explained that traditionally the Council has rotated the duties of Mayor Pro Tem from one Councilmember to the next each year in ward order. Using this methodology, the Mayor Pro Tem should pass from Ward No. 1 Councilmember Mark McAdams to Ward No. 2 Councilmember Paul Oliver. Councilmember Paul Oliver stated that he would like to pass on this opportunity but would like the current Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams to continue his current role for another year. Council had no issues with this request. Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams amended his previous motion to elect himself as Mayor Pro Tem for the upcoming year and Councilmember Oliver seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 AND APPROVING THE 2022-2023 PIPE BURSTING PROJECT AS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE: Councilmember Konidis made a motion to consider approving change order #1 and approving the

2022-2023 pipe bursting project as substantially complete. Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth then informed Council that Utilities Supervisor Michael Tentrup would be giving a presentation about this project as well as his last Council Meeting because he had accepted a position with a private firm. Mr. Tentrup stated that this project was started about a year and a half ago after locating the worst sewer lines within the City that needed to be tackled first. Mr. Tentrup then showed Council a slide with phases A through F which included the number of homes affected, footage repaired and number of manholes replaced for each phase. Mr. Tentrup then informed Council that the project originally came in at \$1.9 million but finished at \$1.8 million, \$181,000 under budget. This is why we are having to do a change order. Mr. Tentrup then had beginning and ending photos to show Council the sewer lines so Council could see the difference that this project made but he also informed Council that this project only fixed about 5% of the system's sewer lines. Councilmember Dugas asked Mr. Tentrup to explain what substantial completion means and he stated that the City will say it's complete but there could be unknown issues that are discovered during final review that the company would still be liable for. Mayor Borne confirmed that the change order would be to make the payment for this project less \$181,000 and Mr. Tentrup stated that was correct. There were no further questions from Council. All of Council thanked Mr. Tentrup for his service to the City and wished him well in the future. Motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO GEDC BOARD: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to appoint directors to the GEDC Board with Councilmember Rhonda Dugas for 1 year, Councilmember Pete Konidis for 2 years, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams for 2 years and Councilmember Paul Oliver for 1 year. Councilmember Konidis seconded. Councilmember Dugas agrees that these appointments comply with the Charter and the EDC Bylaws and sync with the Council Member's terms on City Council. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND DISCUSS TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO NEW TEXPOOL ACCOUNT: Councilmember Oliver made a motion to consider and discuss transfer of funds to new TexPool account and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Finance Director Lamar Ozley brought up that at the last Council Meeting there was discussion regarding the \$30,000 allocated in the budget for potential election expenses. Mr. Ozley stated that the City did not have an election this year and Council wanted to discuss possibly transferring this unused money to the TexPool account. Mr. Ozley then explained to Council the differences in transferring money from budgeted items and transferring from the cash management/liquidity account. It

is Mr. Ozley's recommendation that Council looks at the overall cash position of the entire City since that is a Policy Function instead of managing each budgeted line item. Mayor Borne stated that from what he remembers from Council's first discussion they were to look at our accounts twice a year to see if we underspent on anything in the budget to where we could move money to the Council's TexPool savings account. Mayor Borne also said he thought we agreed to look at this in March and also right before budget time. Mayor Borne then asked Mr. Ozley and City Manager Kevin Carruth if they feel that this is a good time to move money into the TexPool savings account. Mr. Ozley stated that if Council does decide to move money then it would be recommended that it comes out of our equipment replacement fund and preferably not more than \$50,000. Mr. Ozley then stated that our current bank account earns about 3% in interest and the TexPool would earn around 5.4% as of right now. Mayor Borne stated that it is his recommendation transfer \$15,000 from the equipment replacement fund account to put into the TexPool account set up by Council. Councilmember Oliver asked if something happened and Mr. Ozley needed to get that money how long would it take. Mayor Borne stated it would take Council's approval at a meeting then once approved it would take 3 days to transfer. Mr. Ozley stated if it is an emergency situation then we can call an emergency meeting as long as there is a two hours advance notice. Councilmember Oliver amended his previous motion to add moving \$15,000 from the equipment replacement account to the Council's TexPool account. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CHANGES TO AND REAUTHORIZATION OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to discuss and consider changes to and reauthorization of building permit fees. Councilmember Konidis seconded. Finance Director Lamar Ozley informed Council that State Law has changed and we are no longer allowed to charge permit fees based on the dollar value of the work being done for residential and infrastructure. Mr. Ozley stated that another problem with the permits is that it needs to cover the cost that the City incurs. Building Official Don Pedraza and Finance Director Lamar Ozley then looked at the cost for the inspections and divided that by the number of permits to get an idea of what the permit fees should cost. Finance Director Lamar Ozley also informed Council that the City has not increased permit fees since 2011. City Attorney Brandon P Monk also informed Council that according to the new law you have to look at administrative cost, we are allowed to look at these costs and we are also allowed to look at costs that third-party vendors charge for similar services. Mayor Borne concurred with Mr. Ozley that we would be going from charging using square

footage to per item and Mr. Ozley stated that's correct. City Manager Kevin Carruth also stated that we do have a statutory deadline of January 1, 2024 to get this complete and if we don't then our fees are abolished. Mayor Borne also asked if this covers the Fire Departments time to conduct their inspections and Mr. Ozley stated at this time it does not. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk informed Council that they will have new numbers for the Joint Public Hearing on December 18th at 5:00 p.m. No action was required at this time and there was no further discussion.

CONSIDER AND DISCUSS AMENDING RESOLUTION 2023-03 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXPOOL INVESTMENT POOLS AND AMENDING DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES: Councilmember Konidis made a motion to consider and discuss amending Resolution 2023-03 authorizing participation in the TexPool investment pools and amending designating authorized representatives. Councilmember Oliver seconded. This amendment removes Fire Chief Lance Billeaud and adds City Manager Kevin Carruth as authorized representatives. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$152,409.96 as follows:


DXI Industries	CL2 and SO2 for Wastewater Plant.	\$11,146.20
Environmental Improvements, Inc.	Removal, inspection, repair/replace and reinstall of Clarifier #2 gearbox/turntable.	\$135,063.76
Kontrol Automations, Inc.	Centrifuge control box start up and install of Sludge pump vfd.	\$6,200.00

Councilmember Pete Konidis moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$152,409.96 and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions. Councilmember Dugas thanked City Manager Kevin Carruth for including the invoice list into the Council packets. Mayor Borne asked if the wastewater items were budgeted and Public Works Director stated that the clarifier went down unexpectedly but the amount listed would on the high end to replace it. 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 their win and

wished them best of luck in their upcoming game. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams wanted to thank Michael Tentrup for his service to the City of Groves and wished him the best of luck with his new job. Councilmember Dugas stated that she had a lot of fun riding in the Christmas Parade.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

