

A regular meeting of the Groves City Council was held November 20, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams, Councilmember Paul Oliver, Councilmember Rob Vensel, 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 6, 2023 CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING:** Councilmember Vensel moved to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2023 City Council Meeting as written and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked for questions or comments and there were none. Motion passed unanimously.

**RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2023 PLANNING AND ZONING**

**MEETING:** Mayor Borne asked Council if everyone had received a copy of the minutes and they all had.

Mayor Borne asked for reports and City Manager Kevin Carruth informed Council that former City Prosecutor Branick passed away this morning. Mr. Carruth also wanted to inform everyone about the Christmas Parade which will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and the Groves Christmas Tree Lighting will be December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.

Mr. Lofton from the local VFW then gave a report on the attack of Pearl Harbor.

Councilmember Vensel then wanted to say a few words about serving on the City Council for the past 2 years. He is confident that the Council and Mayor will do great things going forward. Mayor Borne then present Councilmember Vensel with a plaque as a thank you for his service and dedication to the City.

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

**ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS (WARD NO. 1 AND WARD NO. 3 COUNCILMEMBERS):** City Clerk Clarissa Thibodeaux then administered the Oath of Office to Ward No. 1 Councilmember Mark McAdams and Ward No. 3 Councilmember Pete Konidis. Councilmember Pete Konidis then took his place with the other Councilmembers. Former Councilmember Vensel shook hands with Mr. Konidis and graciously gave him his seat.

CONSIDER CANCELING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 1, 2024 DUE TO THE OBERVANCE OF THE NEW YEAR. Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider canceling the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting of January 1, 2024 due to the observance of the New Year and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER SETTING DATES AND TIMES FOR FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: Councilmember Oliver made a motion to consider setting dates and times for future City Council Meetings and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. Mayor Borne asked if everyone is ok with keeping it at every other Monday at 5 p.m. and everyone agreed. Councilmember Oliver amended his previous motion to consider setting the dates and times as what is proposed on the list and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded. City Council Meetings will continue to be every other Monday at 5 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO RE-AUTHORIZE ALL BUILDING PERMIT FEES PURSUANT TO TEX. LOC. GOV'T CODE 214.908: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to consider and set a date for a Public Hearing to re-authorize all building permit fees pursuant to Tex. Loc. Gov't Code 214.908 and Councilmember Konidis seconded. Councilmember Dugas asked if Council would be presented with a list of the proposed amounts and City Manager Kevin Carruth stated Council will be provided with a list with the current amounts and also the proposed amounts. Mayor Borne asked if this needs to be done before the end of the year and City Attorney Brandon P. Monk stated it does due to a legislative change that occurred earlier this year. Mr. Monk then stated that these changes need to happen before January 1, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams amended his motion to include the date of December 18, 2023 at 5 p.m. and Councilmember Konidis seconded. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REPLAT FROM FG GROVES, LLC., TRS 2-A & 2-B, 1.717 ACRES OF LAND REPLAT OF LOT 2 FG GROVES ADDITION, CITY OF GROVES, JEFFERSON COUNTY, TX: Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider approval of a replat from FG Groves, LLC., TRS 2-A & 2-B, 1.717 Acres of Land replat of Lot 2 FG Groves Addition, City of Groves, Jefferson County, Tx. and Councilmember Oliver seconded. Councilmember Dugas informed Council that the Planning and Zoning Commission has no problems with Council approving this replat. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND APPROVE ENGAGING RON COX CONSULTING TO PROVIDE GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS AND SELECTING A DATE FOR THE FIRST SESSION: Mayor Borne made a motion to consider and approve engaging Ron Cox Consulting to provide governance and strategic planning sessions and selecting a date for the first session. Councilmember Konidis seconded. City Manager Kevin Carruth then explained to Council that with all of the changes that have gone on in the last year and a half or so it might be beneficial to bring a third party in to assist us with team building and governance. Mr. Carruth also informed Council that it is unbudgeted but since we did not have an election then we could use some of that money to cover this expense. Councilmember Dugas suggested taking the \$30,000 that was budgeted for the election and put it in the TexPool savings account to save for next years elections. City Manager Kevin Carruth then stated that as an outsider coming in and evaluating the organization he would say the patient is sick and the City needs to get to a point to where everyone is on the same page. Councilmember Oliver asked Mr. Carruth if he has had services with this contractor before and Mr. Carruth stated that he has used him in the past. Councilmember Oliver explained to Mr. Carruth that he would like him to evaluate and present to Council what he sees needs to be fixed as opposed to an outsider coming in and evaluating the City. Councilmember Dugas and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams also agreed with having City Manager Kevin Carruth doing the evaluation instead of an outsider. Councilmember Dugas then asked if on the next agenda we can put an item for the unused election money to be transferred to our TexPool account and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams seconded that request. There were no further questions. Motion failed with Mayor Borne in favor of the motion. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams, Councilmember Konidis, Councilmember Oliver and Councilmember Dugas voted against the motion.

CONSIDER AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-19 ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE: Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to consider and approve Ordinance 2023-19 adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Plumbing Code and Councilmember Konidis seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, adopting the 2018 International Plumbing Code, revising Chapter 31, Sec. 31-1. – Uniform Plumbing Code adopted; repealing ordinances in conflict with this ordinance; providing for publication of the caption only; providing for codification; and providing for an effective date." Mayor Pro Tem McAdams asked if this is something that has to be done yearly and Mr. Monk stated that this is something that hasn't really been updated in a while. Mr. Monk then informed

Council that the current code in use is from 2009. City Manager Kevin Carruth stated that the codes are usually updated by ICC every year 3 years so we are several editions behind. Mr. Carruth then informed Council that State Law from this last session mandated that everyone come up to current editions. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-20 ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE:** Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider and approve Ordinance 2023-20 adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Building Code and Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, adopting the 2018 International Building Code, revising Article II. – International Building Code. Chapter 28, Sec. 28-13 – International Building Code adopted; repealing Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; providing for codification; and providing for an effecting date." There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-21 ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION CODE:** Councilmember Oliver made a motion to consider and approve Ordinance 2023-21 adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Residential Construction Code and Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, adopting the 2018 International Residential Code, revising Article III. – Groves Residential Construction Code. Chapter 28, Sec. 28-22 – International Residential Code for one – and two-family dwellings adopted; repealing Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; providing for codification and providing for an effective date." There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-22 ADOPTING THE 2023 EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE:** Mayor Pro Tem McAdams made a motion to consider and approve Ordinance 2023-22 adopting the 2023 Edition of the National Electric Code and Councilmember Konidis seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, adopting the 2023 National Electric Code, revising Article VI. Standards and specifications, Sec. 29-25. Installation standards generally; adoption of code; repealing Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance; providing for publication

by publishing the caption only; providing for codification; and providing for an effective date." There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-23 ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MAINTENANCE CODE:** Councilmember Oliver made a motion to consider and approve Ordinance 2023-23 adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Maintenance Code and Councilmember Dugas seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, adopting the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code, revising Chapter 30, Sec. 30-2 – International Property Maintenance Code; repealing Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; providing for codification; and providing for an effective date." There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-24 ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE:** Councilmember Konidis made a motion to consider and approve Ordinance 2023-24 adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Mechanical Code and Mayor Pro Tem McAdams. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, adopting the 2018 International Mechanical Code, revising Chapter 32, Sec. 32-1 – International Mechanical Code; repealing Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance; providing for publication of the caption only; providing for codification; and providing for an effective date." There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-25 ADOPTING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY CHAPTER OF 2018 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE AND THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE:** Councilmember Dugas made a motion to consider and approve Ordinance 2023-25 adopting the Energy Efficiency Chapter of 2018 International Residential Code and the 2020 International Energy Conservation Code. Councilmember Oliver seconded. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then read the caption as follows: "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Groves, Texas, adopting the Energy Efficiency Chapter of the 2018 International Residential Code and the 2020 International Energy Conservation Code, revising article IV. – Building Energy Efficiency Performance Standards, Sec. 28-24 – Energy Efficiency Chapter of the International Residential Code adopted; repealing Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; providing for codification and providing for an effective date." There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.


INVOICES: City Manager Kevin Carruth presented invoices for payment totaling \$430,557.75 as follows:

City of Port Arthur	Landfill fees. (9/26/23-10/25/23).	16,105.00
DXI Industries	Chlorine for Water Plant.	6,861.60
Epic Engineering	Demo and installation of new centrifuge panel #1.	9,063.15
Fuelman of Lafayette	Gas and diesel for October 2023.	21,160.36
Higginbotham Insurance Agency	Windstorm Insurance 2023-2024.	286,709.90
Lower Neches Valley Authority	Raw water purchased.	42,959.40
Meineke Car Care	Timing gear job and A/C repair for Police Truck.	5,156.80
Republic Services	Sludge disposal for October 2023.	6,975.55
Slavin Management Consultants	Recruiters traveling expenses.	5,624.95
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Required payment by the State of Texas for the Wastewater Plant to discharge treated wastewater.	29,940.96

Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams moved to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$430,557.75 and Councilmember Dugas seconded. Mayor Borne then asked for questions. Councilmember Oliver asked about the difference in what we had budgeted for the Windstorm Insurance compared to what the bill actually was. Finance Director Lamar Ozley stated we had budgeted \$350,000 and the price ended up being \$286,709.90. City Manager Kevin Carruth then informed Council that the staff went through and took a hard look at the values of the buildings which really helped. There were no further questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Borne then asked for Councilmember comments. Mayor Pro Tem McAdams wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilmember Dugas wanted to say that she really enjoyed the employee Thanksgiving lunch and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilmember Oliver also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilmember Konidis also wished everyone a Happy Holiday and he is looking forward to this new journey on Council. Mayor Borne expressed his appreciation to VFW 4820 for inviting him to represent our City at their Veteran's Day Celebration.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

