

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held January 30, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas, Councilmember Paul Oliver, and Councilmember Rob Vensel in attendance. Mayor Borne was not present. Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Local representatives from the VFW then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance. The VFW then gave an update on the work status for VFW 4820 and a report on the Spanish American War. Then shared with us specifications regarding the war and also the sacrifices that were made by the troops.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:** Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 City Council meeting as written and Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2023 AND JANUARY 23, 2023 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETINGS:** Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams stated that the minutes have been received and all Council Members have received a copy.

The Proclamation that was scheduled for this meeting will be suspended until the next City Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem McAdams then asked for reports and Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud stated that there is a report from Marshal Reynolds regarding the annual review of Beer & Wine permits for On-Premise Consumption. Marshal Reynolds stated that it is then same five businesses that we have had for many years. The businesses include Baytown Seafood, Colichia's Italian Village, Columbus Club of Groves, Larry's French Market & Cajun Restaurant and Tony's Barbeque & Steakhouse. Marshal Reynolds then went over the Police calls to each restaurant and stated that none of the calls were related to alcohol. There were no questions for Marshall Reynolds.

Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud then let Council know that as of last Thursday we now have eight AED's throughout City owned buildings. He will begin doing refresher courses with each employee hopefully this week. Councilmember Dugas asked if they will be doing the CPR classes again with all employees and Mr. Billeaud stated that is done every two years.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REPLAT AT 6641 32<sup>ND</sup> ST. AND 6631 32<sup>ND</sup> ST.: Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider approval of a replat at 6641 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and 6631 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Councilmember Dugas seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN AERIAL WAIVER AUTHORIZING THE JEFFERSON COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT TO FLY AT LOW ALTITUDES AS REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES FOR THE CONTROL OF MOSQUITOS WITHIN THE GROVES CITY LIMITS: Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider approval of an Aerial Waiver authorizing the Jefferson County Mosquito Control District to fly at low altitudes as required for the application of pesticides for the control of mosquitos within the Groves City Limits and Councilmember Oliver seconded. This is an item that is done every year. There were no questions and motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR RIGHT-OF-ENTRY AND EXPLORATION, SABINE PASS TO GALVESTON BAY PROJECT, JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARMY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS: Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider approval of the request for Right-of-Entry and Exploration, Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project, Jefferson County, Texas for the Development of the Army, Corps of Engineers and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud then stated that this has been brought to us before and that there is a project going on with the Sea Wall and flood gates. Mr. Billeaud also stated that this will just give them permission to come on our property to look around. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CITY ORDINANCES THAT GOVERN SIGNAGE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN COMMON AREAS AND RIGHT OF WAYS: Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to consider and discuss proposed changes to the City Ordinances that govern signage placed throughout the City in common areas and right of ways and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Councilmember Dugas gave some suggestions of what we would need for this Ordinance. Councilmember Vensel then asked who would be in charge of making sure the Ordinance would be followed and it was suggested that Code Enforcement would. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated that he will bring a draft Ordinance to the next meeting and that nothing needs to be voted on tonight.

**AUTHORIZE CITY ATTORNEY TO ENTER SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS WITH EPA RELATED TO THE STARLAKE EPA DEMAND:** Councilmember Vensel made a motion to authorize City Attorney to enter settlement discussions with EPA related to the Starlake EPA demand and Councilmember Oliver seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER SETTING A DATE FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS AND A RANGE OF COMPENSATION FOR THE OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ACCORDING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 551.074:**

Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider setting a date for an Executive Session to discuss and consider the potential qualifications and a range of compensation for the Office of City Manager in an Executive Session according to Local Government Code 551.074 and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Council decided on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Councilmember Dugas amended her previous motion to include February 8, 2023 at 5 p.m. and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud then updated Council that we did receive four bids and that HR Director Stephanie Gaspard has set it up so we can have the Work Session for February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Police Station in the Municipal Court Room. Having it there will help us with the zoom presentations and will give us more room.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams then called for Citizen Comments and there were none.

**INVOICES:** Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$149,643.88 as follows:

Amber Estates LLC	Sub divider rebate for Amber Estates for 2022.	5,996.44
Chameleon Industries	Polymer for Water Plant.	33,744.00
Core & Main L.P.	24" Antenna for R900i registers installed on water meters.	8,205.00
DXI Industries, INC	Chlorine for Water Plant.	6,861.60

Groves Chamber Of Commerce	Groves Christmas Tree Trail 2022.	8,000.
Heil of Texas	Gradall rebuild cylinder and pack cylinder.	8,288.24
Republic Services	Assisting with residential collection while City trucks were down.	11,456.25
Tyler Technologies, INC.	Incode Annual Fees.	67,092.35

Councilmember Rhoda Dugas made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$149,643.88 and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked if the Christmas Tree Trail was pre-approved and it was. Council had already approved this amount for advertising. Councilmember Dugas then asked about the assistance from Republic Services for garbage pickup and if we had already paid. Interim City Manager Billeaud stated that this is a new invoice for a separate occasion. Councilmember Dugas then asked about the Incode payment and what that entails and Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated that this is the software that runs this entire City. There were no further questions. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem McAdams then asked for Councilmember Comments and Councilmember Oliver asked if he wanted to watch a meeting from when we had the budget hearings could he get access to it. City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux stated that all meetings are available on the City Website. Councilmember Oliver then stated that on December 19, 2022 and January 25, 2023 there was an email sent out requesting for items concerning a forensic audit and investigation on open meetings act to be placed on the agenda and it has not been placed so far. Councilmember Oliver asked why has it not been and Interim City Manager Billeaud stated that after he received the request to place these items on the agenda he received another request from the Mayor to wait until the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Interim City Manger Billeaud stated he then sent out an email to Council asking if we could move it back to the next agenda and did not receive any responses so he assumed no one had a problem with it. Councilmember Oliver then stated that they were told that the programs for the budget are not functioning and that previous years of information was not accessible. Finance Directory Lamar Ozley stated that the information is all available its just th

one template for the report he previously would send Council does not work. Mr. Ozley stated that all of the information is still accessible.

Councilmember Dugas stated that she understands that Mayor Borne asked that these items not be put on this Agenda and that she understands Mr. Billeauds position. Councilmember Dugas then stated that she did send an email and it was seconded so it should have been put on this Agenda regardless. Mr. Billeaud stated that he apologizes and that he was just doing what was asked of him and sent the email asking if we could put it on the following agenda and did not receive a response to that question from any Council Members. Councilmember Dugas then stated that these items need to be on the February 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda and Mr. Billeaud assured her that they would be.

There was no further business and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk