

A Public Hearing was held December 18, 2023 in the Groves City Council Chamber with Mayor Chris Borne, Councilmember Pete Konidis, Councilmember Paul Oliver, and Councilmember Rhonda Dugas in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Mark McAdams was not present.

Mayor Borne called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and read the notice of meeting as follows: "Notice is hereby given that the City of Groves City Council, will be meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 3947 Lincoln Avenue, Groves, Texas. For discussion of the hereby Ordinance: To consider the ordinance amending the City of Groves, TX, building fees by amending Part II Technical Ordinances Chapter 28, Article II International Building Code, Sec. 28-14 Amendments, Sec. 108.2 schedule of building permit fees, and Article III Groves residential construction code, Sec. 28-23 amendments to the International Residential Code, (3) Sec. R108.2 Schedule of Building Permit Fees; providing that no other portions of said ordinance shall be affected hereby; providing a savings clause; providing a penalty; providing for codification; providing for publication by publishing the caption only; and providing an effective date."

Mayor Borne then asked Building Official Don Pedraza to give his remarks regarding the changes of this ordinance. Mr. Pedraza stated that the permit fees have not been updated since 2011 and what they did was compare our revenues to the actual permit costs. City Manager Kevin Carruth then explained to Council that the graph they are looking at is updated from the last meeting to incorporate the costs for the permit clerk. Mr. Pedraza then informed Council that the cost of construction has gone up 130% from 2012 but our permit fees have remained the same. Mr. Pedraza stated that they are asking Council for a 75% increase for January 1, 2024 and then a second increase for October 1, 2024, of 25%.


Mayor Borne then asked for questions from City Council. Mayor Borne asked City Attorney Brandon P. Monk if we are in well within our rights asking for these proposed increases to cover our costs. Mr. Monk stated that the increases are well warranted. City Manager Kevin Carruth then reminded Council that we are doing the increase in a two-phase approach just so it's not such a big shock all at once and that with Phase 2 we will have more date to refine the second phase. City Attorney Brandon P. Monk then explained that commercial fees are going up across the board but we did not try to change that over to a square footage base. Mr. Carruth then stated that the proposed increase does anticipate purchasing software for Mr. Pedraza's department which will be a big benefit not only to the building sector and permit clerk but also help improve customer service. There were no further questions from Council.

Mayor Borne then called for citizens of Groves who wish to speak in support of this request and there were none.

Mayor Borne then called for citizens of Groves who wish to speak against the request and there were none.

Mayor Borne then stated that no action will be taken at this meeting. Final determination of this request will be made at a future City Council Meeting.

There were no other comments and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

