

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held March 13, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Rob Vensel, Councilmember Rhonda Dugas and Councilmember Paul Oliver in attendance. Mayor Borne called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and news media. Representatives from the local VFW then led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE February 21, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING: Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Special Meeting as written and Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 City Council Meeting as written and Councilmember Vensel seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING CAMERON DALE AS THE 2022 GROVES FIREMAN OF THE YEAR: Mayor Borne presented a proclamation to Cameron Dale in recognition of being named the 2022 Groves Fireman of the Year.

Mayor Borne asked for reports or citizen comments. There were no Citizen Comments and the local VFW gave a small report on the Country of Kosovo.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE PUBLIC WORKS TO BEGIN THE SEARCH PROCESS FOR AN ENGINEERING FIRM WITH THE CAPABILITIES TO DEVELOP, DESIGN, INSTALL AND PROVIDE TRAINING FOR NEEDED UPGRADES TO THE CITY OF GROVES WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY: Councilmember Rob Vensel made a motion to discuss and approve Public Works to begin the search process for an engineering firm with the capabilities to develop, design, install and provide training for needed upgrades to the City of Groves Wastewater Treatment Facility and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud then addressed the Council and reminded them that they had talked about the Headworks in the last Work Session and that Public Works Director Troy Foxworth was here if they had any questions. Mr. Billeaud then stated that the City still has the 1.6 million dollars of the CLFRF Grant that needs to be designated to a project. Councilmember Vensel then asked how are we going to solicit these companies and Mr. Foxworth stated that it will be put in the paper. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams then

asked if the Engineering firm will install it too and Mr. Foxworth stated that they will hire a company for installation. There were no further questions. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AN INCREASE TO THE COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE RATES:** Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to consider an increase to the commercial solid waste rates and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud stated that Michael Tenstrup is here to explain that this is regarding the commercial garbage only and it is because Republic is going up on their rates for us. Republic is going up 2 ½ percent on their rates to us so in turn we need to do the same for our commercial garbage. They locked in on this 2 ½ percent for next year also. Mayor Borne asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND DISCUSS REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT PERTAINING TO TEMPORARY OFF-SIGHT SIGNAGE IN THE CITY OF GROVES RIGHT OF WAYS AND EASEMENTS:** Councilmember Rhonda Dugas made a motion to consider and discuss revisions to the draft sign ordinance amendment pertaining to temporary off-sight signage in the City of Groves right of ways and easements and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Council then discussed illuminating signs and what they wanted the parameters of that to be. Mayor Borne then asked if there were any other questions and there were none. No vote was needed for this item.

**CONSIDER AND VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CITY'S POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT:** Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to consider and vote to authorize the City Attorney to provide information in order to determine the City's potential eligibility to participate in the Opioid Settlement and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if he has gone to the websites that were suggested for the City to read and Mr. Monk stated he has. Councilmember Dugas then asked Mr. Monk who would the payments go to and he stated that this is for the municipalities. Mayor Borne stated that the first initial payout would be based on population. Mayor Borne then asked if there were anymore questions and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE A TOLLING AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE STAR LAKE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EPA:** Councilmember Vensel made a motion to consider and vote to authorize the City Attorney to execute a tolling agreement related to the Star Lake Settlement discussions with the EPA and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked Mr. Monk to explain what a tolling agreement is and he stated that a tolling agreement speaks to the potential pause of statute of limitations in a claim. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2023-03 SUSPENDING THE RATES PROPOSED BY TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY'S GAS RELIABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FILING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2023:** Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams made a motion to consider approval of Ordinance 2023-03 suspending the rates proposed by Texas Gas Service Company's gas reliability infrastructure program filing of February 9, 2023 and Councilmember Vensel seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk presented proposed Ordinance No. 2023-03, reading the caption as follows: "Ordinance of the City of Groves, Texas, suspending the rates proposed by Texas Gas Service Company's ("TGS" or "Company") Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program ("GRIP") filing made with the City on February 9, 2023; finding that the meeting complies with the Open Meeting Act; making other findings and provisions related to the subject; and declaring an effective date." Mr. Monk stated that this is a recommendation from our rate council. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**INVOICES:** Interim City Manager Lance Billeaud presented invoices for payment totaling \$189,913.27 as follows:

ACT Pipe & Supply	Service brass for water system.	5,595.30
Alvarez Enterprises	Remove old roof and install new roof and soffit on Public Works building to repair leaks and damages.	16,000.00
Chameleon Industries	Polymer for water plant.	34,580.00
DXI Industries	Chlorine for water plant.	6,861.60
DXI Industries	CL2 and SO2 for wastewater plant.	7,736.20

Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw Water Purchased.	19,102.50
Municipal H2O	Annual EPA Risk Management Plan compliance service for Wastewater Treatment and Water Plant.	29,940.96
Republic Services	Commercial dumpster collection. February 2023.	6,399.03
Republic Services	Sludge disposal for February 2023.	6,732.88
Republic Services	Peace and dignity program: 3711 Boyd, 6269 Gulfway, 6255 Garner, 6579 Gulfway, 7051 Live Oak, 4710 Martha, Monroe Indian Springs, 3815 Pure Atlantic, 6528 Washington, 5600 39 <sup>th</sup> .	7,618.95
Silsbee Ford	New rescue 37 truck for Fire Department.	44,305.95
Simoneaux Roofing	Reroofing at Georgia LS, Taft LS and 3 buildings at plant.	5,040.00
TOTAL		189,913.27

Councilmember Rob Vensel moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$189,913.27 and Councilmember Paul Oliver seconded. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then asked for Councilmember Comments and Councilmember Dugas asked Mr. Billeaud if he could look into the Garbage trucks using residential streets.

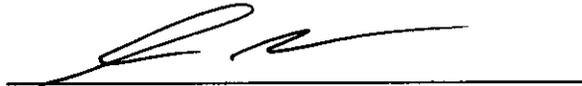
Mayor Borne thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.



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Mayor Chris Borne

ATTEST:



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City Clerk